

b Now answer the questions about the article.

- 1 In the title, what word is a general name for houses and apartments?
- 2 In the UK, why have there been so many TV programmes about houses?
- 3 What's happening to prices in Europe, compared with the UK?
- 4 What are economists' forecasts for UK house prices?

c Grammar practice ...> Page 102, Exercise 3.**d Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about property prices in your city or country. Think carefully about which tense to use.**

- 1 are / property prices / high or low / at the moment ?
- 2 property prices / rise or fall / last year ?
- 3 property prices / rise / so far this year ?

3 a Match the pairs to complete the definitions. Write a-j in the boxes. Use a dictionary to help you, if necessary.

- 1 The percentage of people without a job is the rate of
- 2 The amount prices increase in general, each year, is
- 3 If you get a loan from the bank, you
- 4 Banks give loans. They
- 5 The percentage a bank charges on a loan is the
- 6 Money you've borrowed is called
- 7 A loan to buy a house or an apartment is called a
- 8 When the economy grows very fast, it's called a
- 9 When the economy slows down for a time, it's a
- 10 When prices fall suddenly, it's called a

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| a lend (money). | f recession. |
| b borrow (money). | g unemployment. |
| c inflation. | h interest rate. |
| d mortgage. | i crash. |
| e debt. | j boom. |

b 50 PRONUNCIATION Which three words in a-j have silent letters? Listen and check. Practise saying the words.**c 51 Listen to an interview with Roy Borg, an economist, talking about property prices and the economy. Does Roy agree (A) or disagree (D) with 1-4? Write A or D in the boxes.**

- 1 Property prices are important in the economy.
- 2 Prices will continue to increase quickly.
- 3 Today, the situation is the same as in the late 1980s.
- 4 People will spend less in the future.

d Vocabulary practice ...> Page 102, Exercise 4.**e 51 Work with a partner. What reasons did Roy Borg give for his opinions in 3c? Listen again and check your answers.****4 Communication practice 23. Student A ...> Page 85. Student B ...> Page 92.****5 Work with a partner. Talk about the economy in your country.**

What has the economic situation been like recently? What's it like now?

Do you think the economy will get better or worse in the next twelve months? Why?

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Unemployment is very high at the moment. It's over 12%.

Prices are increasing fast. Inflation is 5%.

Interest rates increased a lot last year. They went up 1.5%.

People have borrowed a lot of money, and will have to pay back large debts.

There's been a boom. Now, the question is, will there be a crash?

The economic situation isn't very good at the moment. We're in a recession.