House Hunt

THEME: BASIC NEEDS (SHELTER)

LANGUAGE: ANY

STANDARD(S): COMMUNICATION CULTURES CONNECTIONS COMPARISONS

1.2 1.3 2.2 3.2 4.2

Time Frame:

One 50-minute class period

Materials Needed:

- Advertisements for home sales found in newspapers from the target culture (Mexican and French examples provided)
- Handouts with questions for the scanning activity (provided in Spanish and French)
- Advertisements for home sales found in U.S. newspapers

Description of Task:

Pre-reading:

The teacher will introduce the task by asking students to discuss what they know about the process of buying a home in the U.S. They will then predict the type of information and home-related vocabulary that they might find in advertisements for houses for sale in the target culture. The teacher will ask a student to write a list of the vocabulary generated on the overhead or blackboard.

Reading:

Each student, or pairs of students, will be given some advertisements to scan. Students are to imagine that they just won the lottery and are interested in purchasing a house in the target culture. They are also provided with questions or statements about the homes and need to match the number of the ad with the corresponding statement or question provided on the handout.

Level:

Intermediate-Low

Purpose:

To scan advertisements for specific information

Communicative Function(s):

Referential: Scanning for information, comparing and contrasting

Language Structure(s):

Present tense; future tense

Cultural Aspects:

Comparing homes in the U.S. and the target culture.

Modalities:

Reading

Writing

Post-reading:

After completing the scanning exercise, students need to decide on and write an ad describing their "ideal" home.

Students compare and contrast the ads from the target culture with ads from a U.S. newspaper. They should attend not only to obvious differences (e.g., measurements provided in metric system, presentation of addresses, phone numbers, etc.) but also to more subtle differences and similarities in terms how the ads are written to appeal to the consumer. How do the ads reflect underlying values (e.g., space, privacy)? Are there specific features that all people in the U.S. tend to value, or are individual preferences more prevalent? (Elicit examples from students.) What might this discussion suggest about homes in the target culture? To what degree did the ads they wrote reflect the nuances of target culture descriptions? In what ways are their ads influenced by U.S. descriptions? How do their ads reflect individual preferences vs. specific values that are often associated with the U.S.? The direction of the discussion will necessarily depend on the make-up of the class.

Assessment:

The reading assessment is embedded in the task itself. If students are able to locate the ad that corresponds to the statement or question provided on the handout, they have completed the task successfully.

The written ads can be evaluated on the degree to which they conform to ads in the target culture, with appropriate vocabulary, abbreviations, and other information (e.g. metric measurements, presentation of address, phone number, etc.). A checklist or rubric may be used.

Extensions:

Suggestions for adapting the task for various levels:

For beginning levels: All discussions and the statements/questions for the scanning activity can occur in English. Students can write ads in pairs.

For advanced levels: Students can write the statements/questions for corresponding ads and exchange with other students for the scanning activity.

NOTES

Other extensions:

- Students can be asked to look for a home or apartment for a particular type of person or family (a single student who needs an apt. while at the local university; a large, wealthy family who needs room for servants quarters; a family who wants to rent a home or apt.; a family who loves the outdoors, etc.) based on assigned descriptions.
- The same type of scanning activity can be used with any number of advertisements (e.g., roommates—sample roommate ads are provided in French, German, and Spanish; vacation spots; personals; etc.).
- Students can write about the home in which they are currently living to advertise it for an international home exchange program (i.e., one in which families exchange homes for the summer).

Cultural extensions:

Different types of homes found in different areas (urban, suburban, rural) can be compared and contrasted. What are the similarities and differences between the target culture and U.S. with respect to homes in different areas?

References and Resources:

The French ads were adapted from ads found in:

Paris-Match (21 décembre, 1995, M 2533-2430)

The Spanish ads were adapted from ads found in pages of a Mexican newspaper.

