

Friends on the Wall



1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.
What is the story about? Now read it.

BERLIN, GERMANY ¹Do you ever feel lonely? Many people do, **especially** those who live by themselves. Holidays can be **particularly** hard for single people without families or companions. ²Two German women have **developed** something to help solve this problem. It's wallpaper*!

³Their special wallpaper shows **life-size** photographs of people doing **routine**, everyday things like eating dinner or sitting on a **sofa**. ⁴When you **hang** a "wallpaper friend" in your house or **apartment**, you are no longer alone. "The wallpaper makes you feel like there are other people in the room," says one of the creators, Susanne Schmidt. ⁵Schmidt says that a great

advantage of wallpaper friends is that they always **behave** well. They won't **annoy** you by leaving dirty dishes in the kitchen.

⁶Single people in Germany are crazy about the new wallpaper and are buying lots of it. ⁷It is easy to put on or pull off your walls, so you can change "friends" **frequently**. ⁸Schmidt is now working on a new kind of wallpaper. It is for couples who are often **apart** and want a life-size **copy** of their husband or wife on the wall. A paper companion is better than none at all!

*wallpaper: special paper that you use to cover the walls of a room

NEW WORDS

especially *adv*
particularly *adv*
develop *v*

life-size *adj*
routine *adj*
sofa *n*

hang *v*
apartment *n*
advantage *n*

behave *v*
annoy *v*
frequently *adv*

apart *adv*
copy *n*

>> See Glossary on page 92. >>

2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.



3. Check your comprehension

Check (✓) the endings that are true.

- a. The new wallpaper
___ is for lonely people.
___ was developed in Spain.
___ has small pictures on it.
___ shows people doing routine things.
___ is popular in Germany.
- b. "Wallpaper friends"
___ are life-size.
___ are real people.
___ can be hung on a wall.
___ behave well.
___ can be changed frequently.

4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- a. Many people feel lonely, esp _____ those who live alone.
b. The German wallpaper shows life-_____ photos of people doing rou_____ things.
c. When you h_____ a "wallpaper friend" in your ap_____, you are no longer alone.
d. The newest wallpaper is for couples who are often ap_____ and want a c_____ of their husband or wife on the wall.

5. Listen to the story track 20

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

7. Answer the questions

About the story...

- What can be particularly hard for single people?
- What are the advantages of "wallpaper friends"? Who developed them?
- What kind of pictures are on the wallpaper?

About you...

- What do you hang on your walls?
- Would you like "wallpaper friends" in your home? Why or why not?
- What helps you when you feel lonely?
- Do your friends ever annoy you? How?

8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

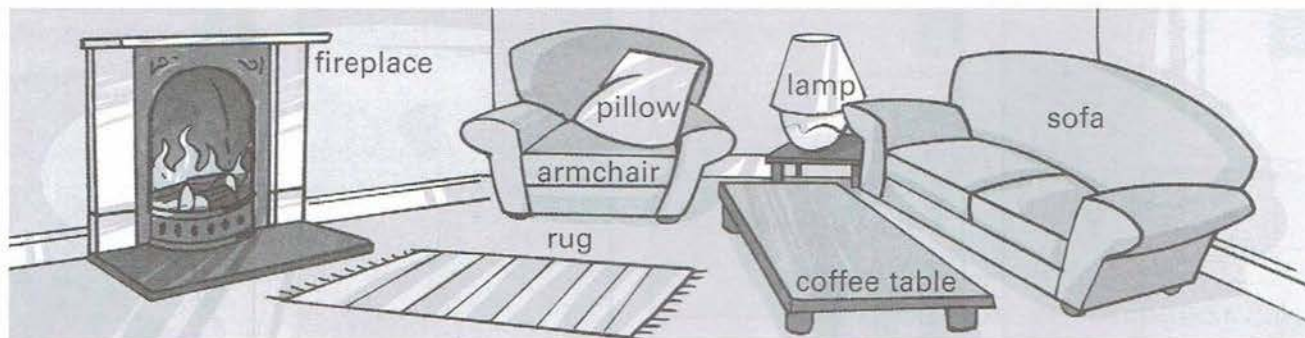
ANNOY	
annoy someone by doing something	<p>Wallpaper friends won't annoy you by leaving dirty dishes.</p> <p><i>John annoys me by talking too much.</i></p> <p><i>I annoy my friends by calling late at night.</i></p>
something annoys someone	<p><i>Loud music annoys her.</i></p> <p><i>Traffic jams annoy me.</i></p> <p><i>Rude people annoy my father.</i></p>

- _____ annoys me.
- Sometimes I annoy my family by _____.
- Some of my friends annoy me by _____.

9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the picture.

A LIVING ROOM



- In my living room, there's a/an _____ and a/an _____.
- There's no _____ in my living room.
- I'd like to have a/an _____ in my living room.

10. Take a dictation track 21

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 86.

11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

behave developed armchair apartment
advantage particularly frequently

No Longer Lonely

CHICAGO, USA “I’m home! Where’s my Angel?” Barbara calls when she walks into her (1) _____. Her cat runs from behind the sofa or (2) _____ to welcome her. “Angel makes me happy,” Barbara says. “She’s a good companion.”

Barbara lives alone. When her husband died several years ago, Barbara was (3) _____ lonely. The house felt empty. “The loneliness* goes away when I’m holding Angel,” says Barbara. “I’ve (4) _____ so much love for her.”

Scientists** say that the biggest health problem for older people is not cancer or heart disease, but loneliness. Now scientists are showing that dogs and cats can help. Older people who live alone are happier living with an animal. Another big (5) _____ is that they stay healthier and live longer.

“Angel doesn’t always (6) _____ well,” says Barbara. “But she needs me, and that’s (7) _____ important to me now.”



* loneliness: being lonely (with no other people)

** scientists: people who study science (the study of natural things)



Talk about the stories

Which would you prefer—to have a “wallpaper friend” or an animal? Why?