

Unit 3

Unit 3 Extension

1 Read the blog from an American website about tricks and tips to help give your home a more spacious feel. Match the paragraphs (1–4) with the headings (a–d).

- a Think big
- b Ground floor drop
- c Creative lighting
- d Declutter

No room? How to create the feeling of more space

1

The first thing you need to think about is your possessions: what you own and what you need. Have a serious clear-out and get rid of things you don't need. You might find that difficult to do at first, but you should only keep the essentials such as the important pieces of furniture and things you use every day. If you're serious about making your space work for you, it's a good opportunity to let go of any excess stuff which you may have accumulated and which clutters your house. Not only will you clear your home, you'll find it clears your mind too.

2

Light is also extremely important to make your home feel more spacious. Natural light is best, but if that's not possible, think creatively about how you can get other light into a room too – reflected light from a mirror, light from an extra window, and using light or white paint on the walls. All white may sound incredibly dull, but dark colours on walls can make a space feel smaller.

3

A popular solution to creating the feeling of more space is to remove interior walls and make an open-plan living space. For example, removing the walls between a living room and a dining room can make the space feel more than twice as big. If you do this, make sure you create different areas: a living area and a dining area, rather than leaving it as one big space. What's good about this solution is that you have the impression of more space, but you still have distinct 'zones'.

4

A more dramatic change is to dig out your floor. Yes, you can drop your floor level to make the room seem bigger. This is certainly more work and you'd need to get the work done by a trained professional, but if you want that sense of space, it might be an option – provided the room is on the ground floor of course!

2 Read the blog again and answer the questions.

1 Which two ideas would need professional builders to do the work?

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2 Which idea might help you to think more clearly?

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3 How many ways does the blog mention that you can create more light in your home?

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4 Which two internal structures in your home does the blog suggest you could make changes to?

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5 Can you dig out any floor in a house or flat?

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6 Which idea would be the cheapest to carry out?

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