



Unit 34 – Stepping up

Task 07. Fill in the missing words from the box.

noise – open staircase – only limited space – keep the heating costs down – like a tunnel
– straight staircase – stylish – a lot of space – treads – inconvenient – spiral staircase

[...]

Peter: I can't decide, tell me more about the advantages and disadvantages.

Nala: OK. Let's start with a _____. It requires _____ in a house. If it is fixed to a wall on both sides, it looks like a room of its own ... as well as being a bit _____. When I think of the staircase in my grandmother's house leading into the cellar, ooh ..., bad memories still come up. I hated it, when she asked me to fetch some potatoes out of the cellar. I always thought there was a monster waiting at the end of the staircase!

Back to your house ... though ... There are some advantages, too! When you have the hall and the staircase separated from the rest of the rooms, you might _____ in wintertime, since there is no need to heat this area up to higher room-temperatures.

Peter: What about other possibilities?

Nala: Well a _____ in the middle of your living room would be _____ and requires _____, but I once had this in a holiday house. It was totally _____ to carry up items to the first floor. Now, think of all the pieces of furniture that need to be taken upstairs once you move in!

Peter: No, a spiral staircase is too inconvenient, I agree.

Nala: Then, you could finally think of an _____ leading from your living room up to the private areas of your house. It's quite common to have it planned this way at the moment. A beautiful staircase with wooden _____ fitting the flooring of the ground floor is really stylish. Only one disadvantage comes to my mind and that's ... _____. During night time for example, you will always have to turn down your television in the living room, when someone wants to sleep upstairs.

Peter: Thanks, but now I'm totally confused.

Nala: Why don't you have a look at the options? Your expert should show you some alternatives by means of a CAD programme. I'm sure that will help you decide.

Peter: That's a good idea! Thanks for your time!

Nala: Always a pleasure. I love talking about interior design.