

File name: HomeSense_ethnographic.notes-w-walking-interviews

Summary records on household arrangements, based on walking interviews, observational and questionnaire data

Table of Contents

<u>101-13</u>	2+ adults
<u>102-63</u>	2+ adults
<u>103-43</u>	2+ adults
<u>104-33</u>	2+ adults
<u>105-53</u>	2+ adults
<u>106-13</u>	2+ adults
<u>107-23</u>	2+ adults
<u>108-21</u>	lone occupant
<u>109-11</u>	lone occupant
<u>110-21</u>	lone occupant
<u>111-41</u>	lone occupant
<u>112-31</u>	lone occupant
<u>113-11</u>	lone occupant
<u>114-12</u>	w/dependent(s)
<u>115-22</u>	w/dependent(s)
<u>116-22</u>	w/dependent(s)
<u>117-32</u>	w/dependent(s)
<u>118-22</u>	w/dependent(s)
<u>119-62</u>	w/dependent(s)
<u>120-32</u>	w/dependent(s)

2+ adults	7	35%
lone occupant	6	30%
w/dependent(s)	7	35%

117-32 – w/dependent(s)

Couple w/two teenagers (one of whom is the *key respondent* 16yrs)

Main features and migration

The house is semi-detached on two floors with an entrance hall leading in three directions. One doorway leads into a living room and through a kitchen out to a conservatory. Another doorway leads through a living+dining room out to the same conservatory. The conservatory faces a garden and is regularly used as an entrance coming in through the garden gate. Bicycles are also brought through the garden and stored there.

Internally the migration circles through the downstairs rooms during the day, through the conservatory, kitchen and living+dining areas – involving the living room mostly in the evenings. There is also migration up and down the stairs on and off all the time but in the evenings the main traffic shifts to the upstairs hallway between bathroom and bedrooms. The family moved into this house less than 2 years ago.

Mealtimes & food prep

The living+dining room has a big dining table and the only TV in the house is sitting on a table to the side opposite a small sofa. It is the room where everyone typically eats together in the evenings, but not in the mornings because members get up at different times. Family members take their breakfast in the kitchen and the kitchen is also where the cat is fed. The key respondent prepares breakfast for the two siblings and they sometimes take their breakfast into the conservatory. Also, while the parents prepare most of the other meals together, the key respondent does a lot of heating up this prepared food for the two siblings in the afternoons. If the weather is good, meals are taken out into the garden. Occasionally, they have family food-prep projects like making dumplings.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The living+dining room is normally very social, but not the most social room in the house. The TV doesn't get used much collectively except for the occasional family evening. Its use is mainly solitary, for example, when the key respondent watches BBC click or a documentary.

The kitchen is connected to the conservatory which makes that area the key social hub. They claim that the conservatory is the most social space, especially in the late afternoons. The parents sit there a lot and drink tea late in the day, you can access the garden and it is nice to sit there and chat. But, the conservatory is also a bit seasonal. It gets too hot and then it gets too cold.

The front living room is not used much in the summer, not nearly as much as the conservatory, although, after dark they tend to migrate in there from the back rooms. The front living room is mainly used by the parents who use the couches and tea table to do some work on their laptops. These are mainly solitary activities and the room more social when guest arrive since they are typically invited into the front living room. The family entertains every now and then, about a once a month, and they have house guests for about 5 nights over the year.

As for other house chores, the key respondent claims to do by far most of the cleaning, and some of the gardening, while the parents cover most of it. The respondent is moderately physically active at home, also in general.

They all use their laptops for work and play, although, they engage occasionally in other kinds of games they can play together. The laptops are also used to access iPlayer and YouTube which replaces TV in many ways, an indication that viewing media / entertainment is mainly a solitary activity apart from the occasional family TV evening.

Among other activities, the key participant likes to hang out on the garden bench alone for about half an hour at a time. The parents do yoga together, while the key respondent claims to use her room for relaxation, doing yoga alone, and watching YouTube. The others are not invited much in there, but the mother might drop in to see if everything is OK and sometimes borrows the room to get work done because the room has the best light in the house. The sibling like to barge in and harass when the respondent is changing right after coming home from school. The sibling's room, in comparison, the least used room in the house, hardly slept in at all, but used for play and using a laptop at the desk.

The key respondent claims that a good shower, nice kitchen and garden are the things that make a comfortable home, especially, naming showering, eating and relaxing as something to look forward about coming home. When asked to compare the use of the household with other people in a similar place in their lives, the respondent stated that their lifestyle was probably more healthy and key interests different, for example, being interested in documentaries and science education.

Sleep

According to key respondent, the house as a whole sleeps quite regularly. They are all off to bed between 10 and midnight.

103-43 – 2+adults

Couple (no offspring mentioned)

Main features and migration

The main house is a bungalow with a central hallway that accesses all rooms except the kitchen. In the summer, the house works like a thoroughfare, coming in / out through a front yard with garages, through an entrance into the kitchen, then onward into the living+dining room which leads in two directions. One is straight on through a conservatory and a garden door into the backyard which has a cabin (spare living room/study). The other leads into the central hallway with access to the master bedroom (with direct access to the back garden), a small en suite guest room (also with direct access to garden and used as a thoroughfare to take out and bring in the laundry), a spare bedroom and the main bathroom. The traffic internally runs back and forth through this hallway with access in all directions. They claim to be still settling into this property and getting used to what it can offer them.

Mealtimes and food-prep

The dining table in living+dining room is only used when there are people around so meals are normally taken onto the sofas or in the summer they are taken outside to the back garden. The key respondent claims to spend quite a bit of time in the kitchen and the dog is quite excited when they are pottering about in there, since that is where the dog is fed. The key respondent prepares a hot meal for both of them in the evenings, and the spouse will help out every now and then cleaning up. Regular mealtimes are morning, midday and early evening, and they eat the evening meals together.

