



ENGLISH FOR LIVING LESSON 2: WORKSHEETS

Moving to Blanchardstown

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Lesson 2: Moving to Blanchardstown

In this lesson you will learn how to talk about finding a house and moving into Blanchardstown.

Dialogue A: Finding a home

Maria is looking for a house to rent in Blanchardstown. She sees an ad for a house that she likes in the Blanchardstown Gazette and phones the landlord.

Landlord	Hello?
M	Hello, my name is Maria Finari and I'm calling about the house advertised in the Blanchardstown Gazette.
Landlord	Oh right, well it's still available if you are interested, I haven't found a tenant yet.
M	Where exactly is the house?
Landlord	It's in Springlawn Drive, near Blanchardstown village.
M	How much is the rent?
Landlord	It's 1,100 euro per month, the lease is for one year and you would need to pay 2 months' rent in advance as a deposit.
M	What is the house like?
Landlord	It's a 3-bedroomed semi-detached house, with a small garden front and back.
M	Does it have central heating?
Landlord	Yes, it has gas central heating.
M	Is it furnished?
Landlord	Yes, it's fully furnished, it has a fully fitted kitchen and a TV in the living room.
M	Does it have a phone?
Landlord	There is a phone line, but it's not connected.
M	That's ok, I have a mobile phone.

A.1 Practice

Listen to the dialogue again, this time repeat each sentence after Maria and the landlord.

A.2 Comprehension

Did you understand these words and expressions?

Landlord: is someone who owns a property and rents it to someone else.

Tenant: someone who rents a property from a landlord.

An advertisement: the landlord puts an advertisement in the newspaper to say he has a property to rent, an advertisement is usually called an 'ad'.

Available: this means the house is still free, nobody has rented it yet.

Lease: a lease is the contract you sign with the landlord when you are renting a house. It states how long the agreement is for.

Deposit: a deposit is the money you have to pay when you begin to rent a house. If the house is in good condition at the end of the year, you get your money back.

Semi-detached: A semi-detached house is a house that is joined on to the house beside it.

Furnished: This means that the house has furniture in it: tables, chairs, sofas, beds, etc.

A fully-fitted kitchen: a kitchen with cupboards and also a cooker, a washing machine, a fridge etc.

Can you remember the answers to Maria's questions?

1. Where was the house advertised?
2. Where is the house located?
3. How many bedrooms are in the house?
4. How much is the rent?
5. How much is the deposit?
6. How long is the lease?
7. What kind of central heating does the house have?
8. What kind of kitchen does it have?
9. Is the house furnished?
10. Is there a phone line?

A3 Language focus: Question forms

Listen to the answers to Maria's questions and try to remember the questions. Repeat each question to practice the pronunciation and intonation.

	Answer	Question
1.	In the Blanchardstown Gazette	
2.	In Springlawn Drive near Blanchardstown village	
3.	Three bedrooms	
4.	It's 1,100 euro per month	
5.	It's two months' rent	
6.	It's one year	
7.	It has gas central heating	
8.	It has a fully fitted kitchen	
9.	Yes, it's fully furnished	
10.	Yes, but it's disconnected	

A4 Language Development

Listen to this landlord describing a house he has to rent and fill in the missing words.

It's a four _____ house which is not joined on to another house so it's _____. It costs 1,100 euro per month in _____. The tenant has to pay two months' rent as a _____. The contract is for 12 months so it's a one year _____. The house has tables, chairs, beds etc so it is fully _____. The kitchen has a fridge, cooker and washing machine as well as cupboards, so it is fully _____. The last tenants didn't want a phone so the line is _____.

Dialogue B: Asking for directions

Maria asks the landlord for directions.

