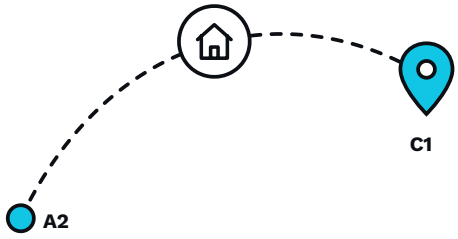
SPEAKING TOPICS TEMAS DE CONVERSACIÓN · A2 → C1

Home



Words, phrases and questions to talk about your home, your neighbourhood and your town — at your level.

Todo lo que necesitas para hablar de tu casa, tu barrio y tu ciudad en inglés, ordenado por nivel del MCER.

1 **Find your level.** Start with your column, then try the next one.

2 **Say it out loud.** Read every example sentence aloud — twice.

3 **Make it yours.** Answer the questions on page 3 about **your** life.

1 Vocabulary by level

Vocabulario por nivel

A2 Elementary

- **flat** — piso
- **neighbour** — vecino/a
- **bedroom** — dormitorio
- **garden** — jardín
- **city centre** — centro de la ciudad
- **village** — pueblo
- **quiet / noisy** — tranquilo / ruidoso
- **rent** — alquiler / alquilar

B1 Intermediate

- **neighbourhood** — barrio
- **suburbs** — afueras residenciales
- **countryside** — campo
- **public transport** — transporte público
- **landlord** — casero
- **detached house** — casa independiente
- **local** — del barrio, local
- **cosy** — acogedor

B2 Upper-int.

- **outskirts** — afueras
- **residential area** — zona residencial
- **green spaces** — zonas verdes
- **landmark** — lugar emblemático
- **commute** — trayecto al trabajo
- **run-down** — deteriorado
- **lively** — animado
- **spacious** — amplio

C1 Advanced

- **urban sprawl** — expansión urbana
- **gentrification** — gentrificación
- **housing crisis** — crisis de vivienda
- **close-knit community** — comunidad muy unida
- **skyline** — perfil urbano
- **amenities** — servicios (tiendas, parques...)
- **steeped in history** — lleno de historia
- **picturesque** — pintoresco

2 Phrasal verbs in action

Phrasal verbs con ejemplos

move in / out — A2
start / stop living somewhere
We **moved in** last September.

look around — B1
visit a place to see what it's like
We **looked around** three flats before choosing this one.

settle in — B2
start to feel at home
It took us a few weeks to **settle in**.

spruce up — C1
make a place look cleaner and nicer
The council has **spruced up** the river walk.

grow up — B1
spend your childhood somewhere
I **grew up** in El Carmen, in Murcia.

pop into — B2
visit a place quickly
I often **pop into** the bakery on my way home.

do up — B2
repair and decorate a building
They're **doing up** an old house in the huerta.

put down roots — C1
settle permanently in a place
After years abroad, we decided to **put down roots** here.

3 House, home or flat?

Casa no siempre es "house"

NOUN · THE BUILDING

house

A whole building for one family, often with a garden.

> **They live in a big house in the suburbs.**

NOUN · WHERE YOU BELONG

home

Where you live and feel you belong. Note: go **home** (no "to").

> **I'm going home. Murcia will always be home.**

NOUN · PART OF A BUILDING

flat

One home inside a building with others. US: **apartment**.

> **We live in a third-floor flat near the cathedral.**

4 Idioms & expressions

Para sonar como un nativo

home sweet home B1
it's nice to be home
After two weeks away — home sweet home!

a stone's throw (away) B2
very close
The market is a stone's throw from my flat.

in the heart of B2
in the very centre of
We live in the heart of the old town.

off the beaten track C1
away from busy, popular places
Our village is a bit off the beaten track.

there's no place like home B2
home is the best place
Travelling's great, but there's no place like home.

make yourself at home B1
relax as if it were your house
Come in and make yourself at home.

right on my doorstep B2
very near my home
I've got the gym right on my doorstep.

a hive of activity C1
a very busy place
The square is a hive of activity at night.

steeped in history C1
full of history
Cartagena is steeped in history.

as safe as houses C1
completely safe
It's a quiet area — as safe as houses.

5 Spanish speakers' traps

Errores típicos

✗ ~~I'm going to home.~~
✓ **I'm going home.**
no **to** before home

✗ ~~I live in a floor.~~
✓ **I live in a flat.**
"piso" = **flat** · "planta" = floor

✗ ~~There is a lot of parks.~~
✓ **There are a lot of parks.**
plural → **there are**

✗ ~~I live in the third floor.~~
✓ **I live on the third floor.**
on the … floor

✗ ~~I love my barrio.~~
✓ **I love my neighbourhood.**
barrio = **neighbourhood**

✗ ~~Murcia has a lot of ambient.~~
✓ **Murcia has a great atmosphere.**
"ambiente" = **atmosphere**

6 Quick check

¿Lo has pillado?

1. I live on / in the second floor.
2. We moved in / moved on last summer.
3. I'm going to home / going home now.
4. The old town is steeped / stepped in history.
5. There is / There are lots of cafés near my flat.
6. My neighbourhood is / ambient is great at night.

Answers: 1 on · 2 moved in · 3 going home · 4 steeped · 5 There are · 6 neighbourhood is

7 Questions for your level

Practica en voz alta

A2 Cambridge A2 Key style

1. Where do you live?
2. Do you live in a house or a flat?
3. What's your favourite room? Why?
4. What can you do in your town?

B1 Cambridge B1 Preliminary style

1. What do you like most about your neighbourhood?
2. Would you prefer to live in the city or the countryside?
3. Describe your perfect home.

B2 Cambridge B2 First style

1. How has your town changed since you were a child?
2. What would you change about where you live if you could?
3. Is it better to rent or buy a home? Why?

C1 Cambridge C1 Advanced style · discussion

1. Why are young people finding it so hard to leave home?
2. How can cities become better places to live?
3. What makes a community close-knit?

8 Level up your answer

Sube de nivel

"What do you like about where you live?"

A2	I live in Murcia. It is **big and sunny**. There are many shops.	There is/are + simple adjectives.
B1	I really like my neighbourhood **because** it's quiet but **close to** the centre, so I can walk everywhere.	Reasons with **because** / **so**.
B2	What I like most is that everything is **right on my doorstep** — the market, the gym, even the river walk.	Idiom + a list of concrete examples.
C1	**Despite being** right in the centre, it's surprisingly peaceful. It's a **close-knit community** where everyone knows each other.	Concession with **despite** + strong collocation.

9 Keep talking

Frases para alargar tu respuesta

Describe a place

It's the kind of place where...
What makes it special is...
You can find...

Compare

Compared to Madrid, Murcia is...
It's much quieter than...
The main difference is...

Talk about change

It used to be..., but now...
It's changed a lot since...
They've built / opened...

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