Activities (social / solitary)

The living+dining room is used as a lounge, a dining room, a room to hang out in on a laptop or with a book, and also a TV room. It is the most social room in the evenings, for watching TV together (also alone), and they claim to chat quite a bit, or they are doing things separately (but co-present). For example, the spouse will sit in a “spot” with a laptop, while the respondent is reading or doing other things alone on a mobile device. They have a dog who is free to run around the house but has his own lounge spot in the living+dining room. They both play a lot with the dog, both inside and out in the garden areas. The house is close to a river which is what make this house comfortable, along with the relaxation and having a dog to play with. In particular, the peace and quiet is what they look forward about coming home.

They claim to use the house quite a bit for socialising activities. They have house guests over for about once a month on the average and they entertain at least once a month (dinner / drinks).

Other activities they mentioned are mainly solitary. The respondent takes care of all the laundry and handles it in the small guest room, leaving it out on airers if necessary. The master bedroom is also used for solitary reading and working on laptops or using tablets, mainly by the respondent, sometimes while the spouse is working on a laptop in the living+dining room. They each spend a lot of time on their mobile devices for entertainment and hobby purposes.

The key respondent uses a spare bedroom too for self care activities, keeping clothes and personal belongings in there and getting dressed to go out but, apparently, the dog believes it is his room, hence, uses the bed to lie down.

The cabin out back was meant for having private space (for either or them) to work in peace and quiet. Both like the idea of it, but it turns out that they are not using it very much at all. There are also a few garages out front, a couple of which are used by the spouse alone, one a photographic studio, the other for spending holiday time restoring an old car. Other garages are for storage and a boat.

When asked to compare the use of their household with people who are in a similar place in life, the respondent thought it quite similar, especially, that they use the home for socialising.

Sleep

The key respondent claims to sleep quite regularly, off to bed ca 9:30 during the working week, 11pm typically on other days unless something special is going on.

115-22 – w/dependent(s)

Couple w/10-17yr old children

Main features and migration

Main thoroughfare is through the front entrance hallway into – and through – the living room to the kitchen which has a doorway in and out of a large back garden with a cabin(study). A walkway then circles from the kitchen past a bathroom (used by the male), through a wash room, then a playroom back towards the front entrance. There is a lot of traffic as well up and down the stairs, especially between the downstairs hallway and the 2nd floor which holds the two children's bedrooms, a guest room and the main bathroom (only used by the females). A master bedroom and toilet are on the 3rd floor loft.

Mealtimes & food prep

The Kitchen is quite a social space, according to our key respondent. The family eat together in the dining area of the kitchen, except that the spouse works late on weekdays, so mealtimes are organised around the children in the early evening. The respondent typically prepares all the meals, although, one or both children sometimes help out. Having a cup of tea is what the respondent looks most forward to in the day – and about coming home – but regular mealtimes are morning, midday and early evening during the week, the last meal shifting towards the late evening on weekends.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The key respondent claims to be moderately active in general but very active at home, with most of the cleaning and cooking on their hands and regular exercise (yoga). Togetherness and being a family is what makes for a comfortable home, also that the home is aesthetically pleasing. The family is established in the house, having lived there now for over 3 years.

The kitchen and living room are the two rooms the whole family spends time in together, in particular, the kitchen. One of the children is home-schooled, an activity that takes place at the kitchen dining table and homework generally takes priority for both children. They can work at the table so all in all they are spending considerable time together in the kitchen.

They like to sit and chat (some or all) and they often watch TV together in the living room, but there are TVs in the playroom, the master bedroom, the cabin(study) and the bedroom of the older child. The TV in the loft gets used a bit on weekends, e.g., the couple watching something together, and the children may come up there on weekend mornings to wake them up. Otherwise, the room is only used for sleep and getting dressed. The spouse uses the TV in the playroom or out in the cabin to watch football alone or something else the others don't care to watch. The cabin is a private space that is also fitted with DJ equipment and other leisure items, and mainly used on weekend afternoons.

Other activities specifically named, include games they can play together (all or some of them), or each by themselves. They all use independently computers/mobiles on the internet for study, play and entertainment. The older child is not really active in – has outgrown – children's games, although, the younger sibling sometimes invites the older to join. The younger child spends a lot of time alone with toys and a karaoke machine, shuts the door to the bedroom to play imaginative games and clearly wants to be left alone in a private world. Friends are invited over to play and sleep-overs are occasionally organised. The older one however, engages in activities with the family downstairs. The older's bedroom is mainly used to relax and watch TV in solitude. Friends do not often visit and are rarely invited into the room. The respondent claims that the playroom downstairs is mainly used on weekends. It has a game console along with the TV and a bunch of toys.

The respondent frequently listens to the radio and reads (sometimes with the younger child), hinting that they all read by themselves. The couple does not spend time in the children's bedrooms, only to see them to bed, but the respondent uses the guest-room on the 2nd floor to be near them if they are ill or something needs attending over night.

Dinner/garden parties are rare, they entertain perhaps 4 times a year. The key respondent invites friends around for food and drink, while the spouse chooses to meet friends elsewhere. All in all, they have house guests about 6 times per year, family members and sleepovers included.

When the key respondent was asked to compare their use of the household with peers (people in a similar place in their lives), the respondent considered their home different in having fewer house guests than other homes would normally have.

Sleep

The key respondent claims to have regular sleep, in bed 10-11pm. Sleeping arrangement are somewhat fluid however, using the guest-room on a regular basis and sometimes attending to child(ren) in the night.

110-21 – lone occupant

No child(ren) or partner mentioned

Main features and migration

Main thoroughfare is through back entrance into the dining room from the garden (with access to garage). The dining area has access in/out of kitchen, then migration runs through the living room and into a hallway with small toilet toward front entrance and stairs to 2nd floor. The front entrance is used mainly for visitors and when the occupant walks to the shops or walks away from the house. There is also regular traffic up / down the stairs to access different upstairs rooms, main bedroom, two utility room and a bathroom.

Mealtimes & food prep

The kitchen is rather busy, apparently the occupant's favourite room in the house, using the washing machine, a toaster, the oven and stove with a fan and a separate electrical heating comes on in the winter. The occupants speaks of the kitchen as cosy and warm and s/he prepares food all the time, however, hot meals only about 3 times a week. Regular mealtimes at home are morning, midday and afternoon and the adjacent dining area is where s/he sits down to dine but it is also where s/he keeps a work station.