Landlord	Is there any other information you need?
Maria	Can I come and see the house?
Landlord	Yes, certainly, you could come tomorrow afternoon or evening.
Maria	I could come over at about 4 o'clock, would that be ok?
Landlord	Yes, that's fine.
Maria	Can you give me directions? I can take a bus to Blanchardstown village.
Landlord	When you get off the bus, you will be on Blanchardstown Main St. You need to go towards the Blanchardstown shopping centre.
Maria	Ok
Landlord	Walk along Main St for about 200 metres, then turn left onto the Clonsilla Road
Maria	Ok
Landlord	Then take the next right and then the first left
Maria	Ok
Landlord	It's the first house with a red door on the left.
Maria	Can I check those directions with you again?
Landlord	Yes of course.
Maria	I go down Main St towards the Blanchardstown shopping centre, then I turn left onto the Clonsilla road, then I take the next right and then the fourth left.
Landlord	No the first left, not the fourth left.
Maria	OK the first left, and then it's the first house with a red door on the left.
Landlord	That's right. I'll see you tomorrow, you can call me on this number if there is any problem.
Maria	That's great, thanks very much.

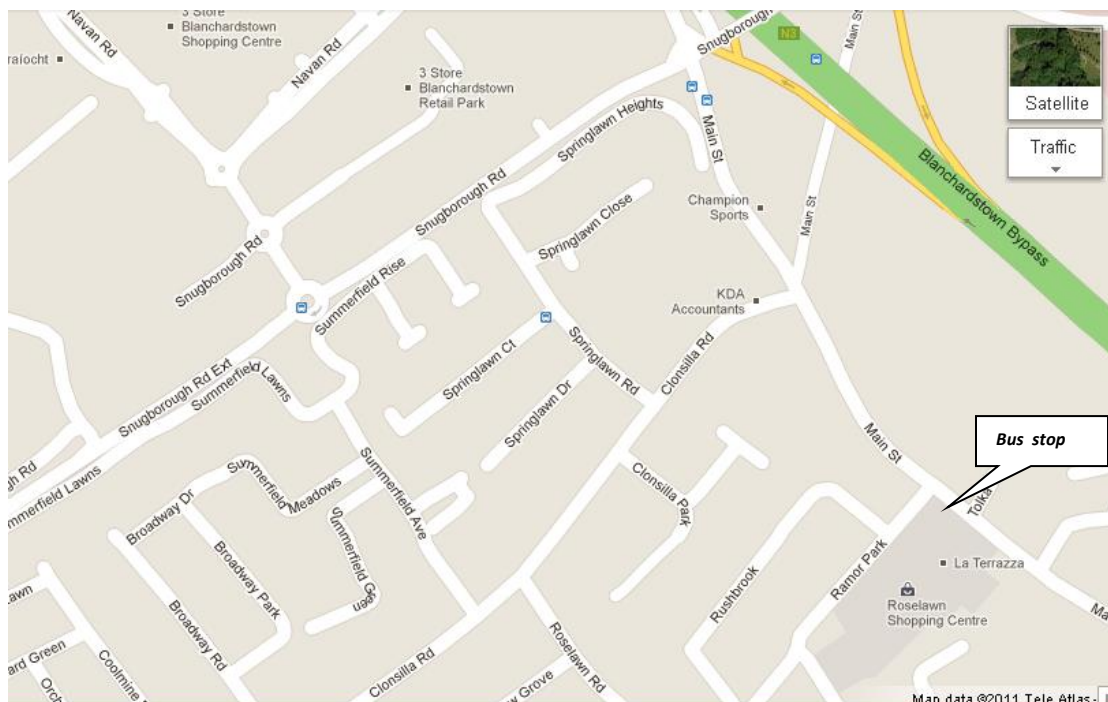
B.1 Practice

Listen to the dialogue again, this time repeat each sentence after Maria and the landlord.

B.2 Comprehension

Did you understand the directions? What directions did the landlord give? You can use the map to help you.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. When you get off the bus you will be at the Blanchardstown centre. | True | False |
| 2. When you get off the bus you will be on Main St. | True | False |
| 3. Go along Main St for 500 metres | True | False |
| 4. Turn right onto the Clonsilla Road | True | False |
| 5. Then take the next right | True | False |
| 6. Then it's the first left | True | False |
| 7. Then it's the fourth house on the left | True | False |
| 8. It's the house with the green door. | True | False |



B3 Language Focus

You heard the landlord giving directions – practice saying these phrases:

Turn left – turn right

Take a left – take a right

Take the first left – take the second right

Go straight ahead (don't turn left or right)

Go as far as the crossroads / roundabout / traffic lights / T-junction /

It's the second house on the left – it's the third shop on the right

B.4 Language Development: Giving directions

Look at the map on the website and give directions from the bus stop to these places:

Clonsilla Park

Springlawn Close

Summerfield Meadows

Dialogue C: Where is Blanchardstown?

