

Movie Clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFkXnuU2qew>

Buy Your Own Home

House prices in the U.K. are now so high that a third of British people believe they will never buy their own home. This is according to a new report published by the Halifax Bank. Home ownership was once an achievable goal for generations of Britons. However, rising prices now mean the prospects of getting on the property ladder are on the decline. The report says that one in five twentysomethings has no desire to own their own home. Craig McKinlay, mortgages director at Halifax, said: "We may be heading towards the point where the aspiration to own a nice home will be replaced by the aspiration to simply live in one." He added: "It seems that people are now beginning to accept a lifetime of renting."



Britain's Office for National Statistics earlier this week stated that house prices have risen by 10.5% in the past year. It expressed concern at what it describes as "runaway train" house prices. The average U.K. house was valued at \$425,000 in 2013. Things get bleaker for house hunters wishing to buy in London. Prices in the capital have risen by 18 per cent in a year to an average of \$610,000. The Halifax report writes about possible long-term social problems arising from, "the division between homeowners and non-homeowners". The report warned that if there are fewer first-time buyers, "the market will come to a standstill". If this happens, prices will have to come down.

WARM-UPS

- 1. HOME OWNERSHIP:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about home ownership. Change partners often and share your findings.
- 2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

house prices / third / a new report / an achievable goal / property ladder / aspiration / statistics / concern / bleaker / capital / social problems / homeowners / standstill

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. RISING PRICES: How can people cope? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Prices of...	How difficult is it?	How can people cope with higher prices?
homes		
heating		
food		
petrol / gasoline		
education		
healthcare		

4. OWN YOUR OWN HOME: Students A **strongly** believe home ownership is best; Students B **strongly** believe renting is best. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. ASPIRATIONS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- home ownership
- getting a Ph.D.
- travel to 100 countries
- own a Ferrari
- become the boss
- have a big family
- retire at 40
- change the world

6. PROPERTY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "property". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.



ROLE PLAY

Role A - Home ownership

You think home ownership is the greatest aspiration. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): travelling to 100 countries, retiring at 40 or getting a Ph.D..

Role B - Travel to 100 countries

You think travelling to 100 countries is the greatest aspiration. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): home ownership, retiring at 40 or getting a Ph.D.

Role C - Retiring at 40

You think retiring at 40 is the greatest aspiration. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): travelling to 100 countries, home ownership or getting a Ph.D.

Role D - Getting a Ph.D.

You think getting a Ph.D. is the greatest aspiration. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): travelling to 100 countries, retiring at 40 or home ownership.