

#### EL MEGAPORTAL DE INGLES PREFERIDO POR LOS HISPANOPARLANTES

#### **ADVANCED**

**Directions:** First of all, listen once or twice to the audio you have downloaded. Then try to answer the activities below. Finally check the audio transcription and the correct answers.

## 3 - A beautiful memory

# **Activity 1**

1.	Whose house is the speaker describing?				
2.	Who is living there now?				
Ac	tivity 2	TRUE	FALSE		
1.	When the speaker was a child, she thought the house was very large.				
2.	She couldn't understand why they didn't use the drawing room every day.				
3.	She liked the living room best.				
4.	She liked the kitchen because it was warm and smelt nice.				
5.	Her grandmother used to get cross with her for not helping to pick the vegetables and fruit.				
6.	The interior of the house is the same now as it was when the speaker was young.				
7.	When she returned, she felt unhappy at the size of the house.				
8.	She realised it is not a good idea to revisit the past.				

## **Audio transcription**

"Erm ... the loveliest house that I've ever lived in was one that I lived in with my grandparents when I was a child. And the name of the house was Crosslands. And I have some very very happy memories of Crosslands."

"It was ... it seemed so huge to me as a child. And it had a lovely living room with a piano in it and a lovely sort of hall with lots of carpets and chests and antiques and so on. And there was a mysterious room, it was the drawing room, and we only used it on Sundays, or erm when the vicar came for tea, or Christmas Day or Easter Day, and I was ... used to be amazed about this room because it had the best furniture in it but it was covered up with sheets ... it was as if all the furniture was wearing clothes ... and it seemed to me ridiculous that we couldn't enjoy this beautiful furniture all the week through really."

"And probably my favourite room was the kitchen. It had a lovely red flagstone floor, which was always highly polished, and an Aga, you know one of those big cookers that heats the whole room so it was always warm there, and there was a kind of clothes-horse above it that we used to hang all our clothes on, and it was just ... it was lovely. It was a very warm room with baked bread and ... my grandmother used to make ice cream and we'd eat it in there and ... there was a vegetable garden leading from there so I spent a lot of time in the vegetable garden picking peas and eating them ... my grandmother used to get really cross with me because I used to pick all the vegetables and the fruit for our meals and then I'd eat half of them, because they tasted so delicious coming fresh from the garden."

"Now, I went back to it a few years ago and it was a big mistake. They've modernised it inside, they've got rid of those lovely old fireplaces ... have just gone. And they've knocked a wall down so the drawing room and the living room have become one big modern *plastic* kind of room."

"But I think what upset me most about it was the feeling that the house had shrunk, it had become smaller and that my memory of this lovely large warm comfortable house had turned into an old house with modernised rooms inside it. And it taught me a lesson really, that you can't go back on the past and recapture it. But there's a beautiful memory there."

## **Answers Activity 1**

These answers are just examples. Alternative answers are also possible.

1. Whose house is the speaker describing?

She is describing a house that she lived in with her grandparents when she was child.

2. Who is living there now?

We don't know who is living in the house now, but we can infer that it is no longer her grandparents.

## **Answers Activity 2**

		TRUE	FALSE
1.	When the speaker was a child, she thought the house was very large.	V	
2.	She couldn't understand why they didn't use the drawing room every day.	V	
3.	She liked the living room best.		<b>~</b>
4.	She liked the kitchen because it was warm and smelt nice.	V	
5.	Her grandmother used to get cross with her for not helping to pick the vegetables and fruit.		V
6.	The interior of the house is the same now as it was when the speaker was young.		V
7.	When she returned, she felt unhappy at the size of the house.	V	
8.	She realised it is not a good idea to revisit the past.	V	

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