Activities

The participant considers themselves moderately active in general (hints at regular exercise), and s/he keeps busy at home with housework and gardening. S/he spends a lot of sedentary time however, in the dining area at the computer work station: using email, reading news, planning trips and looking up all sorts of things on the internet --probably about 6 hours a day, according to interview. S/he claims to enjoy the most being on the internet, looking at news and planning adventures. Other specifically named activities is reading. S/he appears to be solitary at all times, although, mentions having house guests over 4-5 nights per year and guests around the house 4-5 times per month.

The peace and quiet of the home, relaxation and feeling save from the world are the key things s/he looks forward to coming home, also, the comfortable chairs, carpets and wall paper make up for home comforts. From the walking interview, we further learn that s/he spends some time in the garden and takes good care of it. The living room is used mainly in the evening (most evenings) for relaxation, listening to the radio and reading. There is no TV in the living room, nor elsewhere in the house, but s/he considers watching broadcast over the internet, e.g., TV shows.

Upstairs, s/he has a main bedroom, but the original master bedroom is used as a utility room for laundry/ironing and storing things like the vacuum cleaner. S/he comes in there everyday. A smaller room on the end of the upstairs hallway is used as a storage, mainly of all sorts of tools and objects, books that fit nowhere and so on. The main bedroom is only used for sleeping, getting up, getting dressed and no other activity.

When asked about how the home is used compared to people in a similar place in their lives, s/he agreed it was similar, however, that others probably stay a lot more at home whereas s/he travels quite a bit and takes interest in the local politics of occupancy in the area, e.g., the neighbourhood watch.

Sleep

The occupant claims to sleep regularly 7-9 hours a night and is normally in bed around 10pm.

106-13 – 2+ adults

Couple (adult child(ren) moved away)

Main features and migration

Main thoroughfare is through the front door into an entrance hall that leads in four directions so there is quite a lot of traffic through that area, plus there is access to a toilet in the hall. One doorway leads through a dining room – with access to patio and garden – and into the main living room back through to the entrance hall (and the other way around). Another doorway leads to a second (spare) living room into the kitchen and utility area which has access as well to the backyard. The staircase leads to a 2nd floor landing/balcony with two studies, a master bedroom, a spare (guest) room and the main bathroom. Both studies are in daily use so there is quite a lot of traffic up and down the stairs and around the balcony.

Mealtimes & food prep

The kitchen is quite a busy space. The spouse does almost all the food preparations, both cooking from scratch and putting together pre-prepared food, while our key respondent enjoys making good coffee. They take their meals into the dining room for sharing, normally twice a day, in the mornings and early evenings.

Activities

The kitchen is not much of a social space, the couple each attending to different tasks, also with other house chores. Our key respondent does all the cleaning, while the spouse does just about all the laundry. The respondent claims to be moderately physically active in general, as well as at home.

The dining room – a favourite room – and the main living room are the most social rooms. The couple take meals together in there and enjoy the view over the patio and garden in the mornings. It is also where our key respondent solves crosswords. The living room is a music and entertainment room with a lot of equipment around and there is music on all the time even if no one is in there. A band practices in the room, and the key respondent practices there alone. Otherwise, as they explained, the living room is a thoroughfare during the day with the music on. Lounging happens mainly in the evenings when they watch TV, read and listen to music, although, not necessarily together. The key respondent described these areas as social to large extent with friends frequently coming around to play games and play musical instruments. They entertain 4-5 times a month and have house guests approximately 40 nights per year.

The spare living room has a couch and a TV, stereo, exercise equipment and a lot of books. It is mainly used for exercising with entertainment on, when the adult child(ren) come around, if one wants to watch a different TV programme than the other or have privacy to read.

Two bedrooms upstairs are studies for solitary activities, work and hobby, although, our key respondent sometimes sits in the spouse's study because it is the quietest room in the house. The spouse works on programming and sewing and never spends time in the other study where our respondent plays computer games, and works on music and paints. The key respondent also claims to walk in circles every now and then – pace the floors in the house – to think things through. They both spend considerable time on computers and on the internet in their studies for both practical and hobby purposes.

It is the variety of activities that is most enjoyable about the house. It is a nice house to come home to. It is relaxed and alive.

Sleep

They claim to sleep regular hours, normally in bed between 11pm and midnight.

111-41 – lone occupant

Adult child(ren) moved away, partner lives elsewhere

Main features and migration

The house is a bungalow. The front door leads into a small entrance hall with access to all the rooms: a living room, main bedroom, spare bedroom, the toilet and a kitchen with a doorway to a large backyard. The main traffic comes through this hall back and forth, mainly between the front door, the main bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and garden entrance. That entrance is used a lot by the dogs and serves to get larger items into the house. The respondent has just moved into the property and still sorting out the living arrangements. The living room is set up as a seating area with a TV but also has a hot tub parked on the floor. The spare bedroom is planned for accommodating a grandchild's visits and to be available for other immediate family to sleep over, so the main bedroom functions as well as a living and dining area.

Mealtimes & food prep

The key respondent takes regular meals morning, midday and early evenings, typically by themselves and is bringing some of it into the main bedroom while the kitchen is normally where the larger animals are fed. A hot meal is prepared at least once per day, normally pre-prepared foods put into the oven or microwave to heat up. The respondent only cooks when immediate family come over, something special which is seldom and, likewise, it is seldom that members of immediate family cook for the respondent. The respondent loves BBQs but needs someone else to do them.

Activities (shared / solitary)

Our respondent is not very active physically at home or in general, except for walking the dogs a bit and doing all the laundry. Immediate family come around to assist with cleaning and gardening. The respondent speaks of activities as solitary, watching a lot of TV, using computer on the internet, trying to exercise a bit and do some crafts. But, they also spend time on the phone, the dogs, cat and other animals need caring for, and the dogs need walking, although, the back yard is large, secured by fencing and ideal for the dogs to be free to play and move freely in and out of the house. Immediate family come around to chat or join for a trip to the stores. The house is regularly quite social (currently, main bedroom and kitchen). Normally, the respondent would have people over for entertaining about once a month.

