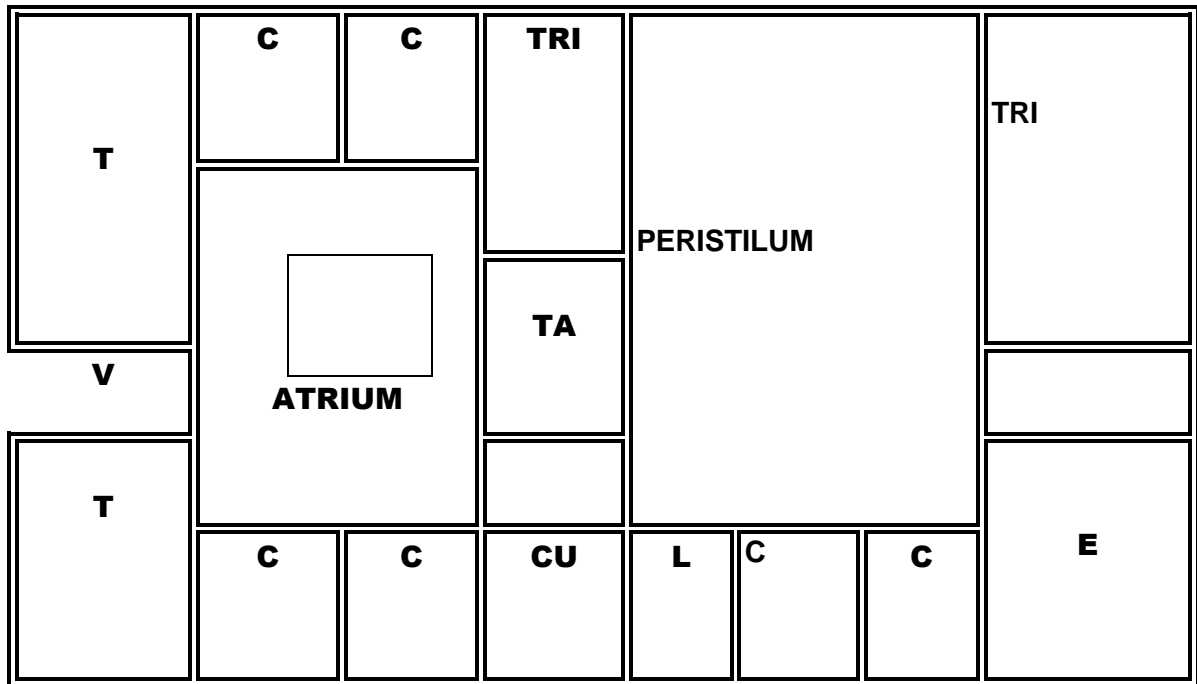


V TOWN & COUNTRY

MOTIVATION TASK:

Look at the picture carefully



❖ These are the Latin names of the rooms in a Roman domus (house). In pairs complete the chart by writing the name of the room in English.

LATIN	ENGLISH	LATIN	ENGLISH
Taberna	S_____	Latrine	T_____
Cubiculum	B_____	Cucina	K_____
Triclinium	D_____	Vestibulum or fauces	H_____
Tablinum	S_____ or O_____	Peristilum	C_____ Y___ D

HOUSING IN ANCIENT ROME

In cities, rich families lived in single storey buildings with a small number of windows. They often rented out the two front rooms to traders if they lived on busy streets for them to use as *tabernae* or shops.

A wealthy Roman citizen lived in a large house. The main entrance to the house would face the street, consisting of a double-door, behind which a short corridor led into the *atrium*. The **atrium** was the most important part of the house. In the centre of the house there was a square opening called the *compluvium* in which rainwater could come in, draining inwards from the roof. Below the compluvium there was the *impluvium*, a pool to gather rainwater. Close to the atrium there were the main rooms: the small *cubicula* or bedrooms, the *tablinum*, and the *triclinium* or dining-room. In the atrium there was the *lararium*, a small shrine.¹ In the back part of the house there was the peristylium which was surrounded by the bathroom and the *cucina* or kitchen. These homes were called **domus**.

Wealthy Roman families enjoyed the comforts of country life, especially in summer time. **Villas** had mosaic floors, a private bathhouse and under floor heating. Most of these villas were farms and helped to supply the cities with food such as wheat, fruit, vegetables, wine, olive oil and meat. Nearly all the work on the estate was carried out by slaves. Apart from the owner's residence there was a part to fulfil specific farming needs; a barn for the animals, a cellar and a furnace to ceramics.

This kind of villa, a big house surrounded by farmland, was a 'villa rustica'. The villa next to the city was called 'villa urbana'.

