

## A Exercise 1 (Track 7)

*Alex:* Hello Peter, it's good to see you!

*Peter:* Hello Grandad, how are you?

*Alex:* Fine, fine, can't complain. Come in and have a cup of tea. Let's go into the kitchen ...  
Now, what have you been up to?

*Peter:* Working, as usual. Arranging insurance for my new flat. Nothing much really.

*Alex:* Of course, your new flat! When are you moving in?

*Peter:* If all goes well, on October 1st.

*Alex:* You don't seem very excited about it!

*Peter:* Well, I didn't really want a flat, Grandad. I wanted a house. A big detached house with no neighbours to complain about the music. I wanted a garden so that I can barbecue on warm summer days. A flat on the 6th floor of a building in the city centre isn't my dream at all, but I couldn't afford anything else.

*Alex:* You youngsters always want everything at once! You're only 25! When I was your age, I had a flat too. A nice little first floor flat in a block of about 10 floors, overlooking the river. Then when Granny and I got married, we moved into a terraced house, not even an end terrace but a middle one. We had a tiny garden with the railway running along the bottom. It wasn't very big, so when your Dad was born, we moved into a semi-detached house.

*Peter:* The house I remember you living in first was a detached house though. With a big garden. I think that's why I always wanted one.

*Alex:* Yes, well, the neighbours on the other side of the semi-detached got on our nerves. They had a dog that barked day and night, and their friends were always parking in front of the gate and throwing cigarette ends into the garden. So I took out a big mortgage and we moved into the detached house. The one you remember. But I didn't get that house until I was over 40! And we had three children by then, so we needed a big house. That's not your excuse is it?

*Peter:* I remember that house really well; it was fun playing in the attic. Then you moved into that little cottage. I really liked that too, with the thatched roof and the wooden beams.

*Alex:* Yes, cottages are a lot more expensive now than they were then. We liked it too; we were sorry to leave the detached house, but we had to downsize after your dad and uncles left home. But the stairs in the cottage turned out to be too steep for Granny and that's why we eventually bought this bungalow. It's much better having everything on one level and we've got rid of a lot of stuff. I suppose the next stop will be an old peoples' home.

*Peter:* Not yet Grandad! That's a long way off.

*Alex:* I hope so! Anyway, all I'm trying to tell you is that there's often a cycle to houseowning, and you're at the very beginning. So enjoy your flat while you're in it and think about the detached house later, when you've got more money!

*Peter:* I suppose so. Where's that cup of tea then?