Our respondent considers good furniture and flooring and a tidy house to be what makes for home comforts, but mentioned especially looking forward to lying down and relaxing when coming home. When asked to compare the use of the house to people who are in a similar place in their lives, the respondent mentioned staying a lot more at home than others do and having many animals being rather different from the norm.

Sleep

Claims to sleep regular hours, normally in bed around 9pm

118-22 – w/dependent(s)

Couple w/ 1 child

Main features and migration

The house is a semi-detached with a side entrance leading into the dining area. There is access to the left into a small living room/lounge with a TV and children toys and, to the right, into a kitchen. The kitchen has a toilet at the back and a door which is an entry to a back garden through a shelter / conservatory, mainly used for bikes, a freezer, shoes, garden tools and lawn mower.

The dining area is the main thoroughfare for traffic downstairs but also to get at a door to a basement storage and the stairs to the upper floors. A lot of stuff gets dumped on and around a large dining table and there is also a play area in the corner which is used all the time. The second floor has two bedrooms, one on each side of the landing, a master bedroom with a bathroom at the back and the child's bedroom. There is a lot of traffic across the hallway between the rooms, especially early mornings and in the night. There is also considerable traffic up and down the stairs to the 3rd floor attic (bedroom+study) used as a guest room but mainly as the wife's study when she works from home. The attic is also a storage for winter / summer stuff, a dumping ground for stuff that the child has grown out of and occasionally – in the winter – for the husband's workout on a turbo-trainer.

Mealtimes & food prep

Typically (workdays), the wife and child eat breakfast together in the mornings while the husband is gone already. He, however, prepares most of the meals and appears to undertake majority of kitchen activities. He takes lunch at home by himself, then brings the child home mid-afternoon and they have snacks together and the evening meals. The coffee-maker is routinely used, a blender is used regularly but the microwave is mainly used to defrost. The dining table in the dining room gets used at meal times, but quite often the meals are taken into the living room with the TV on. They entertain twice a month, often for meals

Activities (shared / solitary)

A lot of routine activities in the house centre on the adults each by themselves being with their child or otherwise are engaged in solitary activities. During the week, the husband leaves the house first busying himself alone, then the wife and child spend some time on the second floor getting dressed and prepared together and the wife come in and out of the child's room for her clothes that are kept in a wardrobe in the room. Then they take breakfast together downstairs and leave the house together. The husband comes home around lunch time, then brings the child back home in the mid-afternoon. He and the child hang out at home, they might pop out or the child brings friends around, so they are spending time together in the late afternoons and early evenings while the wife is not back from work until evening, sometimes late.

The child's room has toys and is used as a play area, along with the hallway landing, the living and dining rooms downstairs. The child is quite free to play around the house with friends and toys in all these areas, and the parents get drawn into playing with Lego Duplo and playing pretend games, e.g., mother and child take picnics out on the landing between bedrooms. The parents also read books in the child's room.

The couple each use computers/internet by themselves, the share the gardening but the husband does most of the laundry, cleaning/tidying and works out by himself on the turbo-trainer. The wife claims to be only somewhat active physically and moderately active at home. She sometimes works in the attic (ca. 5 days month) for 7 hour sessions. She takes conference calls and needs the quiet. The most social areas are downstairs in the living and dining rooms which are used mainly in the afternoon and evenings and when they have people around for dinners/parties and they have family visiting with ca. 60 nights of sleepovers in

a year. The couple watch TV together, sometimes wife or husband with the child or all three of them, and they often take their meals into the living room.

Sleep

The occupants claim their sleep is variable, however, they are normally in bed between 10-12 with some nocturnal activities recorded in attending to the child.

108-21 – lone occupant

No child(ren); partner lives nearby

Main features and migration

Main thoroughfare is through the side door of the house (serves as front door), into a hallway that leads towards the back of the house into a dining+living area, then kitchen into a shower room and backyard/garden; straight ahead the hallway leads to the 2nd floor where the main traffic is also towards the back of the house in through a living room with the main bathroom at the back. The bedroom s/he uses faces the street on the 2nd floor and underneath downstairs is a spare living room only used very occasionally.

Mealtimes & food prep

The kitchen is a busy space. The occupant prepares meals three times a day, breakfast is cold, lunch is something heated up like a soup, and hot dinner is cooked about 4 times during the week, while on weekends, the occupant tends to be at a partner's house close by or elsewhere. There is a toaster and kettle in regular use, also a blender, but s/he prepares the food from scratch, takes the meals into the dining+living area in front of the TV, then does dishes and potters about in this part of the house. The recycling and compost is kept by the door to the garden so the traffic in and out is mainly for the bins, also a bicycle is stored there, and s/he does a bit of gardening every now and then.

Activities

Activities in the household are described as solitary. The occupant claims to be very active in general and quite active at home with housework and gardening. S/he is a recent retiree, getting used to spending more time "just being at home", free to do whatever and enjoying the comforts of "a lot of light" living almost entirely upstairs. Apart from house chores, s/he mentions watching TV, using the computer (and tablet) on the internet, crossword, reading, listening to the radio, and lying down relaxing. The dining+living area is where the TV is and the room is also used for ironing. There is a favourite chair facing the TV and a two-seater to seat guests, so the room is also the main room for entertaining and guests are taken directly in there. A sizeable dining table is tucked up against a corner and taken out on rare occasions when guests are over for dinner. S/he claims to have house guests about 4 nights a year and people over about 4 times a month. The shower room/toilet to the back is also a utility room (bread-maker operates in there, and potatoes and seedlings are prepared). The toilet is used regularly and s/he uses the shower during the summer months. The spare living room facing the street however, is only for lying on the couch (with book or radio), mainly to be somewhere different and not in the same room all the time. The occupant made a note of feeling about the room as "not terribly private" because it faces the street. Only recently s/he put blinds put up to properly close it off. But even if no one is looking or caring to see through, it still feels exposed.

The main bedroom upstairs is sometimes used in the mornings just for hanging out with a cup of tea and enjoying the sun, perhaps with the radio on. Otherwise, it is only for sleeping, getting dressed and nothing else. The other room towards the back however, is used properly as a living room with a couch and dressers, electronics and a seating area on the floor to work. S/he comes into this room to lounge, work on the laptop (or tablet), listen to music (and podcasts), relax, charge devices, and s/he claims spends a good part of the day just in this room.

