

## Long nights with little sleep for homeless families seeking shelter

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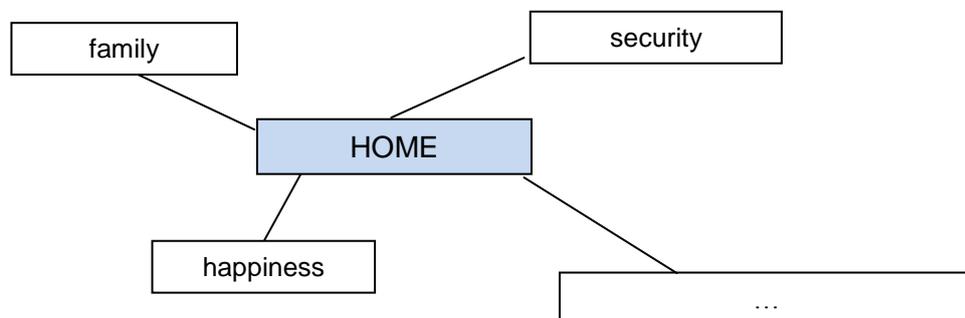
### PRE-READING

1. Describe the picture. Who are the people? What are they doing?



Photo: Getty Images

2. What does 'home' mean to you? Collect ideas on the board.



## READING / COMPREHENSION

### 1. Read the sentences and tick the correct solution.

- a) Nearly 60,000 people  *are homeless*  *are living in hotels*  *are living in shelters* in New York City.
- b) There is a special center in the Bronx where  *families*  *teenagers*  *older people* can get help when they have no place to live.
- c) According to a 1999 law, families are not allowed  *to eat and drink*  *to take a shower*  *to sleep* at the intake center.
- d) The procedures under the new law ...  
 have improved the situation.  
 have made things worse.  
 did not make a difference.
- e) The law was enacted to improve conditions for homeless ...  
 families.  
 teenagers.  
 older people.
- f) Mr. Banks said that the number of homeless people in shelters had also risen because ...  
 more people have come to New York for jobs.  
 the city has made greater efforts to find people shelter.  
 many flat owners rent their flats to tourists because they pay more.
- g) Mr. McKinney and his family are homeless because ...  
 he does not earn enough in his job as a gospel drummer.  
 their former flat was too expensive.  
 he has just moved to New York from California to find work there.
- h) Ms. Galindo, a homeless mother of a one-year-old girl, was given permanent shelter ...  
 in an area which was too far away from her job and her babysitter.  
 that was much too small.  
 that was not very pleasant.

### 2. Answer the questions.

- a) What, according to the text, are the main reasons for homelessness?

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- b) Why does the number of homeless families arriving at the PATH center rise every August?

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## VOCABULARY

### 1. Match the syllables to make words.

strol- • -less • shel- • -tions • assis- • -fare • -erty • -sing • inten- • appli- • -ler •  
vio- • wel- • pov- • -cation • -nity • -ter • home- • hou- • -tance • -lence • dig-

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### 2. Complete the sentences with words from exercise 1. You will not need all the words.

- a) Many of the people coming to the \_\_\_\_\_ center for help are families with small children.
- b) For parents with small children in a \_\_\_\_\_ and a lot of luggage, travelling to the overnight shelter is particularly complicated.
- c) Lack of affordable \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and domestic \_\_\_\_\_ are the main reasons that cause people to come to the PATH center.
- d) Every year in August, the number of \_\_\_\_\_ families coming to the PATH center rises.
- e) New York City has started initiatives to improve the housing situation for the poor, for example with rental \_\_\_\_\_ programs.
- f) Often people come to New York with good \_\_\_\_\_, like hoping to find work in the city.
- g) According to the 1999 law, the \_\_\_\_\_ process at the PATH center requires that people go to a temporary \_\_\_\_\_ by bus if they are still at the intake center at 10 p.m.
- h) \_\_\_\_\_ and relief.

