



How Will I Furnish My Home?

Communicative Context: You are beginning your first job and have been hired by an American company for a position overseas. You are moving into an apartment in your target country. How will you furnish your home?

Themes: Career Connections and Contemporary Life

Essential Question: How does my career path affect my lifestyle?

Proficiency Level: Novice

Career Topics

Decision Making; Goal Setting; Economics; Career Choices

Standards

Communication:

- Interpretive Intercultural:
 - INT-C.NM.3. Understand very basic information in authentic texts.
 - Interpersonal Intercultural
 - INP-C.NM.3. Request and share simple information on familiar or everyday topics.
 - Presentational Intercultural
 - P-C.NM.3. Give simple information about very familiar topics.
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Learning Outcomes

- I can research the salary for some of my career interests and convert the amount to the currency of the country that I am studying.
- I can design a catalog of furniture options for one room of a home.
- I can discuss my likes and dislikes in furniture choices.
- I can discuss my wants versus my needs in furniture choices.
- I can choose furniture that I can afford to purchase based on my projected income.

Preparation

- Teacher: Review household vocabulary in a communicative, real-world context.
 - Students: Think of three jobs or careers in which you are interested *and in which you could be hired by the age of 22 or with a two- or four-year degree* (i.e., you cannot choose professions such as doctors, lawyers, astrophysicists, etc.). For each job or career:
 - a) Using information from the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov/), find the salary for each of your chosen jobs. Since you are starting your career, you will choose the lowest salary or hourly wage if listed.
 - b) Calculate the average *monthly* salary for each job or career. If an hourly wage is given, calculate the monthly salary based on a 40-hour work week.
 - c) Convert your monthly salary to the currency of the target country.
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Communicative Activities

Overview: You are beginning your first job and have been hired by an American company for a position overseas. You are moving into an apartment in your target country. How will you furnish your home?

Interpretive Reading Activity: Visit home furnishings websites

Visit shopping websites from your target country to learn about options for home furnishings. Use this information to design catalogs for three different rooms of an apartment:

1. Divide into groups of three students. Within your group, each student will choose one of three rooms in a home: living room, kitchen or bedroom. Each student will choose a different room.
2. In the target language, create a catalog of furnishings for your chosen room. Your catalog may be created and viewed electronically or in a hard copy. In your catalog:
 - Add a picture of each item (pre-determine how many items to include).
 - Write a brief description of each item, including the color.
 - Give the price of each item in the currency of the target country. Include furnishings from low, mid and high price ranges.
 - Create a cover for your catalog.
3. Visit online department store or shopping websites from the target country to find household items for your catalog. Examples:
 - www.elcorteingles.es/hogar/
 - www.ikea.com/es/es/
 - www.printemps.com/
 - www.karstadt.de/

Interpersonal Activity: Discuss furniture preferences and needs vs. wants

Exchange catalogues with another group. Then, in your small group, discuss likes and dislikes in furniture:

- Browse the three catalogs of home furnishings.
 - Within your group, discuss which items you would like or not like for your apartment.
 - Tell which items you consider needs versus wants.
 - React to the choices made by other members of your group. Tell why you agree or disagree with their choices. Defend you own choices.
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Presentational Activity: Make a plan to furnish your home

Create a plan to furnish three rooms of your new apartment and present your plan orally to your peers. Use the organizer on page four to help create your plan.

Most experts say that a person starting out should only spend one month's salary on furniture. Determine the monthly salary for *one of your preferred jobs or careers*, and then decide what you will buy to furnish your apartment:

- Talk about home furnishings you consider to be essential and why.
 - Talk about home furnishings you don't need and why you don't need them.
 - Tell which items you will purchase from the catalogs, based on spending only one month's salary.
 - Tell why you chose to purchase each item.
 - Explain how you will obtain other items that you cannot afford.
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Time needed for this lesson:

- Three to four 45-minute class periods. Time will vary depending if catalogs are created at home or during class time.
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Optional Technology Integration:

Videochat with a class in the target culture to share the following information:

1. What are the living quarters like for young adults in your country?
2. What furnishings do you consider essential?
3. Is it typical for a 22 year-old to live with his family or independently?

My Plan to Furnish My Home

In your presentation:

- Talk about the home furnishings you consider to be essential and why.
- Talk about home furnishings you don't need and why you don't need them.
- Tell which items you will purchase from the catalogs based on spending only one month's salary.
- Tell why you chose to purchase each item.
- Explain how you will obtain other items that you cannot afford.

My job and one-month's salary will be: _____

Total cost of furnishing my apartment will be: _____

	I will buy...	Cost	I need but can't afford...	I don't need...
Living Room				
Kitchen				
Bedroom				