

Exercise 3

Read the article about a recent lifestyle trend in which people choose to live in very small houses, and then complete the notes.

**Tiny homes**

Around the world, people live in all sorts of homes, from palaces to tents. But have you heard of something called the ‘tiny homes trend’? If you’re unfamiliar with the term, it refers to the choice that some people make to live in a particularly small home. Although tiny homes are too small to suit everyone, the idea of living in one is growing in appeal. This is partly due to the fact that tiny homes can be easily moved from place to place by truck, although of course, people should consider the potentially high cost of the fuel needed to transport them. This cost will vary depending on the distance that has to be travelled to reach the new destination.

Living in a small space can mean that people may want to make some changes. For example, it encourages you to get rid of unnecessary possessions, and that is actually a big part of the attraction for many. And when you take into account the fact that there has been increased media interest in the idea, you can see why more and more people are considering this way of life, and are planning to move into one.

In the past, tiny homes tended to be built by individuals, with varying degrees of experience, rather than by professional builders. In recent years, though, this has changed, because many companies now specialise in building them. Something that may be an issue, however, is that when it comes to tiny home construction, not every region has building regulations. No one wants to end up with problems that have to be fixed, or a number of parts that need replacing, after the builders have finished!

When thinking about moving a tiny home to a new destination, it is not always straightforward to connect to a range of services. Homes of any size generally need to have access to things like power and water, and making sure that these are available will naturally be a priority for a lot of people. It is also worth taking into account something that may have persuaded many people to invest in a tiny home in the first place – the desire to leave a smaller carbon footprint. One way of achieving this is for owners to install solar panels to provide at least some of their power needs. Depending on the local climate, owners may require some sort of air conditioning equipment, which is a sensible idea as it can be tricky to control the temperature inside these properties. As with all types of building, getting a balance between keeping warm and having enough fresh air is important. It creates a comfortable space to live in while maintaining a healthy environment.

Question 8

Disadvantages of tiny homes:

Example: too small to suit everyone

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