

How Homes Structure the American Dream

Listen to a radio discussion which is part of a series called "American Dreams: then and now" on NPR radio. The interview is hosted by NPR's radio journalist Rachel Martin, who puts questions to the business correspondent Chris Arnold, an expert on the topic.

While listening, tick (✓) the correct answer (a, b, c or d). There is only one correct answer. Then go on to complete the sentences.

You will hear the recording twice. After listening you will have some extra time to complete the task.

You now have two minutes to read the assignments below.

I 1 National Public Radio is examining what the American Dream ...

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) | is about for immigrants. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | meant to people in the past. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | involves and why this is important. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | represented to the founding fathers. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Millions of Americans used to think that homeownership was an important part of the American Dream. Later, though, they were ...

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) | driven out by hurricanes. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | tricked by real estate agents. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | tricked by financial institutions. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | driven out by the county government. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 According to Chris Arnold, the understanding of the American Dream has not changed. He believes that ...

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| a) | renting is the new owning these days. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | it only made sense to own a house 20 years ago. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | homeownership does not make sense any longer. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | it is still sensible for most Americans to buy a house. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4 His opinion on homeownership is based on the fact that ...

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| a) | employees are more flexible when they rent homes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | banks offer good conditions when people borrow money. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | 90 percent of Americans earn minimum wage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | houses have lost their value in the eyes of most Americans. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

II Complete the following sentences.

The Woodrow Wilson Center just recently published a poll stating that 84 % of the people asked claimed that homeownership _____
five years ago. _____ of people said that they still think that home ownership is part of the American Dream.

(Quelle: Landesinstitut für Schulqualität und Lehrerbildung Sachsen-Anhalt (LISA), Niveaubestimmende Aufgaben zum Fachlehrplan Gymnasium Englisch)

Audiodokument: How Homes Structure the American Dream:

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