

Read the text and fill in the missing words from the box. There are three words you will not need !

Swapping Homes

Our *“Home Swap”* this month concentrates on the Keane family from England, and the Millers from South Carolina. As usual, our families had a two-week holiday in each other’s houses, and we interviewed them after their stay.

The Millers



George and Sandy Miller and their children, Helen (17) and Daniel (8) had a shock when they first saw the Keanes’ three-bedroom terraced house in Gloucester. “Everything is so small” said Sandy. “Where are we going to sleep?”

But _____, the house was more welcoming. “It’s bigger than it looks from the _____, and we were pleased to find that there were three bedrooms”, said George. But the kids were not

_____. “Mum and Dad’s room was OK, but our bedrooms were really small” complained Daniel. The Millers found it _____ to live in a house with only one bathroom. At home they have two bathrooms and three toilets! “And we have a study, where we keep the computer, and a playroom in the basement,” said Helen. “In Gloucester we had to all _____ in the living room together or go to our bedrooms.” So was there anything positive about the experience? “The house was beautifully _____”, said Sandy, “and it was very cosy. It was April when we stayed in the house, but the weather was _____. We were very grateful for the carpets, the central heating and a real _____ in the living room.” Another good point for George was the garden. “We were very _____ by the large, long garden at the back of the house. We couldn’t really enjoy it because of the weather, but it was obvious that the Keanes had put a lot of work into it. It was well _____ and full of beautiful plants and flowers. Actually, I think British people have a bit of an obsession with houses and gardens - there are so many TV shows about them !”

The Keanes



Tim and Katy Keane and their children Bethany (8), Charles (9) and Joe (16), couldn’t believe their _____ when they arrived at Washington Drive, Greenville. “The houses were all enormous,” said Tim. “I expected to see film stars coming out of them!”

The Miller’s house has five bedrooms and an extra downstairs toilet. “Our bedroom was _____ and it was lovely having our own bathroom”, said Katy. “It was like staying in a hotel! We didn’t see much of the children for two weeks!” says Tim. “They were _____ in the computer room, in the basement or outdoors.” The weather was fine for the Keanes’ visit to South Carolina, so they made good use of the Millers’ yard. The Millers had sports equipment and a permanent _____ in their yard”, said Joe. “And their neighbours had a swimming pool, which we used once. It was great !” “The children really enjoyed the yard”, said Katy, “but I found it a bit _____. I like nice English gardens with lots of flowers. All the Millers had were a few trees.” And Katy didn’t think much of the decor either. “It was very smart and clean, but it wasn’t very colourful”, she said. “It’s _____ that Americans spend more time outdoors than the British! We had good weather, but luckily we didn’t need to use the air-conditioning system. The Millers had lots of security systems and _____ that we had to check on every night and morning - that was complicated enough.

alarms

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George and Sandy Miller and their children, Helen (17) and Daniel (8) had a shock when they first saw the Keanes’ three-bedroom terraced house in Gloucester. “Everything is so small” said Sandy. “Where are we going to sleep?”

But **inside**, the house was more welcoming. “It’s bigger than it looks from the **outside**, and we were pleased to find that there were three bedrooms”, said George. But the kids were not **impressed**. “Mum and Dad’s room was OK, but our bedrooms were really small” complained

Daniel. The Millers found it **difficult** to live in a house with only one bathroom. At home they have two bathrooms and three toilets! “And we have a study , where we keep the computer, and a playroom in the basement,” said Helen. “ In Gloucester we had to all **stay** in the living room together or go to our bedrooms.” So was there anything positive about the experience ? “The house was beautifully **decorated**”, said Sandy, “ and it was very cosy. It was April when we stayed in the house, but the weather was **terrible**. We were very grateful for the carpets, the central heating and a real **fire** in the living room.” Another good point for George was the garden. “We were very **surprised** by the large, long garden at the back of the house. We couldn’t really enjoy it because of the weather, but it was obvious that the Keanes had put a lot of work into it. It was well **designed** and full of beautiful plants and flowers. Actually, I think British people have a bit of an obsession with houses and gardens - there are so many TV shows about them !”

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