The middle classes and the poor lived in crowded apartments blocks, the **insulae**. The plebeians, the lower class Romans, lived in this kind of accommodation, called flats, above or behind their **shops**. Shops were usually on the streets at ground level.

In the *insulae*, a whole family (grandparents, parents and children) might all be crowded into one room, without running water. There was no water supply. They did not have toilets so they had to use public toilets (latrines).

As you have seen, there were **shops** in the front of the domus and on the ground floor of the insulae, but during the empire many shops were built in markets, too.

1. Fill in the grid. To learn more:

adjective	comparative	superlative	meaning	adjective	comparative	superlative	meaning
busy				big			
		the most		near			
wealthy				close			
short				small			

¹ A small family place of worship the household gods.

2. Complete the text about Roman towns.

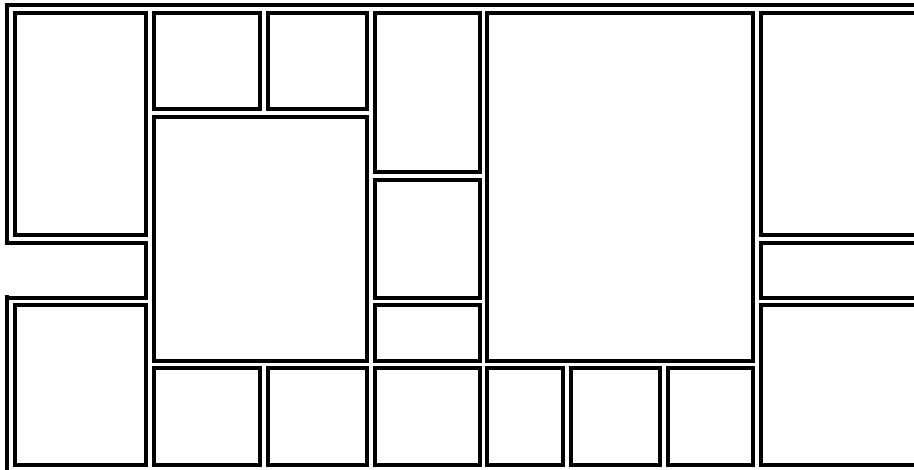
tabernae	domus	insulae	tabernae
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In cities, most Romans lived in apartments called _____. A wealthy family owned a house called _____. In busy streets there were some _____ in the front of the domus. There were also _____ in the ground floor of the insulae.

3. Match the words on the left with the correct clues on the right

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|--|
| 1. tabernae | ___ | a. a house and farm in the country |
| 2. insulae | ___ | b. a bedroom in a Roman house |
| 3. villa | ___ | c. apartments blocks in a Roman city |
| 4. cubiculum | ___ | d. shops in an ancient Roman city |
| 5. atrium | ___ | e. dining room in an ancient Roman house |
| 6. cucina | ___ | f. office or study in a Roman domus. |
| 7. domus | ___ | g. toilets in a Roman domus. |
| 8. latrines | ___ | h. kitchen in an ancient Roman house |
| 9. tablinum | ___ | i. single storey house in an ancient Roman city. |
| 10. triclinium | ___ | j. the central court of an ancient Roman house |

4. Write the parts of a Roman domus. Use the chart below.



1. Roman domus plant.

Cubiculum	Atrium	Latrines	Exedra
Peristilium	Tabernae	Vestibulum or fauces	
Triclinium	Cucina	Tablinum	

5. Finish the sentences about a Roman villa

1. Rich people had a farmhouse called a _____
2. Houses in the countryside were called _____
3. Houses in the countryside near the city were called _____

6. Name two functions of a villa.

- a. _____
- b. _____

7. List 3 rooms in a villa that you would not find in a domus.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

8. Cell word chop: In the box below you will find some words chopped. Find the pieces that fit together and write the words in the space below.

mus	tab	ins	ops
ulae	tricli	nium	vium
ium	ina	llae	cuc
sh	vi	tab	do
ernae	implu	larar	linum

Latin word	English	Your mother tongue	Latin word	English	Your mother tongue

9. Read Martial's description of his villa and answer the questions. Use the Internet.

The poet **Martial** was born in Bilbilis, Spain (41 AD - 104 AD). Although he lived in Rome he had a small villa and an unproductive farm near Nomentum, in the Sabine territory, where he occasionally went to relax. The poet Martial said '*Whenever I'm worn out with worry and want to get some rest, I go to my villa*'.

- ❖ Where was **Bilbilis**? _____
- ❖ What's today's name? _____
- ❖ Where was Martial from? _____
- ❖ Why is Martial known /famous? _____
- ❖ In which centuries did he live? _____
- ❖ Why did he like his villa? _____
- ❖ Where was Martial's villa? _____
- ❖ In what region of Italy was it? _____

10. 'Els Munts Villa' a villa near Tarraco. Read and answer the questions.

