

HOUSES AND THEIR CONTENTS:

A collection of screens to support literacy for ages 4 - 7 or second language learners. Topics include the parts of a house, types of houses, a typical front door, the kinds of furniture found in the different rooms, electrical items and teatime.

The pack includes a wide range of spoken and written vocabulary and may be used with or without the word banks accessed via the word bank icon on the tool bar.

Real speech is used throughout. Click the text on the screen or click on the speech icon within the word bank to hear the words spoken.

THE OPENING SCREEN:



The opening screen provides a choice of buttons. The buttons link to the main topic areas which may be opened in any order.

1. Click on this button for an activity on the rooms of a house.
2. Click on this button for information about the buttons used on the screens.
3. Click on this button for an activity on the main parts of a house.
4. Click on this button for an activity on the main types of houses.
5. Click on this button for an activity on a typical front door.
6. Click on this button for a labelling activity.
7. Click on this button for an activity on teatime.
8. Click on this button for an activity on electrical items.
9. Click on this button for an activity on items of furniture.

CONTENTS:

Children should be encouraged to click the mouse on the various buttons and on text and graphics with speech support.

The screens are listed under the main categories of the pack and may be opened in any order.

THE ROOMS:

1. Inside the house - Click on the items of furniture to hear their names, click on the hot spots to enter the individual rooms, then drag the items of furniture to the correct places using the inset as a guide. Click on the items of furniture in the inset to hear their names.
2. What is different? - Locate and click on the items of furniture in the incorrect places.
3. Put the things in the right places - a screen to encourage language development, memory and colour co-ordination.

PARTS OF A HOUSE:

1. Click on the parts to find their names.
2. Take the house apart and put it back together.
3. Click on the parts to find their names and on the hot spots for some useful facts.
- 4-14. A series of simple questions on parts of the house with three large graphics per page. Clicking on the correct answer advances to the next task. An incorrect response opens a 'Try again' window – (see SCREENS below).

THE QUESTIONS ARE: Which one is made of wood? --can you see through? -- lets the smoke out? -- is made of bricks? --is made of clay? --holds the roof up? is made of slates? --lets people through? keeps the wind out? keeps the cold out?

THE FURNITURE:

- 1-2. What are these? A speech and labelling activity.
- 3-13. A series of simple questions on items of furniture with three large graphics per page. Clicking on the correct answer advances to the next task. An incorrect response opens a 'Try again' window – (see SCREENS below).

THE QUESTIONS ARE: Which one is for sleeping? --is for cooking? -- holds the clothes? -- is for having meals? -- is for relaxing? -- is for washing? -- is in the kitchen? -- is in the bathroom? - is in the dining room? -- is in the lounge? -- is in the bedroom?

A FRONT DOOR:

1. Click on the parts to find their names and on the hot spots for some useful facts.

2-11. A series of simple questions on parts of a front door. Clicking on the correct answer advances to the next task. An incorrect response opens a 'Try again' window – (see SCREENS below).

THE QUESTIONS ARE: Which one is the door frame? -- pulls the door open? --do you step on? --shows who lives here? --holds the door up? --do the letters go through? -- does the key fit? -- rings loudly? – lets people through?

ELECTRICAL ITEMS:

1-2. What are these? A speech and labelling activity.

3-13. A series of simple questions on electrical items. Clicking on the correct answer advances to the next task. An incorrect response opens a 'Try again' window – (see SCREENS below).

THE QUESTIONS ARE: which one plays games? -- boils water? -- presses clothes? -- tells the time? -- takes us somewhere? -- keeps our food cold? -- do we watch? -- gives us light? -- cools us down? --cooks our food?

TYPES OF HOUSES:

1. Click on the houses to find what types they are and on the hot spots for some useful facts.

2-12. A series of simple questions on types of houses. Clicking on the correct answer advances to the next task. An incorrect response opens a 'Try again' window – (see SCREENS below).

THE QUESTIONS ARE: Which one is a bungalow? --is detached? -- is a block of flats? -- is a terrace? -- is semi-detached? -- is a row of houses? -- is a pair of houses? -- only has one floor level? is on its own? -- has many floor levels?

TEATIME:

1. What is on the table? A speech and labelling activity.

2. What are these? A speech and labelling activity.

3-6. Which one goes in the box? - a pairing activity.

7. Putting things away - an activity to develop hand and eye co-ordination.

8. Setting the table - an activity to develop hand and eye co-ordination.

WORDS:

A series of labelling activities with three or four items on each screen. The topics are: types of houses, things in the garden, -- on a house, -- in the kitchen, -- in the dining room, -- on the table, -- the lounge, -- the bedroom, -- the toy box, -- the bathroom, -- the garage.

THE SCREENS:

The screens provide a variety of activities including dragging, labelling, sorting and reasoning tasks. Many may lead to related classroom activities. The screens are deliberately basic and uncluttered hidden popups / panels providing text if required.

Children may add to the screens by using the word banks. They may follow the instructions provided on clicking the task button where appropriate with and use the arrows to move back and forth between screens.

Software speech is used in both formats. Click on the text, speech icons or graphics where appropriate to hear it spoken.

The 'QUESTION SCREENS' are very simple with large clear graphics and a single line of text. Software speech is used in both formats. Click on the text or speech icons to hear the instructions. Pupils must make the correct response to advance to the next screen. An incorrect response opens the 'Try again' window below. In the Textease format, a bell rings to as the 'Try again' window opens.



