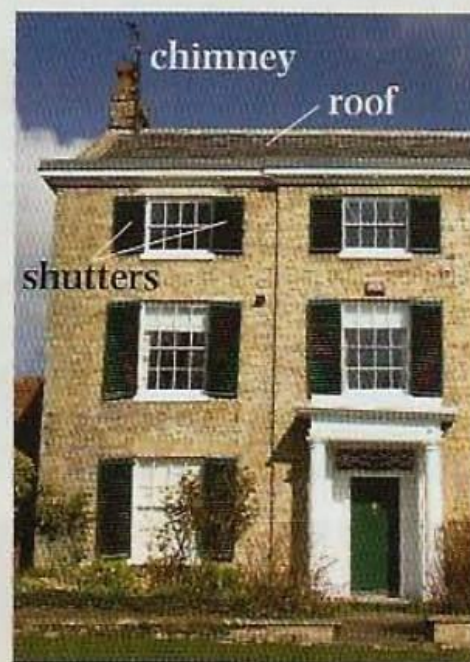


DESCRIBING A HOUSE

A **substantial** and **impressive** **semi-detached** house full of **original features**, and just a short walk from the town centre.

Inside, the **hall** leads to two **spacious** reception rooms and an **enormous** kitchen. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and two bathrooms on the first and second floors, with a narrow **staircase** to a further bedroom in the **attic**. There is also a **basement** which could be **converted** into a **separate** one-bedroom flat, and a **cellar** **currently** used to **store** things.

Outside, the house has pretty **shutters** either side of the front windows. There is a **lawn** at the front, and a **drive** provides plenty of parking. There is also a small **walled** garden at the back.



Glossary

substantial	• large and/or strong.
impressive	• (of a building) large and very good to look at.
semi-detached	• joined to one other house, forming a pair of houses.
original	• existing from the time when sth was first made or done.
feature	• an important part of sth, and often a part that you notice.
lead	• If sth leads to a place, you can go along it to that place.
spacious	• large, and having a lot of space.
enormous	• very large. SYN huge . OPP tiny .
staircase	• a set of stairs.
attic	• the space or room under the roof of a house.
basement	• a room or part of a building that is partly or completely below ground level.
convert sth into sth	• change sth from one form or use to another.
separate	• not connected or together.
cellar	• an underground room without windows, where things are often kept.
currently	• at the moment (NOT actually).

spotlight *passage, corridor, hall*

A **passage** is a long, narrow way with walls on both sides that leads somewhere, e.g. an **underground passage**.

A **corridor** is a passage in a large building or on a train. A **hall** is a room or small passage just inside the entrance to a house.



currently	• at the moment (NOT actually).
store sth	• keep sth in a place for future use. storage N.
lawn	• an area of grass in a park or garden.
drive	• a wide path for cars that leads to the front door of a house.
walled	• If a garden or other area is walled , it has a wall around it (a wall is usually made of brick ¹ or stone ²).

1 Correct the spelling mistakes.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ▶ starcase <u>staircase</u> | 3 seperate _____ | 6 spaceious _____ |
| 1 impresive _____ | 4 attick _____ | 7 currantly _____ |
| 2 kellar _____ | 5 basemant _____ | 8 featur _____ |

2 Circle the correct word.

- ▶ The flat is substantial / impressive, but not very attractive.
- 1 I'm on the ground floor and my sister lives downstairs in the cellar / basement.
- 2 There were no seats on the train, so I had to stand in the hall / corridor.
- 3 There's a very wide hall / corridor in our flat.
- 4 He parked his car in the attic / drive.
- 5 Just after the newsagent's, there's a little passage / hall that leads to the High Street.
- 6 We've got a small field / lawn in the garden where we sit in the summer.

3 Replace the underlined word or phrase with a word or phrase that has the same meaning.

- ▶ There's a large living room. spacious
- 1 The living room is absolutely huge.
- 2 Where do you keep your garden furniture in the winter?
- 3 They've got a very small garden.
- 4 There's a very elegant set of stairs up to the first floor.
- 5 The back door goes into the garden.
- 6 We could change that room into a bathroom.

4 Complete the words in the text.

My brother has just bought a very ▶ substantial six-bedroom house. It's a 1930s semi-
(1) d _____ house, and (2) c _____ it is in terrible condition, but it will be very nice
when he has done some work on it. As you approach it, there's a long (3) d _____ up to the
front door, with enough space for about three cars. Inside, the hall (4) l _____ to the living
room, dining room, and kitchen, and from the kitchen there are stairs down to a (5) c _____
where they plan to (6) s _____ wine and other things. At the back there's a (7) h _____
garden, big enough for a football pitch, and around the garden there's a high stone
(8) w _____. There are two garages, and they might (9) _____ one into a study.

5 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ At the back, there's a garden with a huge lawn.
- 1 One of the main _____ of the building is the beautiful windows.
- 2 Can you see the smoke coming out of the _____?
- 3 It's an old house and it still has the _____ windows and fireplaces.
- 4 There's a big cupboard in the hall which is useful for _____.
- 5 I need about 100 _____ to finish the low wall at the front.
- 6 I'll have to go up on the _____ to repair the chimney.

6 ABOUT YOU Write your answers or ask another student.

- 1 Have you got shutters at your windows? If so, are they on the outside or inside? _____
- 2 Have you got a garden with a lawn? If so, what do you use it for? _____
- 3 Is there an attic in your building? If so, what's in it? _____
- 4 Have you got a basement or cellar? If so, what are they used for? _____
- 5 Is there a drive outside your building? _____
- 6 Would you describe any rooms in your home as spacious or tiny? _____