Reflections:

Sample Roommate Ads

(for Extension to "House Hunt" Task)

French (Paris):

Cherche: Une personne pour partager un studio, Vie arrondissement; pres du Métro Odéon; 3.000 F à partager, tout compris; Non-fumeur; étudiant(e) sérieux(se); 36.45.91.73 après 20h00

German (Tübingen)

Suche: Mitbewohner, Student, Nichtraucher für Zimmer mit Bad in Tübingen, ab dem 11.07., Telefonanschluß, Fahrradkeller, fünf Minuten zur Innenstadt, direkt neben der U-Bahn, 800 DM pro Monat, kalt, abends erreichbar, Tel: 36-18-10

Spanish (Madrid):

Se busca: Compañera, que no fume, sin animales domésticos, buena estudiante. Piso cerca del metro. Alquiler 42.500 pts. al mes. Todo los gastos incluidos. Llame: (91) 897.09.85

Les demeures de Paris Match

CANNES - CALIFORNIE VUE MER ET ILES

Dans luxueuse résidence appartements neufs. 3 P 88 m^2 + terrasse 18 m^2 Sud. 4 P 123 m^2 + terrasse 39 m^2 Sud. Garage, cave, verdure, piscine.

AGENCE MURE

82, Av. M. Juin 06400 Cannes

Tél: (33) 93 43 72 43 Fax: (33) 93 43 68 50

Déscriptifs et plans sur demande

1

DELRAY BEACH - FLORIDE

Villa unique donnant directement sur l'Intracoastal Waterway. A 20 minutes seulement au Sud de l'aéroport de Palm Beach International. 3 ch. 3 SdB, piscine privé, dock privé pouvant accueillir bateau jusqu'à 20 m. Jardin tropical, vue fabuleuse.

PRIX: 500 000 US Dollars CONTACT: Anita Casey

815 Palm Trail, Delray B. 33483 Florida US

Tél:(19) 407 374 9929 Fax:(19) 407 374 9928

3

5 PIECES, BD BEAUMARCHAIS, PARIS 11^{ème}

En bordure du Marais, 5 pièces très bien distribué plein soleil. 3 ème étage, ascenseur. Professionnel ou (habitation, travaux à prévoir). Dans bon immeuble ancien, parties communes neuves.

PRIX: 2 300 000 F

IMMOBILIERE MARAIS BASTILLE Locations- ventes- Administrateurs de biens

102, bd Beaumarchais 75011 Paris

Tél: (33/1) 43 38 65 00 Fax: (33/1) 43 55 13 96

5

LAC LEMAN - EVIAN (30 MN DE GENEVE)

Chalet mélèze dans parc clos paysagé de 7500 m². Vue impr. sur lac et montagnes. Prox. station ski (Morzine-Avoriaz...) Altitude 850 m. Surf. hab. 310 m². + 45 m² garages + cave à vin. Séjour 70 m² + chem. 2 cuis. équipées. 5/6 ch. dont 3 avec chem inser. 4 SdB. Buanderie, lingerie, dressing, wc visit. Terrasses, alarme, portail électr. + caméra. Etat parfait. Disponible. PRIX: 4 500 000 FF Direct proprietaire - Tél: (33) 50 74 97 80

7

GUADELOUPE - ST FRANÇOIS VILLA EN RESIDENCE HOTELIERE

Votre villa dispose de 2 ou 3 chambres avec piscine privative. Cuisine équipée, salon, grande terrasse, vaisselle, linge. Vue mer et sur la Désirade. Site exceptionnel.

Semaine entre 9000 Frs. et 205000 Frs.

IGUANA BAY

61, av. de Breteuil 75007 Paris

Tél:(33/1) 47 83 55 97 Fax: (33/1) 45 66 54 38

4

SAVOIE

Proche station St. François Longchamp, 1650 m. A 5 km de la station, superbe propriété sur 3000 m^2 . Vue panoramique. Prestation de choix. Séjour 50 m^2 plus mezzanine, 3 chambres, 2 salles de bains.

PRIX: 1 350 000 F

A.M.I.

Place du Marché 73300 St Jean de Mne

Tél:(33) 79 64 19 76

Fax:(19) 407 374 9928

6

PARIS IVO. BD HENRI IV

Entre l'Île Saint Louis et la Bastille, somptueux 8 pièces 325 m² env., asc.

PRIX: 5 500 000 F

A.I.M.