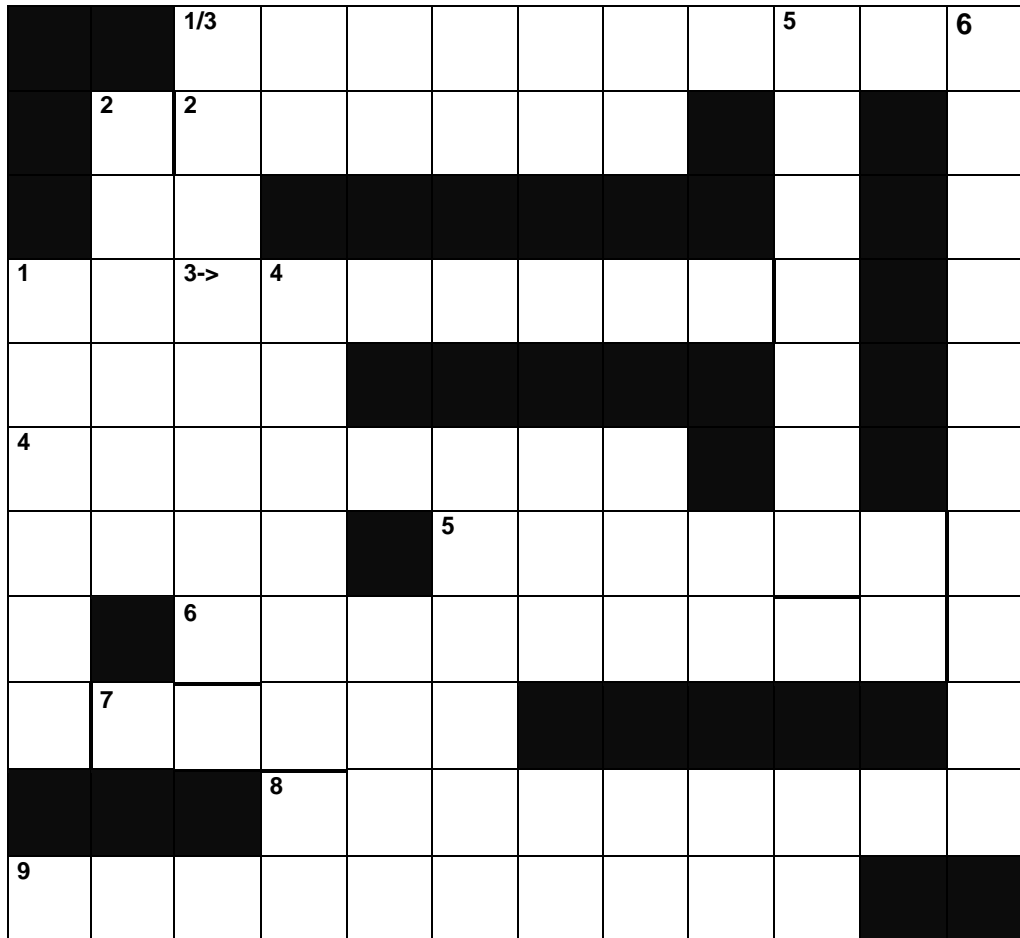
The villa was first built at the beginning of the 1st century AD and during the 2nd century AD it belonged to a Roman duumvir². The building is in the countryside next to the sea: Els Munts is an example of seaside villa.

An L-shaped corridor links all the rooms in the villa. Next to the villa there are two bath houses: the biggest one consists of a changing room, the pools, the furnace and the latrines. Beside the seaside there is another bath house. The villa was inhabited until the 5th century AD. You can visit it!

- a) Where is 'Els Munts villa'? _____
- b) Is it in the seaside or in the countryside? _____
- c) When was this villa built? _____
- d) How many baths did it have? _____
- e) How long was the villa inhabited for? _____

² A duumvir was one of two officials in Ancient Rome.

11. Roman houses Crosswords



Across:

1. The dining room in a Roman house.
2. The name of the kitchen (the other way round).
3. The name for toilet in Roman times.
4. The shop in the front of a house (write it backwards).
5. The hall of a Roman house.
6. A pool to gather rain water inside a house (backwards).
7. The name of the one storey building where wealthy families lived.
8. Bedroom in the Roman period (backwards).
9. The open area in the back part of a house.

Down:

1. The name of the last room in a house.
2. The name of a house and farmland outside town.
3. The room where the owner of a domus worked.
4. The central court of a Roman house.
5. A block of apartments in a Roman city.
6. Backwards, the name of a square opening in the middle of the atrium.