Maria really likes the house in Springlawn Drive and is thinking of moving to Blanchardstown. She phones a friend Christina who lives in Blanchardstown to find out what it is like.

C	Hello
M	Hello is that Christina?
C	Yes it is
M	Hi, it's Maria
C	Hi Maria, I haven't seen you for ages, how are things going for you?
M	Very well really, the reason I am calling you is that we might be moving to a house in Blanchardstown.
C	That's great news – we'll be neighbours!
M	Can I ask you some questions about Blanchardstown?
C	Yes of course, what do you want to know?
M	Well, where is it exactly?
C	It's about 10km from the city centre. It's on the N3 which is the road to Navan, north west of Dublin.
M	Is it a town or part of Dublin?
C	Well it's a suburb of Dublin. It used to be a village, but now it is part of Dublin, the postal address is Dublin 15. The village is still there with shops and a small shopping centre, but now there is a really big shopping centre as well.
M	I think we might be living near the shopping centre. Are there schools in the area?
C	Yes, there are lots of schools, both primary and secondary.
M	Is there a third level college?
C	Yes, there's an Institute of Technology.
M	I might take a course there. Are there other facilities?
C	Well there are churches, and there's a hospital.
M	That sounds like a small city!
C	It has a population of over 100,000 so it is quite big.

C.1 Practice

Listen to the dialogue again, this time repeat each sentence after Christina and Maria.

C.2 Comprehension

Listen to the following statements about Blanchardstown and decide if they are true or false.

1. Blanchardstown is 5 km from Dublin City Centre	True	False
2. Blanchardstown is to the south west of Dublin	True	False
3. Blanchardstown is on the N4 road	True	False
4. The N3 goes to Navan	True	False
5. Blanchardstown is part of Dublin	True	False
6. Blanchardstown used to be a village	True	False
7. The postal address for Blanchardstown is Dublin 5	True	False
8. There is a big shopping centre in Blanchardstown	True	False
9. There is a third level college in Blanchardstown	True	False
10. There are churches in Blanchardstown	True	False
11. There is no hospital in Blanchardstown	True	False
12. The population of Blanchardstown is about 600,000	True	False

C.3 Language focus

It is / there is

Look at how these questions about Blanchardstown are asked and answered.

- Where is Blanchardstown exactly?
- It's 10 km from Dublin.
- Is it a town?
- It's a suburb.

For more general questions, 'there is' and 'there are' are used.

- Are there schools in the area?
- Yes, there are lots of schools.
- Is there a third level college?
- Yes, there's an Institute of Technology.

Possibility: using 'might'

Maria is thinking of moving to Blanchardstown, it is not certain yet. She uses 'might' to talk about possibilities.

- We might be moving to a house in Blanchardstown
- We might be living near the shopping centre.
- I might take a course at the Institute of Technology

Try using 'might' to talk about things you 'might' do in Blanchardstown.

- Go to the shops – [*I might go to the shops*]
- Visit the church – [*I might visit the church*]
- Live near the shopping centre – [*I might live near the shopping centre*].

Talking about the past: using 'used to'

Blanchardstown used to be a village, now it's part of Dublin. You can use 'used to' to talk about the way life was before. Listen to Maria talking about life before she moved to Blanchardstown.

'Before we moved to Blanchardstown, we used to live in Balbriggan. The children used to go to the local primary school. I used to work in the shopping centre. My husband used to work in the garage. We liked living in Balbriggan. At weekends we used to walk by the coast and the children used to play on the beach and go swimming in the sea.'

What was your life like before you came to live here? Answer these questions using 'used to'.

- Where did you live?
- Where did you work?
- What did your family do?
- What did you do at weekends?

C.4 Language development

Opening a conversation on the phone

Listen again to the beginning of the phone conversation and repeat each sentence.

