



# My First Visit to England

<b>Level:</b>	B1
<b>Topic:</b>	Intercultural aspects, clothes, house and homes, surroundings
<b>Competence area:</b>	Reading for specific information
<b>CEFR Descriptor:</b>	Can recognise significant points in straightforward newspaper articles on familiar subjects.
<b>Source:</b>	Englisch Aufgabenbeispiele 5.-8. Schulstufe > BIST Code 257

**Read the text about a girl's first visit to England. Then answer the seven questions.  
Write down key words only – do NOT write complete sentences!**

When I went to England for the first time, I was 14 years old. I went to stay with a host family and as soon as I left the plane, I was surprised to see just how different everything was. When I was picked up at the airport by my host family, I got into the car to find the steering wheel on the other side of the car!

It was very confusing to drive on the left side of the road, which is definitely the wrong side for an Austrian. I kept thinking we would crash into oncoming cars.

We passed a few bus stops at which I saw children and teenagers waiting for a bus. They were all dressed the same. I saw boys wearing black shoes, grey trousers, white shirts, blue jumpers, grey jackets and grey and blue striped ties! Ties! No Austrian teenager would wear a tie to school. My host family explained to me that every pupil has to wear a school uniform in the school colours.

As soon as we arrived at their house it became clear to me that English houses are very different to Austrian houses. From the outside they look very pretty with their red bricks and also quite old fashioned, which I really liked.

But inside things were very different. My friend had her own room, but she didn't have a desk, nor a wardrobe for her clothes. When I asked her where she did her homework, she explained that she would do it on her lap sitting on her bed. Her clothes were hidden behind a door, which was



actually a built in cupboard. I had never seen anything like that before!

Also the living room looked quite different. In the centre of the room, there was an openfireplace. In front of it were two large, very comfortable looking sofas and two chairs. I couldn't find a coffee table anywhere to put drinks on, but maybe English people don't have drinks in the living room, I thought.

Another surprise was the milkman. Every day, around five o'clock in the morning, the milkman came to every house to deliver milk and orange juice. Everybody always had fresh milk for their cups of tea, without having to go shopping. I wondered what the milkman actually looked like, so one morning I got up really early and hid behind the curtain. At 5.05 he arrived in an electric car, wearing a blue and white uniform.

It took me a while to get used to all the different things in England, but when it was time to leave again, I was really sad and promised to come back soon to the country of milkmen and cups of tea!

**Give the answers in key words:**

(1) What makes up an English school uniform?

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(2) What was missing in the girl's bedroom?

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(3) Where did her English girlfriend keep her clothes?

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(4) Write down the pieces of furniture which were in the living room?

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(5) What did the milkman deliver?

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(6) What is special about the milkman's car?

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## Solution

(1) What makes up an English school uniform?

**black shoes**

**grey trousers**

**white shirt**

**a blue jumper**

**a grey jacket**

**a grey and blue striped tie**

(2) What was missing in the girl's bedroom?

**a desk**

**a wardrobe**

(3) Where did her English girlfriend keep her clothes?

**behind a door, in a built-in cupboard**

(4) Write down the pieces of furniture which were in the living room?

**two sofas**

**two chairs**

**(a fireplace)**

(5) What did the milkman deliver?

**a desk**

**a wardrobe**

(6) What is special about the milkman's car?

**It's an electric car.**