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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Take Away English 随身英语

### The trend for tree houses

### 世界各地树屋建筑的兴起

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*Vocabulary: houses and homes 词汇: 房屋和住宅*

The noble tree house – all natural materials, sturdy **construction**, aloof from the troubles of the world. In a more dangerous time in human history, their position above the ground would protect the **dweller** against environmental difficulties and possible predators. As modern construction has improved, these arboreal **residences** have become less of a practical **dwelling** and more of a children's novelty - a secret **den** erected in many a back garden. But now, these fun **shelters** are appealing to adults too and many are booking themselves in for a few nights among the treetops.

These tree house hotels can be found From Europe to Australia. Best of all, they come in a variety of interesting designs! From the traditional 'four walls and a roof' **habitation**, such as at TreeHouse Point, in Washington, North America, to the more artistic Nothofagus Hotel in Chilean Patagonia, whose twelve-sided walls make it look like a beehive. If that doesn't appeal, how about a tree pod?

The Free Spirit Spheres resort on Vancouver Island in Canada allows guests to stay in one of three yellow spheres, which are suspended from trees. The company was founded in 1998 by Tom Chudleigh, who hand built the **pods** from cedar wood and fibre glass, and then added **fixtures** and **fittings**. Not only are they **as safe as houses**, they're popular! Visitor numbers have probably doubled in the past five years, Mr Chudleigh tells the BBC.

**Digs** which are original seem to be a big draw. In Sweden, at the Treehotel, numbers have also risen. "In 2010, we had four rooms and around 1,500 guests a year. Today we have seven rooms and nearly 5,000 guests," Kent Lindvall explains. Mr Lindvall co-owns the Treehotel with his wife Britta Lindvall. Each of the **domiciles** there was designed by an architect, who was asked to make use of the light and surroundings. Their **abodes** include a mirrored cube, a bird's nest and a UFO.

And how about an office? Microsoft, hoping to give its employees thinking space, has commissioned a three-building **structure** from Pete Nelson, tree house book author and designer and builder of tree houses. "Studies show people can work better in nature. They are more productive," says Mr Nelson.

If you've no head for heights, then maybe a tree house getaway isn't going to be your **home away from home**. But the sense of adventure, the novelty of the setting and the

opportunity to return to nature has given an increasing number of tree house-staying adults something to write home about.

## 词汇表

<b>construction</b>	构造
<b>dweller</b>	城市、城镇居民
<b>residence</b>	住宅
<b>dwelling</b>	住所，房屋
<b>den</b>	简易房
<b>shelter</b>	临时住所
<b>habitation</b>	住所
<b>pod</b>	（通常为圆形的）简易小屋
<b>fixture</b>	固定装置
<b>fitting</b>	可拆除的装置（如炉灶或柜子）
<b>as safe as houses</b>	非常安全的
<b>digs</b>	借宿的地方
<b>domicile</b>	住宅
<b>abode</b>	住所
<b>structure</b>	大型建筑物
<b>home away from home</b>	家外之家，宾至如归的地方

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why were treehouses safer in more dangerous times?
2. True or false: *Tom Chudleigh had the three spheres constructed at a factory.*
3. What types of tree house are available at Treehotel, Sweden?
4. According to Pete Nelson, why is Microsoft building a tree house structure?
5. Which word in the text means 'of or relating to trees'?

### 2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I love going to my cousins' house. I've been there so many times it's like my \_\_\_\_\_.

home under home	home far from home	home outside home	home away from home
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2. It looks like there's some rain coming. Let's hope we can find some \_\_\_\_\_.

construction	abode	shelter	structure
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3. I need to buy new \_\_\_\_\_ for my kitchen. You know, washing machine, fridge, oven etc.

fittings	fixtures	dwellers	habitations
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4. Don't worry about falling. With those three safety-harness, you're \_\_\_\_\_.

house safe	as safety as house	as safe as houses	as safe as home
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5. Hello. My name is Constable Jones. Is this the Smith \_\_\_\_\_?

den	digs	shelter	residence
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## 答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why were treehouses safer in more dangerous times?  
**Their position above the ground would protect the dweller against environmental difficulties and possible predators.**
2. True or false: *Tom Chudleigh had the three spheres constructed at a factory.*  
**False. The company was founded in 1998 by Tom Chudleigh, who hand built the pods, fixtures and fittings from cedar wood and fibreglass.**
3. What types of tree house are available at Treehotel, Sweden?  
**Their abodes include a mirrored cube, a bird's nest and a UFO.**
4. According to Pete Nelson, why is Microsoft building a tree house structure?  
**Microsoft is building a tree house structure because 'studies show people can work better in nature. They are more productive'.**
5. Which word in the text means 'of or relating to trees'?  
**Arboreal. (As modern construction has improved, these arboreal residences have become a less practical dwelling.)**

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I love going to my cousins' house. I've been there so many times it's like my **home away from home**.
2. It looks like there's some rain coming. Let's hope we can find some **shelter**.
3. I need to buy new **fittings** for my kitchen. You know, washing machine, fridge, oven, etc.
4. Don't worry about falling. With those three safety-harness, you're **as safe as houses**.
5. Hello. My name is Constable Jones. Is this the Smith **residence**?