Caalii

Tom
Hi everybody, I’m Tom. Welcome to today’s episode of English Together.

Sam
Hello, I’m Sam.

Caalii
You’re in a good mood today Sam!

Sam
Today’s payday! I just got paid!

Caalii
Oh nice! Are you going to spend it on anything special?

Sam
No, I like to keep my money in the bank, where it’s as safe as houses!

Caalii
What? Are you going to buy a house?

Tom
No! If something is as safe as houses it means that it’s very secure or stable. It comes from the British belief that buying a house is one of the best investments you can make.

Sam
You’d be lucky! It’s so difficult to buy houses here! Most people struggle to pay their rent.
Caalii
Oh! ‘Rent’ jechuun Kiraa dha. Otuma dubbannuu, gaafii har’aa kunooti: Namoonni Landan keessa mana kireeffatan mindaasaaniirraa dhibbantaa meeqa kiraa manaatiif oolchu?

a) Hanga %30
b) Hanga %40
c) Hanga %50

Tom
Well, I won’t spoil the answer for our listeners but I will say that rental costs in London are ridiculous!

Sam
The thing is, there’s so much demand for rented property in London that landlords can afford to charge whatever they want!

Caalii
Yes! ‘Property’ jechuun qabeenya and ‘landlord’ jechuun abbaa qabeenyati. Odeessa har’aa, BBC Radio 4’s You and Yours, irraa argame kan jiraattonni Landan malawwan kiraa olaana ta’e ofirraa hambisuurratti mari’atan haacaqasnu.

Presenter:
In London, a growing number of people are saving money on their rent by living as caretakers in empty buildings. They call these people property guardians and there are 7,000 of them in the UK now, most in the capital. The idea came from the Netherlands, and it really took off in London after the financial crash. Thirty companies manage property guardian services there. But new research for York University for the London Assembly has found that property guardians are sometimes in substandard housing with very few rights. Rex Deuce is a property guardian in London.

Rex:
I became a property guardian because I’d been living in private renting for about 4 years in London and I was able to get cheaper space and a larger space as a guardian. I’ve lived in about eight or nine properties, and on average they range from about six months, nine months to about eighteen months. I am currently living in a very run-down pub, I’m about to move out, in fact, in a week and a half. It’s full of holes. It leaks. When it snows outside it’s as cold inside as outside, so it’s probably the worst-condition building I’ve ever lived in.

Tom
What a horrible living situation!

Sam
Well, if you can’t rent cheaply, why not take care of someone else’s property for a while?
Tom
I think you’re missing the point here, Sam. These people are having to pay too much money to live in poor-quality accommodation. They are being exploited because the housing market in London is too crowded!

Caalii
‘Exploited’ jechuu qisaasamuu dha. Well, nobody is forcing them, I suppose.

Sam
Yes, the man in the interview agreed to live there. What’s exploitative about that?

Caalii

Tom
49% of your salary on rent! That’s ridiculous! I don’t think it’s fair that landlords are able to extort all this money out of people just because they own a few houses! I think this is something that we need to do something about!

Sam
I think you need to calm down, Tom. There are lots of benefits to life in London, rent’s just something you have to put up with.

Caalii
‘To put up with’ or ‘tolerate’, jechuu obsuu ykn danda’uudha. Yes, you shouldn’t get so upset over something you can’t control. People here put up with lots of things.

Tom
Well, I suppose your money really is as ‘safe as houses’ if you’re a landlord. I still don’t think it’s fair that their high rent is something we have to put up with, though…

Sam
Tom, you know the other expression that uses ‘put up’?

Tom
No…
Sam
Put up, or shut up!

Tom
Hey!

Caalii
Haha, Toom, yeroo mara komachuukee kana dhaabi maaloo! Atoo maal yaada? Yaadniikee maal akka ta’e nubeekxisuuf nu quunnami.
Turtii waliin qabaanneef galatoomi; barnoota dabalataa English Together’n torban ittaanu walitti deebina. Nagaatti! Bye!