MY WORLD AND TEXTEASE FORMATS:

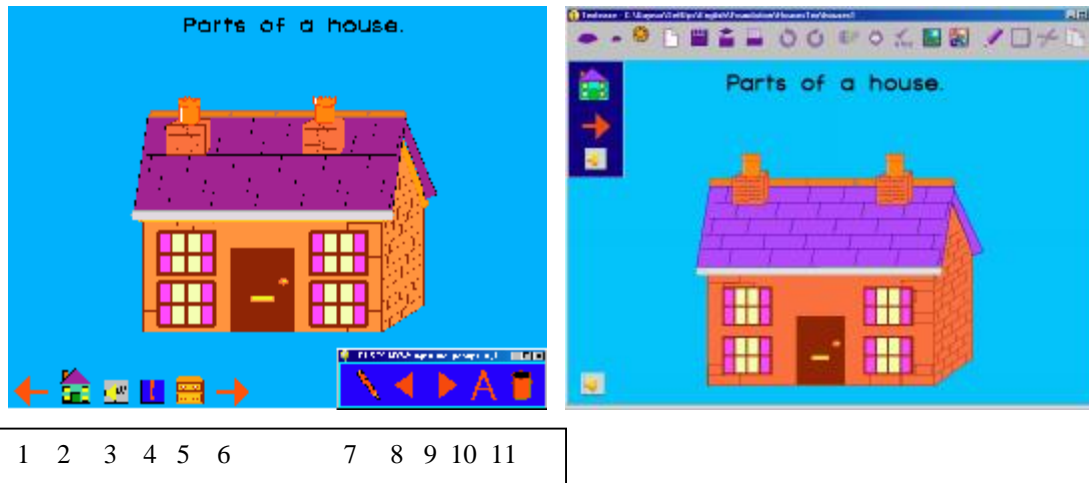
This pack requires My World for Windows, My World 3 or Textease to run. Both formats are provided on the CD leaving the choice to the teacher.

The My World format of the software self installs - the Textease format must be copied onto the hard disk manually. The My World installer installs the Welsh font Ysgol 2. - Textease users should install 'Ysgol 2' by double clicking on the fonts folder and following the instructions on the screen.

My World and Textease screens do not self correct. Some teachers may see this as a disadvantage. The advantages however is that children are given an opportunity to make their own minds up or discuss their ideas with others. Their outcome may be printed allowing My World and Textease screens to be used for assessment where appropriate.

THE BUTTONS ON THE SCREENS:

The buttons on the My World format (left) and Textease format (right) of the same screen are shown below. Note that these buttons are not found on all the screens.



The buttons on the My World format are listed from left to right and described below. See the Textease handbook for the functions of the buttons on the top bar of the Textease format screens.

1. The back button - click on this to go to the previous screen.
2. The home button - click on this to return to the opening screen.
3. The sound button - click on this to hear the screen title.
4. The task button - click on this for a suggested task.
5. The extra resources button - click on this to open the panel shown on the bottom right of the My World screen.
6. The forward button - click on this to go to the next screen.
7. The text button - click on this to create new text.
8. The scaling down button - click text or graphics on this to reduce their size.
9. The scaling up button - click text or graphics on this to increase their size
10. The word button - click on this for a word list.
11. The bin - click text or graphics on this to delete them.

THE PACK AND THE CURRICULUM:

The pack is designed to encourage pupils to speak, listen, understand and respond to others and to take part in group discussions within the familiar context of types of houses, parts of houses and their contents.

THE GRAPHICS:

The graphics used are simple purpose made vector drawings for three reasons:

- a) most are basic enough for children to copy them on paper where appropriate.
- b) they support the program without being a distraction in themselves.
- c) they require less memory than more sophisticated graphics / illustrations.

INCLUSION:

The screens are deliberately basic and uncluttered with hidden popups / panels providing labels where appropriate. Teachers / pupils are able to customize and save the screens if required. The high graphic content of both the screens and word panels helps to overcome language barriers, making the pack suitable for mainstream, special needs or second language pupils.

Generally speaking, there is little visible text other than the headings on the screens. This reduces the amount of initial explanation / signing required on introducing a new topic to pupils with hearing problems.

Visually impaired pupils may resize moveable text using the maximize / minimize buttons in the My World format or by selecting then dragging one of the corners' in the Textease format.

ABILITY RANGE / DIFFERENTIATION:

The 'questions' screens cannot be changed. Others allow children to drag labels to the screens or write their own text. They may use their imagination and customise some of the existing screens.

TEACHER CONTROL:

At first sight, the screens may not appear to have a great deal of teacher control. However, any moveable object on a screen, be it text or graphic may be deleted or enlarged, and new text may be added. The customized screen may be renamed and saved for future use.

INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS:

The screens in this pack have been redesigned for more efficient use with Interactive Whiteboards and are ideal for individual or group work and whole class teaching.

FORMATS:

The pack includes the screens in MY WORLD format and TEXTEASE format plus the Welsh font 'YSGOL 2'.

The MY WORLD format requires My World for Windows or My World 3.
The TEXTEASE format requires Textease.

INSTALLATION:

The My World format self installs. Textease users must copy the HousesTex folder to the hard drive, then create a shortcut on the desktop to the opening file – 1Houses.

FONTS:

The Welsh font Ysgol 2 has been used on the screens by kind permission of the 'Micro-electronics in Education Unit for Wales' (MEU). www.meu.cymru.co.uk

The My World installer should install 'Ysgol 2. Textease users should click on the exe. file within the Fonts folder and follow the instructions to install 'Ysgol 2.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Please contact Clic if you have any problems with the content of this program. Consult the My World help files for problems in running My World. Consult the Textease manual / help files for problems in running Textease.

PRICE AND LICENCE:

Prices and licences are subject to change without warning. Please check the details on our web site before ordering.

RELATED PRODUCTS:

Houses and their contents is part of the 3 pack 'Good foundations' series.

Other titles in the series are

Foundation: Click and choose
KS1: The body

These packs are available individually or as the Good Foundations collection.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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SOURCE OF INFORMATION GAYNOR PERRY

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