**3. Rewrite the sentences below by rephrasing the underlined passages.**

- a) The city had paid \$5 million in fines over four years for violating a court order to stop the practice. (para. 10)

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- b) Wages have not kept pace with rising rents. (para. 12)

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- c) Parents were slumped in chairs and children were sprawled on the floor waiting hours to be interviewed by caseworkers. (para. 14)

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**GRAMMAR**

**1. Match the sentences halves and write the sentences below.**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a) If you lose your job,            | it will be hard to find a new job.                     |
| b) If you have no income,           | your landlord will give you notice to leave your flat. |
| c) If you do not pay your rent,     | you will end up living on the street.                  |
| d) If you do not find another flat, | you will no longer have an income.                     |
| e) If you live on the street,       | you will no longer be able to pay your rent.           |

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_



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**2. Now write the same sentences as follows:**

- a) If you **lost** your job, you **would** no longer **have** an income.
- b) If you **had** \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fill in each verb in the correct tense.**

- a) If registration procedure had not taken so long, Ms. Galindo and her daughter \_\_\_\_\_ (have) more sleep.
- b) If the caseworker at PATH \_\_\_\_\_ (find) Ms. Galindo permanent shelter nearer to her job and babysitter, she would not have had to come back to apply again.
- c) If the landlord \_\_\_\_\_ (not raise) the rent, the tenant would have been able to pay it.
- d) If the NY government had taken serious long-term initiatives, there \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) such a large number of homeless people in the city.
- e) If Mr. McKinney \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a job as a gospel drummer in California, he would not have had to move to New York with his family.

## **SPEAKING / ROLE PLAY**

**There is a panel discussion concerning the homelessness crisis in New York City at the PATH center. Citizens, caseworkers and the homeless people themselves want the New York government to do more to improve the situation.**

**Choose a mediator and take the following roles on the panel:**

- the mayor of New York City
- two caseworkers from the PATH center
- one homeless mother of two small children
- some politicians
- interested citizens (asking questions)

## **WRITING**

**Explain the 1999 law mentioned in the article and describe its advantages and disadvantages.**

## MEDIATION

Read the email that a friend from your school's Finnish partner school wrote to you.

Hi ...

I have a question. In my Social Studies class at school I need to give a presentation soon (very soon!). The topic I chose is "Child and Youth Homelessness in Europe". I wanted to mention what the situation is like in Germany, but can't find much information in English. Can you help and send me some information in English about the following?

- How many homeless children and young adults are there in Germany?
- How long are they homeless for (on average)?
- What are the reasons?
- Do they usually come from poor families?
- How do they survive?
- What are their plans for the future?
- What measures/offers are there to help these kids and young adults?

Pls write soon, because the presentation is in two days ;-)

LOL

Kristiina

Visit the website of "Off Road Kids", a non-profit organization that helps homeless kids in Germany. Read the "Kurz & bündig" page and answer your friend's email.

Link: <http://offroadkids.de/information/kurz-buendig/>



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## LÖSUNGEN

### PRE-READING

*individuelle Schülerantworten*

### READING / COMPREHENSION

1.

- a) Nearly 60,000 people are living in shelters in New York City.
- b) There is a special center in the Bronx where families can get help when they have no place to live. (para. 1)
- c) According to a 1999 law, families are not allowed to sleep at the intake center. (para. 4)
- d) The procedures under the new law have made things worse. (para. 5 + 6)
- e) The law was enacted to improve conditions for homeless families. (para. 9)
- f) Mr. Banks said that the number of homeless people in shelters had also risen because the city has made greater efforts to find people shelter. (para. 12)
- g) Mr. McKinney and his family are homeless because he has just moved to New York from California to find work there. (para. 15)
- h) Ms. Galindo, a homeless mother of a one-year-old girl, was given permanent shelter in an area which was too far away from her job and her babysitter. (para. 16)

2.