Sleep

The occupant claims to sleep regularly, usually in bed 10-11pm.

109-11 – lone occupant

No child(ren); a best friend up the road

Main features and migration

Main thoroughfare is through the back door from the backyard/garden into the kitchen which has a small toilet to the back, into a dining+living area, onward into a hallway that leads to a living room facing the street, a side door (front door mainly for visitors), and upstairs to the 2nd floor. Migration up the stairs goes along the landing/hallway into the main bedroom and bathroom, also towards the back of the house into a small study. Traffic into a second bedroom on the floor is mainly in the mornings and into the front living room downstairs mainly during the summer months when the room is the nicest to sit in during the day, from where the occupant can also see what is going on up and down the street.

Mealtimes & food prep

The occupant uses the kitchen everyday to prepare food, although, s/he does not cook from scratch. Rather, it is often prepared food from the market that s/he puts together, some put into the oven and s/he also claims to use the microwave quite a bit. Regular mealtimes during the week are morning, midday and early evenings, on weekends omitting the morning meal. S/he always makes tea in the mornings to take back to bed with the newspaper.

Activities

The occupant is a retiree who has lived in this house just about a whole lifetime. S/he claims to be somewhat active generally (walks a bit) and is quite busy at home, enjoying the comforts of familiarity, being surrounded by memories of a whole life course. S/he spends most of her time at home, mostly in the house but is also gardening in the backyard.

The kitchen and the dining+living area next to it are the busiest places in the house. The dining+living room has a chair facing a TV, a small dining table pressed against the wall and two other chairs to the side. Food is taken in there and quite some time is spent there in the evenings in front of the TV. There is also a radio and CD player in the room, but this room is even more in use during the winter months, than in the summer, because the room is warmer and cosier than the living room facing the street. The front room gets cold in the winter so s/he does not sit there much during the colder months.

The second floor has a small room with a desk, in which the occupant claims to use a laptop and air laundry but otherwise this room is not used very much, not everyday. She takes the laptop into the main bedroom if she is looking up something at night or in the mornings, and there is a radio on for news when making the bed, but not all the time. The bedroom has very basic function of readying for bed, getting up, and getting dressed and the spare bedroom is only in use in the mornings to put the teasmate on, or just to look out the window at night before going to bed. The occupant also takes the laptop downstairs to the dining+living room or into the front living from if she decides to sit there

Other than house chores, the occupant specifically named watching TV, using the computer on the internet, reading (news mainly) and solving crossword puzzles.

Sleep

The occupant claims to sleep regular hours, in bed 10-11pm. No mention of nocturnal activities

101-13 – 2+ adults

Couple (adult child(ren), one lodging)

Main features and migration

The house is detached with main entrance through the front door into an entrance hall with access to a cloak room and a spare bathroom (shower that is rarely used). The main thoroughfare is through this entrance hall in two directions. One leads into a living room and a kitchen and utility area to one side with access to a fenced-off garden. A conservatory is also accessed from the living room but at the back of it is an entrance into a study. The other direction leads into a dining room with a doorway at the far end into a hallway with access to the master bedroom (which has its own bathroom), two spare bedrooms and another bathroom. There are also stairs at the far end of the dining room that lead up onto a loft with a spare bedroom/lounge and another study further back. Migration through the house is pretty consistent in all directions, front to back with the respondent mainly using the upstairs area. The occupants are well established in this house, having lived there for over 18 years and they have solar panels to supply energy to the house which requires quite a bit of management, especially, with respect to bathing.

Mealtimes & food prep

The key respondent always prepares food for other household members when cooking a hot meal which is about 5 times a week. The spouse prepares some of the meals in return. The couple claim to make an effort to share at least one meal a day, dinners often with all three members of the household and rest of the immediate family on weekends. The conservatory is used for dining from March to October, otherwise the dining room inside.

Activities (shared / solitary)

Although, the conservatory serves mainly as a dining area through the warmer months, it is also arranged to be a sitting area. They emphasise dining as the main activity and that it is the most social area in the sense that they all have dinner there and also with more family coming over. They have house guests 10-12 nights in the year and entertain about 5 times per month.

There is a TV in the conservatory, but they claim it never comes on and no one sits there with a laptop to work. During the colder months, the dining room takes over as the key social hub along with the living room which is always social for the couple. They spend time there together in the evenings, while the third member spends most of the time at home in solitude in their own bedroom+study. The television is on in the evenings in the living room, selectively, as they put it. They try to record programmes and watch them later but also have Amazon Prime. There is a fireplace (wood+coal stove) in the room, used quite a lot during the colder months. The living room is occasionally a workspace as well, when the respondent works there on a laptop seated on the couch. Relaxing is something to look forward to about coming home to quiet comforts with no noisy neighbours around, a place where one can just be oneself. They claim to use their home just the same as others do who are in a similar place in their lives.

The study / workshop accessed from the living room is only used by the spouse. It is a busy place with all sorts of things on shelves and table. There is a computer workstation in there. The spouse used to work from home but now after retirement is still using the workstation quite a lot for both practical and entertainment purposes. The key respondent however, works from home 12-14 days per month, in 7 hour sessions in the upstairs study, so each of them have their own private work space.

The key respondent claims to be moderately physically active at home and in general. As for other house chores, the couple divide the laundry and cleaning between them, but the respondent does most of the gardening, sometimes with the help of other household members, gardening being the favourite activity.

Using computers and the internet is a solitary activity for all of them, for practical purposes, entertainment or for playing games.

Sleep

Our key respondent claims to sleep regular hours, in bed between 11:30pm and midnight.

116-22 – w/dependent(s)

Couple w/2 small children

Main features and migration

The house is semi-detached with main entrance at the front leading first into a separate entrance room for storing outdoor gear, getting shoes and coats off and on. Another doorway then leads ahead into an open plan living room and dining area with a small desk to work at against a wall. This open-plan area accesses the kitchen on one side and another room at the back of the kitchen which is not used much at all. It also leads straight out to a patio and garden with a BBQ area. A lot of traffic runs back and forth through this open-plan space and in and out of the kitchen but there is also a lot of traffic up and down a staircase by the front entrance into the two children's bedrooms and family bathroom in particular, also to access the master bedroom. They claim to be DIY oriented, working to improve, adapt and settle into the property one step at a time over the past 7 or so years.