"L'IMMOBILIER AU COEUR DE PARIS"
23, bd Henri IV 75004 Paris

Tél: (33/1) 42 78 40 04 Fax: (33/1) 42 78 23 80

7

Les Demeures de Paris Match

Quelle maison ou quel appartement est-ce que vous choisirez? Imaginez que vous êtes très riche parce que vous venez de gagner le loto! Quel rêve! Lisez les annonces et mettez le numéro de l'annonce qui correspond à chaque description suivante. (Attention: Il est possible d'avoir plus d'une bonne réponse.)

 a.	Vous pourrez faire du ski ici. Quelle belle vue!
 b.	Vous irez aux Etats-Unis! Vous avez un bateau, et vous nagerez. C'est parfait!
C.	Vous vivrez à Paris et vous préférerez un immeuble qui n'est pas moderne. Vous pourrez avoir votre bureau ici aussi.
 d.	Vous irez en voyage à une île! Vous louerez une maison de 2 ou 3 chambres.
e.	Si vous aimez le grand luxe à Paris, ça sera parfait pour vous. C'est plus cher que l'autre appartement à Paris et plus grand aussi.
 f.	Vous serez en Suisse près de Genève . C'est un chalet qui est en parfait état.
g.	Vous serez dans le sud de la France dans une résidence.
 h.	C'est la seule annonce où le prix n'est pas donné en francs français.
i.	Le prix est indiqué par semaine. Vous y louerez une villa.
 j.	On n'indique pas le prix dans cette annonce.

VENTA DE CASAS

En Miguel Alemán oportunidad Vendo casa, 3 recámaras, sala, comedor, cocina, baño, enrejada, alfombrada \$25'000,000.00. Escucho ofertas. Inf. en Reynosa 4-14-12. 246222-30-7 Dic.

1

Vendo preciosa casa de dos plantas, 3 recámaras, sala comedor, cocina integral, recibidor, libreros empotrados, tiene teléfono, abanicos de techo, lavandería. ubicación cerca zona centro, mayores inf. llame a los tels. 2-80-51 y 2-19-97 con la Sra. Martínez.

24622-5-16

2

En módulo 2000 remato casa 2 recámaras ampliadas, con closet, sala comedor, baño, cocina integral, cochera, enrejada de protección, en esquina, baratísima, llámenos 3-42-00 246557-6-10

3

Se remata Col. Juárez especial para negocio esquina casa con placa 6 cuadras de carretera sólo 8 millones anticipo 3 pagos 2 millones y 18 mensualidades de 950 mil. Tels. 3-88-26 y 3-88-02. 246437-5-8

4

Vendo preciosa residencia en col. petrolera, 4 recámaras, 4 baños y medio, cocina integral, sala comedor, oficina, cuarto T.V., alberca, cochera para carros, totalmente alfombrada, cuarto de servidumbre, bardeada, aire central, informes 3-42-00 246556-6-10

Superremate casa nueva con alberca 3 recámaras alfombradas, teléfono, aire central cochera solo 30 mil dólares anticipo y 24 mensualidades de \$1,400 dls, sin intereses tels. 3-88-26 y 3-59-79 246439-5-8

6

5

Se vende casa en col. Aztlan, de 3 recámaras, cochera, línea telefónica y jardín. Interesados a tels. tels. 4-42-18 y 3-21-58

246498-5-9

7

Venta de casas

¿Qué casa escogerías? Imagina que eres muy rica/o, ¡porque acabas de ganar la lotería! ¡Qué sueño! Lee los anuncios clasificados y escribe el número del anuncio que corresponde a cada descripción. (¡OJO! Puede haber más de una respuesta posible.)

 	a.	Tendrás una familia grande, y comprarás una casa con cuatro alcobas.
	b.	No te gusta mucho el calor, y querrás una casa con aire acondicionado.
	C.	¿Cuál de los anuncios describe los pagos mensuales que tendrás que hacer?
	d.	Optarás por una casa cerca del centro.
	e.	Comprarás uno o dos carros, también. Necesitarás un garaje, ¿no?
	f.	Para que te puedas comunicar con todos tus amigos, será necesario tener teléfono.
	g.	Te encanta leer mucho, y tendrás muchos libros. ¿Dónde los colocarás?
	h.	Preferirás gastar tu dinero en otras cosas, y no en la vivienda. Querrás una casa que no cueste mucho.
	i.	Estarás muy ocupada/o con cuestiones de trabajo, y trabajarás en la casa. Necesitarás un cuarto especial donde puedas trabajar.
	j.	Sembrarás flores y verduras en un jardín.

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