- a) Poverty, lack of affordable housing, domestic violence (para. 11)
- b) Because the families hope to find housing before the school year starts. (para. 13)

### VOCABULARY

1.

welfare, stroller, housing, poverty, violence, homeless, assistance, intentions, application, shelter, dignity

2.

- a) Many of the people coming to the welfare center for help are families with small children.
- b) For parents with small children in a stroller and a lot of luggage, travelling to the overnight shelter is particularly complicated.
- c) Lack of affordable housing, poverty and domestic violence are the main reasons that cause people to come to the PATH center.
- d) Every year in August, the number of homeless families coming to the PATH center rises.
- e) New York City has started initiatives to improve the housing situation for the poor, for example with rental assistance programs.
- f) Often people come to New York with good intentions, like hoping to find work in the city.
- g) According to the 1999 law, the application process at the PATH center requires that people go to a temporary shelter by bus if they are still at the intake center at 10 p.m.
- h) The intention of the 1999 law was to give homeless families dignity and relief.

3.

*Sample answers*

- a) The city had paid a penalty of \$5 million in the last four years for not following a court order to stop the practice.
- b) Rents have increased more/faster than earnings.
- c) Parents were sagged in seats and children were lolling on the floor waiting hours to be

interviewed by caseworkers.

## GRAMMAR

### 1.

*If-sentences 1:*

- a) If you lose your job, you will no longer have an income.
- b) If you have no income, you will no longer be able to pay your rent.
- c) If you do not pay your rent, your landlord will give you notice to leave your flat.
- d) If you do not find another flat, you will end up living on the street.
- e) If you live on the street, it will be hard to find a new job.

*If-sentences 2:*

- a) If you lost your job, you would no longer have an income.
- b) If you had no income, you would no longer be able to pay your rent.
- c) If you did not pay your rent, your landlord would give you notice to leave your flat.
- d) If you did not find another flat, you would end up living on the street.
- e) If you lived on the street, it would be hard to find a new job.

### 3.

- a) If registration procedure had not taken so long, Ms. Galindo and her daughter would have had more sleep.
- b) If the caseworker at PATH had found Ms. Galindo permanent shelter nearer to her job and babysitter, she would not have had to come back to apply again.
- c) If the landlord had not raised the rent, the tenant would have been able to pay it.
- d) If the NY government had taken serious long-term initiatives, there would not be such a large number of homeless people in the city.
- e) If Mr. McKinney had gotten\* a job as a gospel drummer in California, he would not have had to move to New York with his family.

\*Teachers' note:

*gotten* is more frequent in US English; in British English it is *get - got - got*

## SPEAKING / ROLE PLAY

*individuelle Schülerantworten*

## WRITING

*the 1999 law:*

- The law championed by Steven Banks is designed to provide decent overnight shelter to prevent families sleeping on the floor in the intake center.
- It aimed to improve conditions and give families relief and dignity.

*advantages*

- Families with children can sleep in proper beds and get some rest.
- Transport to and from the shelter is free.

*disadvantages*

- Transport to and from the shelter with a lot of luggage and small children is very difficult.
- The registration procedure generally takes too long: often half the night.
- Families end up travelling to the shelter late at night and back to the intake center early the next morning, so they get little sleep.

## MEDIATION

Notes:

- Up to 2500 children and youths over 12 become at least temporarily homeless in Germany per year, as well as many more young adults.
- Some are homeless only for a short time, but about 300 minors stay on the street for longer periods.
- Reasons for homelessness include being kicked out by parents running away or leaving foster families or homes because of domestic violence, abuse or neglect.
- No, they come from all social classes. Most of them are just ordinary kids, and many come from small towns or villages looking to find happiness in the big city.
- They steal, beg or prostitute themselves.
- Many would like to stop living on the street: they dream of a secure and loving home, going to school and training for a job.
- Measures include street workers, online counselling and telephone hotlines for kids and parents, psychological help programs, as well as children's homes.



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