

## HOUSES IN MY STREET

**(A)** My local neighbourhood is changing as the Chinese have been buying up all the houses that go on the market over the past 10 years. They have demolished many of these houses and replaced them with what I call the McMansions.

**(B)** Firstly – there are the older houses that were built in the 1950s and 60s. Back then, this area was a long way from the city and was mostly market gardens with lots of low-income or working-class families. Thus the houses were modest and generally on low stilts (posts to raise them off the ground). People with more money had their houses raised a lot higher so that you could easily walk around under the house. The houses were raised for ventilation to keep cool and to be above the flood levels. My area doesn't flood so the stilts are low. The houses also generally had wide eaves and verandahs to shade the windows from the summer sun. These older houses had no heating except old kerosene heaters and more recently plug-in heaters and the only cooling was from opening the windows and fans.



**(C)** The photos I took, I noticed, show houses with all their windows shut. This is because I took the photos over Christmas and everyone had gone away. My house is one of these, although it was renovated in the late 1990s and additions made to it. The photos below are of my house. The first is the front of my house with the verandah and French doors leading to two of the bedrooms. Also note how wide the eaves are to protect the windows from direct sunlight in summer. You can see the back of the house and my back garden. There are two more sets of French doors and windows at the back of the house that open up to let the breeze flow through. Also, you can see that my lounge and main dining area are outside the house under a wide patio. I spend more time outside of the house than I do inside the house because it's cooler in summer.



**(D)** Now for the Chinese McMansions. You can google McMansion! You can see the house next door to me and there are others down the street. They were both built in the last ten years. These houses are huge. The one next door to me has 5 double size bedrooms each with its own bathroom and spa bath. These houses are fully airconditioned and the electricity usage would be very high as the houses are extremely hot in summer without airconditioning because of their designs. The Chinese rarely walk outside of their houses and the only time I see them is if they are going out in their cars. Most of the land parcels are being divided up and two houses built where there used to be only one. The house that is built then takes up almost the entire land area so that there is little or no garden.



## GAPPED SUMMARY – HOUSES IN MY STREET

Fill in the gaps with words taken from the above email of an Australian to a German friend (only one word per line). Please note that the summary does not always follow the order of the text.

Queensland houses represent a variety of styles with the most popular one dating back more than 50 years. Many of these were raised above the ground for two reasons: first to keep the inhabitants \_\_\_\_\_ (1), because the wind can \_\_\_\_\_ (2) freely underneath and secondly to \_\_\_\_\_ (3) them against being flooded. Interestingly, one can still see from the height of the stilts how much \_\_\_\_\_ (4) the original owners of the houses had. The \_\_\_\_\_ (5) housing type are the so-called Mc Mansions, a term you can even google. These new houses, mostly owned by Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ (6) need full airconditioning as their design does not take heed of the Australian summer, which can be almost unbearably hot.

Jede Lücke des Gapped Summary muss auf zwei Kriterien hin abgetastet werden: die vermutete **grammatikalische Form** und die vermutete **Wortbedeutung**. Es ist denkbar, beispielsweise die folgenden Hintergrundüberlegungen anzustellen.

(1)

- **GRAMMATIK:** Es ist entweder ein Adjektiv denkbar oder ein Verb in der dritten Form (Partizip Perfekt).
- **WORTBEDEUTUNG:** Der begründende Nebensatz spielt auf den Wind an, und somit muss die Wortbedeutung wohl in Richtung "Abkühlung" etc. gehen.

(2)

- **GRAMMATIK:** Auf Grund der Kombination mit dem Hilfsverb "can" kommt nur ein Verb im Infinitiv für diese Lücke in Frage, d. h. ein Verb ohne Endung.
- **WORTBEDEUTUNG:** Das in Frage kommende Verb muss mit "Wind" eine sinnvolle Kollokation bilden.

(3)

- **GRAMMATIK:** Das voranstehende "to" signalisiert, dass es sich um ein Verb im Infinitiv, d. h. ohne Endung handelt.
- **WORTBEDEUTUNG:** Sie muss positiv sein und im inneren Zusammenhang mit den "inhabitants" stehen.

(4)

- **GRAMMATIK:** "much" kann theoretisch von einem Nomen (Singular oder Plural) gefolgt werden oder von einem Gerund (Beispiel: *working, singing* etc.) gefolgt werden.
- **WORTBEDEUTUNG:** Die Antwort kann in Absatz B des Textes gefunden werden, da nur hier die Funktion dieser Stelzen erklärt wird.

(5)

- **GRAMMATIK:** Sehr wahrscheinlich ist ein Adjektiv einzusetzen.
- **WORTBEDEUTUNG:** Nachdem hier eine andere Art Häuser als im vorangegangenen Text gemeint ist, muss dieses Wort wohl in Richtung "new, other, second ..." gehen.

(6)

- **GRAMMATIK:** Da im Satz ein Objekt fehlt und dem einzusetzenden Wort "Chinese" vorangeht, kann nur ein Nomen in Frage kommen.
- **WORTBEDEUTUNG:** Inhaltlich geht es um Personen, denen Häuser gehören: Somit lässt sich das fehlende Wort praktisch ohne Basistext erraten.

## KEY – GAPPED SUMMARY – HOUSES IN MY STREET

Queensland houses represent a variety of styles with the most popular one dating back more than 50 years. Many of these were raised above the ground for two reasons: first to keep the inhabitants **COOL (1)**, because the wind can **FLOW (2)** freely underneath and secondly to **PROTECT (3)** them against being flooded. Interestingly, one can still see from the height of the stilts how much **MONEY (4)** the original owners of the houses had. The **OTHER/SECOND (5)** housing type are the so-called Mc Mansions, a term you can even google. These new houses, mostly owned by Chinese **PEOPLE (6)** need full airconditioning as their design does not take heed of the Australian summer, which can be almost unbearably hot.