Mealtimes & food prep

Our key respondent enjoys regular mealtimes in the early evenings during the week, mornings and early evenings on weekends. They try to eat family meals when they can, especially on weekends, but the children tend to eat around 4pm so that doesn't quite add up during the working week. The spouse prepares breakfast with the children during the week, but the key respondent likes to cook from scratch the evening meals, about 6 times a week, sometimes preparing only for self both a lot of the time for the whole family. The spouse sometimes does the cooking. The dining table in the dining area is the typical place for meals but there is also a small table with chairs at the back of the kitchen where the children take some of their food.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The whole downstairs area, the kitchen and living+dining+study areas are the social hub of the house. If someone is preparing food, the rest of the family tends to hang around the kitchen and the family spends most of their time downstairs, although, the children toys are kept upstairs. The children tend to follow the parents around so gravitate to the downstairs areas with their toys and games even if the parents are getting on with their own business. They also play in their own rooms quite a bit, often together in one room or the other and the parents play with them sometimes too. Then they play by themselves, the older one often buzzing about after being prepared for bed at night. Among other shared activities, the respondent spends a lot of time with the children on learning activities and they play games, read, and all of them watch TV a little bit and chat. Our respondent claims to be moderately physically active at home and in general, but exercising at home is shared by the spouse and the older child in the back room of the kitchen. They never have house guests but entertain about 6 times a year.

The spouse sometimes works from home and the couple both use laptops and the internet for practical purposes, our respondent to do study homework. The dining table is often used for solitary activities like that while the desk tends to become more like a storage space. As for other house chores, the couple divide the laundry and cleaning between them but they also have a cleaner come around on Wednesdays. The gardening is mostly on the hands of the spouse, although, our respondent does some it as well, and DIY is a pastime the couple sometimes do each alone, sometimes together.

When asked about favourite activities, the respondent named learning activities, chatting and having dinner together. In particular coming home to the children and relaxing with the spouse at the end of the day is something to look forward to, the personal touch, loads of chairs, warmth and photos comprising the key comforts. When asked to compare their use of the household with other people in a similar place in their lives, they suggested that the TV is probably in much less use than is the norm and compared to child-free people, they spend much more time at home.

Sleep

The key respondent claims to have regular sleep, in bed between 11pm and midnight.

102-63 – 2+ adults

Couple, no child(ren)

Main features and migration

The household is an apartment with a downstairs entrance which is used as a changing area and storage for shoes, overcoats and umbrellas. A staircase leads up to a landing with access to all rooms. The main traffic runs along the landing from one end to the other, from a living room+dining room+study, to the bedroom doorway, then a bathroom doorway, then finally into a kitchen and a conservatory on the other end. They are renting this property on a temporary basis so are making the most of it while it lasts.

Mealtimes & food prep

The key respondent does all the cooking, seldom just for one person, rather, a lot of the time for both of them. Routine mealtimes are morning, early afternoon and early evenings during the week, with the last meal shifting to late evenings on weekends. At least one hot meal is prepared each day. The respondent likes to sit in the conservatory (works like an extension to the kitchen) when it is warm enough, but the couple like to take breakfast together in the kitchen, while typically taking the evening meals together in the living+dining+study room.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The living+dining+study room is a key hub of both shared and solitary activities. This is where the couple eat together in the evenings, where the key respondent works alone on a computer for about 12 days in the month, 1-2 hours at a time, where the couple watches TV together (on a laptop) and spend some time together chatting, and it is also a spare bedroom for house guests who are quite frequent, about 30 nights in the year and they entertain guests about 8 times in the month. The key respondent uses a laptop for a variety of purposes – a fluid arrangement – working at the table, sitting the laptop on a chair to watch TV or some entertainment alone from the couch (or with the spouse), and to play computer games. Almost all the electronic devices are in this room and the spouse also uses a separate desk against a wall and their own laptop to work from home.

The key respondent claims to be generally somewhat active physically but rather more or moderately so at home with the responsibility for all the cooking and a good part of other house chores. The couple split between themselves the laundry and the cleaning.

The respondent finds computer games the most enjoyable home activity, a good sofa and a guitar to play music with being the key to a comfortable home. Coming home to a safe, warm and cozy place is what to look forward to.

When asked to compare their use of the household to people in a similar place in their lives, the respondent claimed that they probably spend much more time at home.

Sleep

They claim to have regular hours of sleep, typically going to bed around midnight.

114-12 – w/dependent(s)

Couple w/16yr old daughter

Main features and migration

The house is detached on two floors with narrow entrance that takes you into a small living room, back to a large kitchen/ dining area and onward into a study (called the ‘green room’ or the ‘music room’) with a door to a backyard patio, a garden and the route for the couple to work. The green room also leads to a laundry room to one side and a spare bathroom. Migration through the downstairs area is very much back and forth through these spaces and the green room is entirely a thoroughfare for the respondent, however, it is used by the spouse and teenager. The respondent only comes in there to pick up printing, to go into the laundry room/ spare bathroom, or out to the backyard, garden, and to work.

The front entrance also takes you up a staircase to an upstairs hallway with access to three bedrooms and the main bathroom. There is a lot of traffic up and down these stairs. The teenager spends most of the time at home in their own room, hanging out and studying for school, and so is travelling up and down the stairs quite a bit, for example, to grab something to eat or to use the shower in the spare bathroom, rather than using the bathroom upstairs.

Mealtimes & food prep

The respondent calls the kitchen ‘y room’. Cooking is fun and a lot of busy time is spent there, preparing most of the food, although, the spouse does some of the cooking too and the two of them hang out there together, while the teenager is more in and out. They typically only have a late brunch close to noon, and then a proper meal in the early evenings.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The living room and the kitchen/dining area is where ‘everything happens’. The kitchen/dining area is the most social space. They cook and eat and talk a lot in there, but when they want to be quiet, they migrate into the living room. The respondent has a ‘spot’ to sit in and from home on a laptop in 3 hour session 20 days of the month, i.e., avoiding to be at a desk and pretending to be just chilling out. They have instruments in there and play alone or together, and they watch TV in the evenings, mainly on weekends since they play music and often go out during the week. They have house guests about 6 night a year and they entertain about every other month. Favourite activities are playing instruments, cooking and chatting and the respondent like to come home to familiar surroundings with all their things around, comforted by the home being predictable and dependable.

