

Flat-hunting (Selective reading)

- Description:** Students scan flat adverts for specific information
- Use with or after:** *English Network 3 (New Edition)*, Unit 3, Step 3.
- Skill:** Selective reading
- Focus:** Finding information in flat adverts, including typical abbreviations.
- Time:** 25 minutes
- Preparation:**
- Print out the third page of this file and make a copy for each student.
 - Read through the worksheet and make sure you are prepared to answer any vocabulary questions that might come up.
 - If you have a big map of London you might want to bring it along so you can show where some of the places are (Highgate, IIsington, etc.).
- Procedure:**
- If your class is not familiar with this sort of activity, explain briefly what selective reading is: you don't read the entire text word for word, but just look through it quickly to find the information you need.
 - Give each student a copy of the worksheet and ask them to discuss the three questions at the top of the page with a partner. Check the answers together afterwards. *Key: 4, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are near the tube. 2, 7 and 10 have got a washing machine. 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are furnished, and 5 is partly furnished.*
 - Point out that being near the tube is very important for people living in London, and that furnished flats are common. If there are more than two or three vocabulary questions, ask the students to save them for later.
 - Read out the instructions ("Look and point") at the bottom of the page. Then ask the students to find and point to the following:
 - Find the cheapest flat. (4)
 - Find the second cheapest flat. (9)
 - Find a flat that has a garden. (5)
 - Find a flat that is above some shops. (8)
 - Find a flat for someone who does not mind walking up a lot of stairs. (2)
 - Find a flat that does not have its own bathroom and toilet. (4)
- Insist that they **don't say it** at first, just point to it, to give everybody a chance to find it. Then if somebody really can't find it, a partner can help.

- Write the word *abbreviations* on the board and remind the students what it means. Ask them to find and point to the following, and write the answer on the board after they have found each one.
 - Find an abbreviation that means *per calendar month*. (pcm in 5 and 11)
 - Find an abbreviation that means *per week*. (pw in most of the adverts)
 - Find an abbreviation that means *gas central heating*. (gch in 2)
 - Find an abbreviation that means *deposit*. (Dep in 1)
 - Find an abbreviation that means *Park*. (Pk in 11)
 - Find an abbreviation that means *references*. (refs in 1)
 - Find an abbreviation that means *Court*. (Ct in 3)
 - Find an abbreviation that means *British Rail*. (BR in 5)
- You might want to explain that the railways aren't really called *British Rail* any more, since they were divided up and privatised, but that people still write BR in their adverts when they mean they are near the railway station.
- Answer any further vocabulary questions, within reason, but explain that for the skill of selective reading it is important to find what you want and complete the task even if there are words (or abbreviations!) that you don't know.
- If you are short of time you could spread these phases out over two or more lessons.

Extension:

Working in pairs, students can do three sorts of role-plays based on these adverts:

- The partners sit back to back, preferably with cardboard telephones, and pretend they are having a telephone call about one of the adverts.
- The partners stand up and pretend that one of them is showing the other around one of the flats.
- A person who has just moved into one of these flats meets a friend and tells him or her about it.

Work with a partner. Find the adverts and write down their numbers.

- Which of these flats are near the tube (the underground)?
- Which ones have got a washing machine?
- Which ones are furnished?

1
West Kensington W14. Top floor two bed (one double, 1 single) flat in safe and quiet area close to Kensington High Street and all local amenities. Fully furnished – TV/ DVD/ Video/ Power shower/ dining table etc. Great roof top views. Available to rent NOW short or long term from £250 p.w. Dep. and refs required. Please telephone 06927 421793 for further details

4
Highgate, furnished studio flat, 2 min. tube & buses, share bathroom & WC, good for couple, deposit in advance, available now, £99 pw, 020-87097292

6
Kings Cross, 1 bed ground floor and basement maisonette in lively but quiet area of kings cross. unique set up. £190pw 020-4956 7150

8
2 bed flat in conversion above shops near Highgate tube.
Furnished, dishwasher, woodflooring. £250Pw.
Call Mr Lal on 0208 657 0733 before 6pm

10
2 bed luxury apartment in new building near Warren Street. Full range of appliances etc £315pw, Fiona 020-5012 5474

12
£175 per week. Spacious bright 1 double bed furnished flat in block, wood flooring, neutral colours, double glazing, very close to Arsenal tube station and in zone 2 London. One year fixed contract. Tel. 0208 237 4403
Email tonybg@birqali.co.uk

2
St John's Wood, two double bed, fourth floor, no lift, fully furnished, large reception room, separate entrance hall/dining area, gch, washing machine, long let, no agents please, £265 pw, 020-7906 7470

3
1 bed flat in lively but quiet area of West End near Tottenham Ct Rd. Open plan kitchen/lounge, doublebedroom with built in cupboards £231pw.
Call Emma 07798 897952

5
East Sheen, Very Large Two Double Bed Ground Floor Flat with rear Garden. Part furnished. Good private landlord. Ready 1st Dec. 5mins BR/transportation. £880.00 pcm plus deposits and outgoings. Tel: evenings/weekends 0207 976 1753 Nigel

7
Islington N1, 1 double bed flat, nicely decorated, fully furnished, private patio, washing machine, power shower, close to tube and shops, £205 pw, Isabelle 020-7317 3773

9
Highgate N6, large self-contained studio flat, fully furnished, close to tube, available 8th Aug, £100 pw, 020-7632 6637

11
Spacious bright 1 bed flat on second floor of block opposite Tuffnell Pk tube station. Furnished. Double glazed. Wood flooring. Neutral colours. Available now on one year fixed contract. £780pcm. 07941 632680

Look and point:

- Your teacher will tell you what to look for.
- Find it and point to it with your finger.
- **Don't say it!** Let the others find it first.
- Don't read every word, just find what you need.