C	Hello
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M	Hello is that Christina?
C	Yes it is
M	Hi, it's Maria
C	Hi Maria, I haven't seen you for ages, how are things going for you?
M	Very well really, the reason I am calling you is that we might be moving to a house in Blanchardstown.
C	That's great news – we'll be neighbours!

Here are some other ways you could say these things

- **Is that Christina?** Am I speaking to Christina?
- **Yes, it is.** Yes, Christina speaking.
- **I haven't seen you for ages** – I haven't seen you for a long time or it's a long time since I've seen you.
- **How are things going for you?** How are things? Or How is life?
- **Very well** – great (or if you want to be more enthusiastic) – fantastic – brilliant
- **That's great news!** Or That's brilliant! or I'm delighted.

Now imagine you are on the phone to a friend – what would you say?

- When you answer the phone you say
- To check you are speaking to the right person you say...
- If the person says 'Is that Maria?' you say
- When you haven't seen a person for a long time you say ...
- To ask how a person is you can ask.....
- If things are going well you can say ...
- If someone tells you something good you can say...

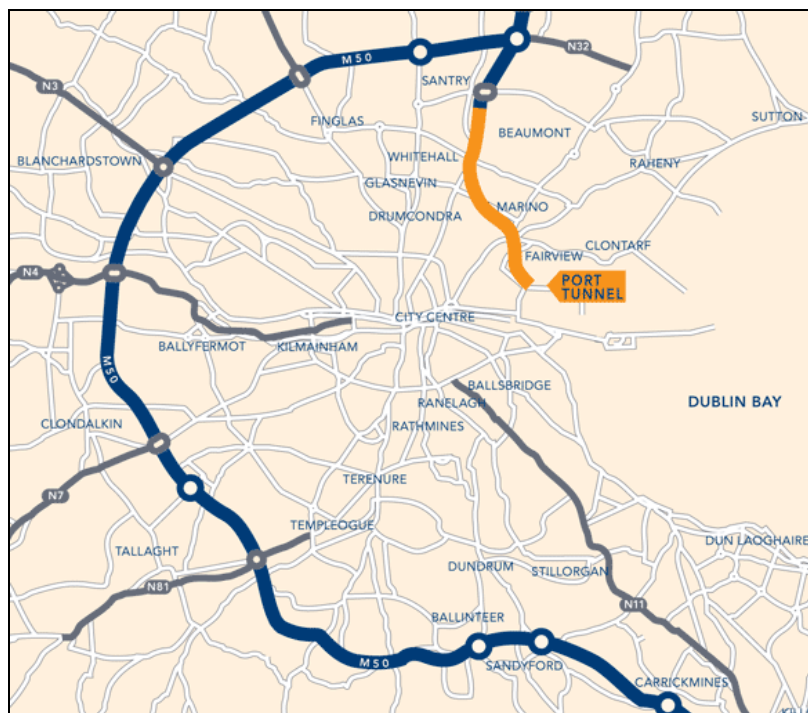
Describing location.

Listen again to some of the ways to describe a place.

- Where is Blanchardstown exactly?
- It's about 10km from the city centre.
- It's on the N3 which is the road to Navan
- It's north-west of Dublin.
- Well it's a suburb of Dublin.
- It used to be a village, but now it is part of Dublin.
- The postal address is Dublin 15.

We can use the same phrases to describe Tallaght

- Where is Tallaght exactly?
- It's about 12 km from the city centre.
- It's on the N81 which is the road to Blessington.
- It's south-west of Dublin.
- It used to be a village but now it's part of Dublin.
- The postal address is Dublin 24.



Now use the same phrases to describe where you come from.

Where is it exactly?

How many km is it from the capital? It's ...

What road is it on? It's ...

Is it N, S, E or W? It's ...

What was it hundreds of years ago? It used to be ...

What is the postal address? It's ...

Dialogue D: Facilities in Blanchardstown

Maria has more questions for Christina about Blanchardstown. In this dialogue she wants to know about what there is to do in Blanchardstown.