The green room is used for solitary activities. The spouse has a computer in there for musical hobbies and the teenager plays the keyboard, while the patio and garden area are for parties and musical performances so generally the outdoor space is quite social during the warmer months. Gardening is solitary however (the respondent almost exclusively) and so is doing laundry (the spouse almost exclusively), and the couple divide the cleaning and have a cleaner come around.

There is a dressing ‘room’ in the upstairs hallway on the way into the main bedroom and used especially by the teenager who, otherwise, likes to be alone in their own bedroom with a laptop and mobile. The main bedroom is also used for recreational activities by the couple. They bring their iPad and laptop to bed for reading and browsing, have a cup of tea and there is a TV in the room too, although, not used very much.

They all use computers (laptops, iPad) for entertainment, playing games, attending to hobbies and for work, some of which is shared activity. The key respondent claims to be moderately physically active at home and in general. They all exercise at home, but not together.

When asked to compare their use of the house with other people in a similar place in their lives, the respondent mentioned spending more time working at home than people normally do, blending home and work life, also that their home is more of a social space than others have it in their homes.

Sleep

According to key respondent, the house as a whole sleeps quite regularly. Sleeping arrangements are somewhat fluid, however. The respondent sleeps a couple nights a week (or more) in the spare/guest bedroom.

113-11 – lone occupant

No child(ren)

Main features and migration

The house is on two floors (conversion from commercial/industry property). The entrance leads into an open space, with a small toilet and stairs to 2nd floor immediately on the left hand side, a living/lounge area to the right and then dining area ahead with a kitchen to the back. There is a door to the outside in the kitchen and a wardrobe/storage under the stairs. The 2nd floor has two bedrooms, one is used by the occupant as the master bedroom while the other is en-suite and used as a spare room, although, the occupant uses the bathroom in there all the time because the shower is better than in the bathroom on the landing. Most of the traffic is downstairs between the living, dining and kitchen areas, then also some traffic up and down the stairs to the master bedroom and between that room and the en-suite bathroom.

Mealtimes & food prep

The occupant claims to enjoy cooking and prepares hot meals 6 days a week, also regularly for guests (4-5 times a month, hence, the kitchen is quite a busy place, during the week for breakfast and early evening meals, but far more on weekends and on the weekday the occupant works from home on a laptop (ca. 7 hours) at the dining table. Meals are always taken at the dining table. The occupant uses the toaster and kettle quite a bit, also the microwave to heat up pre-cooked meals or leftovers.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The occupant leaves for work four days a week and has some evening hobbies to attend away from the house, but also enjoys inviting people for dinners and to hang out in the downstairs area (sleepovers ca twice a month). The occupant is moderately physically active at home and in general. The TV is on quite a bit, music is on a lot of the time and computer/pad/internet in regular use, laptop for working from home one day a week and for other practical or leisure purposes, but also the pad to play games on which are often played in bed. The occupant claims to be happy alone, pottering about or just being cosy relaxing at home, listening to music, preparing and eating food, playing games and watching TV. A cleaner comes around once a week but the occupant does all the laundry including the ironing which happens downstairs and using a trouser press which is located in the master bedroom.

Sleep

Occupant claims to sleep regular hours, typically in bed around 11pm.

105-53 – 2+ adults

Couple, no child(ren)

Main features and migration

The household is in an apartment on a single floor. The main entrance leads into an open-plan area with space for shoes and coats close to the door, the a lounge area to the left which is not in much use, except for guests who sleep over. A large and busy dining table is located straight ahead but a wall separates the lounge area and a small kitchen which is entered on the left further back past the dining table. The kitchen has a door to a parking area on one side of the building. The open-plan area ends past the kitchen entrance, where an ironing board is also in use. Straight ahead is a door into a small hallway with four doors, one into a bathroom, one into a master bedroom, one into a shared study and one into a small cupboard with a washing machine. The main traffic is through the hallway between the open area and the rooms at the back, but also in and out of the kitchen.

Mealtimes & food prep

The couple do each prepare for themselves, sometimes for each other and for having guests around. The kitchen is very small, although, has a dishwasher they use but not much counter space so for more complicated meals they also use the dining table for preparations. They both take meals at home during the week, in the mornings and early evenings, although, they claim that, compared to peers, they probably eat less together than most. Also, one of them is not in work and takes lunch alone at home during the week. The kettle gets used quite a lot and a toaster, and sometimes the microwave. They also have a coffee grinder a small food processor and sandwich toaster.

Activities (shared / solitary)

Most of the activity takes place on or around the dining table which is used for meals, sitting around talking, playing board games and having game parties. They entertain a couple of times a month. The living/lounge area is not occupied most of the time. They have TV through web services but tend not to use it except if they have company who – on the rare occasion – want to watch something. One of them claims to have a friend who gravitates towards the sofa for them to sit and gossip, otherwise, the sofa is sometimes used for sleepovers (ca 5 times a year).

Majority of the cleaning and tidying is done by the one who is not in work, however, most of the laundry is done by the other one. Both do quite a bit of reading and each spend significant time at their separate desks in the study, mainly playing computer games, although, occasionally they are looking at something or sorting out something together. The one who is in work all day likes to play instruments occasionally and also has a better gaming computer which then is often used for gaming by the partner who is at home.

Neither of them is very active physically, although, moderately active at home. They both like being home just to be together, relax and recharge and treasure a good selection of tea and the familiarity of having their own space.

Sleep

They claim to sleep variable hours but are typically in bed between 10-12.

120-32 – w/dependent(s)

Couple w/baby

Main features and migration

The house is terraced on two floors with staircase in the entrance to the 2nd floor, living room immediately to the left in the downstairs hallway and a large kitchen at the back with a door out to the garden. The 2nd floor has master bedroom, a spare bedroom, bathroom and a small room at the back used as a small workshop. The main traffic is downstairs between the living room and kitchen, then up and down the stairs and across the hallway between the upstairs rooms.

