

Would you ever renovate a house?

1. Complete the statements with your ideas. Then, share some details.

- I've always dreamt of living in a house which...
- I can't imagine myself living in a house which...
- When I think of house renovation, I can't help thinking about...

2. Imagine someone bought an old house. List five things they would be most likely to renovate.

kitchen: cabinets, countertops, appliances, flooring

bathroom: replacing tiles, upgrading plumbing

exterior: siding, adding new landscaping, installing a new front door

HVAC system: upgrading or replacing the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

electrical system: updating outdated electrical systems for safety

3. Look at the pictures and find the objects listed in the boxes.

ADU (accessory dwelling unit)

backsplash

ceiling beam

deck

floor tile

hearth

planter

woodstove



deck



planter



woodstove, hearth



backsplash, floor tile

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ADU



ceiling beam, woodstove, hearth

T If your students don't know some of the words, ask them to listen for them in the video (ex. 4) and to try to understand what they mean. After watching the video, check if they know the meanings.

4. Watch a [video](https://youtu.be/icN9Mtr4V7Y) [https://youtu.be/icN9Mtr4V7Y] and say how the speaker (Ren) feels about her house.

She appears to have a deep appreciation for the house and how it allowed her to express her creativity. She takes pride in the fact that she could design art and incorporate it into her house and create a unique and personalized living space. The house is a reflection of her love for architecture and ceramic art.

5. Watch the [video](#) again and elaborate on the points below.

A. the kind of property Ren had been looking for

Initially, she had been looking for a property that she could either tear down or have a significant impact on. [00:10]

B. mountains and oak trees

It was important for Ren to reorient the house so that it was aimed towards the mountains and oak trees, not the street [00:40]

C. the house colour palette

She chose Bauhaus colours: red, yellow, blue, as well as dark floor tiles and ceiling beams. [01:16]

D. her art in the house

She made some items for her house because she needed them but couldn't find anything to her taste. For example, she created planters for large trees, she wanted a ceramic tower in her yard, so she built one, and she designed custom ceramic tiles for her backsplash and the hearth under the woodstove on the deck. [02:06]

E. ADU

She turned the garage into an ADU which she uses as her studio. [02:48]

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6. Discuss the questions.

- Which parts of Ren's house do you like or dislike?
- Would you ever decide to do a major house renovation? Why/Why not?
- Which is better: to renovate your house yourself or to hire a professional?
- What are some typical house renovation challenges people encounter?
- What do people do to turn a house into their home?
- There is a lot of inspiration for house renovation on social media. Is this an advantage or a disadvantage?
- Do people nowadays renovate their houses more often than in the past? Why do you think that is?
- How do you feel about DIY (do it yourself) things in a house? Have you ever tried to make anything yourself?



7. Read the tips and say which of them you would follow.

- Renovate your kitchen first.
- Be specific about your design ideas.
- Hire an interior designer.
- Spend good money on things you touch every day, like door hardware, doors, faucets, appliances, kitchen cabinets.
- Doing a little here and there in multiple rooms will only leave you feeling unsettled and frustrated. Focus on one thing at a time.
- Make your house more eco-friendly by doing the following:
 - installing solar panels
 - buying second-hand
 - tracking your energy and water use with smart meters.

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8. Imagine you are going to buy the house shown in the pictures. Talk about how you would renovate it. Use the questions below as a guide.



- What colour palette would you choose for the house?
- What would you do with the house deck?
- What kind of flooring would you choose for the rooms? Would you use tiles anywhere?
- Would you add ceiling beams or a woodstove? Why?
- Would you add an ADU? If yes, how would you use it?
- Would you buy a house like this one? If yes, would it meet your needs?

T

This worksheet includes an additional task that you can use as homework or revision. It's only available in the teacher's version of the worksheet. The task with the answer key is below, while the students' version is on the last page. Print it, cut it up and hand it out to your students.

Would you ever renovate a house?

Complete the sentences with the words and phrases in the boxes. Change their form where necessary. Choose the sentences you find relatable and provide some details about one or two of them.

ADU (accessory dwelling unit)

backsplash

ceiling beam

deck

floor tile

hearth

planter

woodstove

- A. I wish I had a(n) **ADU (accessory dwelling unit)** in my yard to have a private space for focusing and being alone.
- B. My kitchen **backsplash** gets dirty in the blink of an eye, so I prefer ordering food instead of cooking.
- C. Sitting by the **hearth** of the woodstove is a common way to spend time in winter in my country.
- D. I like it when cottages and flats have exposed wooden **ceiling beams**.
- E. When I hear the fire crackling in the **woodstove**, I cannot help feeling cosy.
- F. I'm not much of a gardener, but I have some vibrant flowers in **planters** to cheer me up.
- G. If I had a spacious **deck**, I'd host barbecue parties in the open air every week.
- H. **Floor tiles** are much easier to clean, so I use them in most of the rooms.

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 - B. My kitchen _____ gets dirty in the blink of an eye, so I prefer ordering food instead of cooking.
 - C. Sitting by the _____ of the woodstove is a common way to spend time in winter in my country.
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 - F. I'm not much of a gardener, but I have some vibrant flowers in _____ to cheer me up.
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