M	Christina, can you tell me is there much to do in Blanchardstown?
C	Yes, there's a lot to do in Blanchardstown. There are cinemas at the shopping centre, and there is a theatre across the road from it. There is a very good library too. And there are lots of sports facilities.
M	Is there a swimming pool?
C	Yes indeed. The National Aquatic centre is in Blanchardstown. And there are several parks and playgrounds.
M	That sounds great. What about transport?
C	There is a very good bus service, with a lot of bus routes into the city centre. And there is a rail link to Connolly Station in the city, it goes through Clonsilla, Coolmine and Castleknock.
M	Well I'd like to keep my job in the city centre, so that's good. Do you think I might be able to get a job in Blanchardstown?
C	Well there are employment problems here like everywhere else, but there are a lot of employers too. The Blanchardstown shopping centre and the retail parks employ a lot of people.
M	What's a retail park?
C	It's where you have a number of really big shops together on one site.
M	I might find work there, are there businesses in Blanchardstown as well?
C	There is a business park in Ballycoolin, and there are big multinational companies like IBM, eBay, Xerox and Paypal.
M	Well maybe there will be possibilities there. All in all, it sounds like Blanchardstown is a good place to live.
C	Yes, it certainly is, it has a lot to offer.
M	Well I think we will decide to take the house in Blanchardstown. We will have to meet when we move there!
C	Of course! And I can show you some nice places to meet for coffee or for something to eat, or to go for a drink. There are lots of bars and restaurants too.
M	We must do that. Thanks for all the information. I feel much happier about moving to Blanchardstown now.
C	Not at all, don't forget to call me when you move in.
M	I will of course. I'll talk to you soon.
C	Good-bye – and good luck with the move.

D.1 Practice

Listen to the dialogue again, this time repeat each sentence after Christina and Maria.

D.2 Comprehension

What facilities does Blanchardstown have? Listen to the list of facilities and decide which ones Blanchardstown has, listen to each one and answer yes or no.

Cinemas	theatre	opera house	museum	library
Swimming pool	parks	skating rink	parks	playgrounds
A bus service	metro	airport	train service	

What employers are there in the area? Name the employer:

Shops:

Computers:

Internet payments:

Internet sales site:

Photocopying equipment:

D. 3 Language Focus

Match the activities with the place. Where would you go

1	If you want to see a film	a	A playground
2	If you want to see a play or concert	b	A restaurant
3	If you want to borrow some books	c	The theatre
4	If you want to buy lots of different things	d	A cafe
5	If you want to go swimming	e	A railway station
6	If you want to go for a walk	f	The Blanchardstown centre
7	If you want to take your children to play somewhere	g	The library
8	If you want to take a train	h	A park
9	If you want to have a coffee	i	The swimming pool at the National Aquatic Centre
10	If you want to have a meal	j	The cinema

D.4 Language Development

Closing a conversation

Listen to the end of the conversation

M	Thanks for all the information. I feel much happier about moving to Blanchardstown now.
C	Not at all, don't forget to call me when you move in.
M	I will of course. I'll talk to you soon.
C	Good-bye – and good luck with the move.

Here are some other ways you could say these things

Not at all – you're welcome or no problem or not a bother

Don't forget to call me – remember to call me or remember to phone me

I'll talk to you soon – I'll be in touch

Good luck with the move – I hope the move goes well

Now imagine you are on the phone to a friend – what would you say?

- If someone thanks you for something you say
- If you want your friend to call you
- You will be in touch
- If you want to wish a person well for something

There is / there are

*We use **there is** and **there are** to tell someone what is in a place. 'There is' is usually used for one thing and 'there are' for more than one thing, but in speech people sometimes use **there's** for both.*

Listen and repeat each of these.

There is	There are
There's a village.	There are schools
There's a shopping centre.	There are churches
There's a hospital.	There are shops

Theatre

Swimming pool

Parks

Library:

Restaurants:

A bus service:

Trains service:

Playgrounds:

Three railway stations:

Business Park:

Institute of Technology:

If you would like to read some information about Blanchardstown, past and present, this is an interesting easy-to-read website:

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/learning-zone/primary-students/looking-at-places/fingal/blanchardstown-through-ti/>

If you would like more information on finding accommodation in Ireland, these are useful websites :

<http://www.livinginireland.ie/en/housing/>

<http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/housing/>