Mealtimes & food prep

The wife prepares most of the meals. The husband is in work all day so comes home for early evening meals which they take together in the kitchen.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The wife is on parental leave so a home maker with a baby and spends most days at home, mainly in the living room area. She claims to be moderately active at home and somewhat physically active in general. She takes care of the baby, uses the computer / internet quit a bit, enjoys reading and listening to the radio. The couple split the laundry between them, but the husband is in charge of cleaning and tidying and all of the gardening. He is also working a lot on the house in the evenings and on the weekends, all DIY so there is a lot of traffic between the 2nd floor workshop and other parts of the house.

The couple have to negotiate time and space on the 2nd floor because of the baby. The spare bedroom is used for changing, also for the wife and baby on nights when the baby is keeping them up.

The claim to enjoy the time they have to spend together downstairs, e.g., watching TV together or taking a cup of tea and they enjoy having a warm, nice, cosy and snug home with comfortable lighting. They also enjoy having visitors every so often and entertain ca 4 times per month, but there has been a lot of guests coming and going because of the baby with family coming around ca 60 nights of sleepover, using the spare bedroom.

Sleep

The occupants claim to sleep variably, mainly because of the baby, but are typically in bed between 10 and 11pm

104-33 – 2+ adults

Adult offspring living elsewhere

Main features and migration

The house is terraced on two floors. The main entrance leads into the kitchen at the back and through to a small living room with a staircase to the 2nd floor. The main traffic runs through the downstairs and up to the bathroom and a small library. The 2nd floor also has a master bedroom

Mealtimes & food prep

The couple do a lot of cooking together and take their meals together in the mornings and early evenings, sometimes eating in the kitchen but also in the living room with TV on.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The couple split household chores between them, cleaning and gardening quite evenly but one of them, who is not in a day job, does most of the laundry and works from home in two-hour sessions at a time, using the kitchen table or sits with a laptop in the living room. The living room is also used temporarily for sleeping while the 2nd floor bedroom is being decorated.

The couple spend most of their time at home together, although, they both like to read and they spend time online by themselves or one of them is taking out the dogs. They claim to be moderately active at home and somewhat physically active more generally, They watch a lot of online TV together, drink tea, chat a lot, play games, listen to music and radio.

They claim to enjoy coming home to be back in their own space with all their quirky things around that are 'me' and having things just the way they want, to sit down, relax, open mail and sit in the small back garden if the weather is nice. They don't have a lot of people over, about once per month, although, they claim to be quite social but most people they know are single not coupled.

Sleep

The occupants claim to sleep regular hours, are typically in bed between 9 and 10 pm.

119-62 – w/dependent(s)

Couple w/teenager

Main features and migration

The household is a small apartment on a single floor, the entrance leads into a living and kitchenette area which has most of the traffic and also used as a bedroom for a teenager. To the side of the kitchenette are a few steps down leading to a bathroom and the couple's bedroom at the back.

Mealtimes & food prep

The wife does almost all of the cooking with the occasional help from the teenager and husband. They all eat together in the mornings, early afternoons and late evenings at a table in the living area. The husband comes home for lunch break from work.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The wife is a home maker so she spends most of the time at home of the three and claims to be very active, although, moderately physically active in general. She does all the laundry and cleaning by herself and likes to read. The wife and teenager relax together and spend time together watching films or they are each reading, the teenager doing homework or they are using the computer/internet together or separately.

Together the family will play games and sometimes they have people over, about once per month, typically with sleepover. They claim to enjoy the most that everyone is getting on and happy.

Sleep

The family has regular sleep hours, usually in bed between 10 and 11pm.

112-31 – lone occupant

Adult offspring living elsewhere

Main features and migration

The house is terraced on two floors. The occupant uses the kitchen back door as the main entrance, also family and friends so the front door is only used by strangers. The main traffic is on the ground floor between kitchen and dining area where the occupant spends a lot of time, also back and forth into the front living room. The stairs to the 2nd floor are in the dining area, leading to a master bedroom, a spare room and bathroom.

Mealtimes & food prep

The occupant prepares meals in the mornings, afternoons and late evenings on weekdays but gets up a bit later on weekends and takes the first meal at midday. The dining table is used for meals and the occupant enjoys preparing for family members who visit and a friend who drops in regularly.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The house is single occupancy so the occupant does all the house chores, including the gardening, although, claims to be rather lacking in domesticity. The occupant claims to be moderately active in general and at home but enjoys the most activities that are productive so does a lot of arts and crafts, but also likes reading and listening to the radio, using computer / internet and playing an instrument. Having visitors around is often for meals and enjoying talking with others (about 5 times per month) with family sometimes staying over, on the average 3 nights per month.

The best thing about home is having your own creation to go to, the familiarity, having one's own things the way one likes them and coming home to a warm house. The occupant is recently retired and getting used to being quite a bit alone doing solitary things which is different from what couples do, e.g., cruises and some other common couple activities the occupant is not keen on anyway.

Sleep

Sleep is quite variable, seldom in bed until 1am.

107-23 – 2+ adults

WITHDRAWN

No children

Main features and migration

The house is terraced on two floors. Four occupants each have their own rooms, two of which are on the 2nd floor and are on suite. The other two rooms are on the ground floor and in the basement, sharing a bathroom at the back of a large common area on the ground floor. Most of the traffic is on the ground floor between the front door and the common area which has a lounge on one end and a large dining table and kitchen facilities towards the back.

Mealtimes & food prep

Everyone prepares their own meals and does their own dishes, at variable hours, but there are often two or more persons using the kitchen area at the same time and they all eat at the dining table.

Activities (shared / solitary)

The house is a shared residence of four persons who share some of their interests, especially, playing games and watching shows/films in the lounge area. They also bring friends around to play games, watch something or for dinner parties and late night parties (about 4 times per month)

Each on their own, they all read a lot and study in their rooms all different hours day and night, and everyone does their own laundry while they split the cleaning and tidying between them.

Sleep

The occupants claim to have irregular sleeping patterns, very much depending on how much or when they are studying.