

THE LIVING-ROOM SCALE

(Revised)

(An early, primitive form of this was promulgated in 1935 by F. Stuart Chapin in his book *Contemporary American Institutions*.)

Begin with a score of 100. For each of the following in your living room (or those of friends or acquaintances) add or subtract points as indicated. Then ascertain social class according to the table at the end.

Hardwood floor	add 4
Parquet floor	add 8
Stone floor	add 4
Vinyl floor	subtract 6
Wall-to-wall carpet	add 2
Working fireplace	add 4
New Oriental rug or carpet	subtract 2 (each)
Worn Oriental rug or carpet	add 5 (each)
Threadbare rug or carpet	add 8 (each)
Ceiling ten feet high, or higher	add 6
Original paintings by internationally recognized practitioners	add 8 (each)
Original drawings, prints, or lithographs by internationally recognized practitioners	add 5 (each)
Reproductions of any Picasso painting, print, or anything	subtract 2 (each)

Original paintings, drawings, or prints by family members	subtract 4 (each)
Windows curtained, rods and draw cords	add 5
Windows curtained, no rods or draw cords	add 2
Genuine Tiffany lamp	add 3
Reproduction Tiffany lamp	subtract 4
Any work of art depicting cowboys	subtract 3
"Professional" oil portrait of any member of the household	subtract 3
Any display of "collectibles"	subtract 4
Transparent plastic covers on furniture	subtract 6
Furniture upholstered with any metallic threads	subtract 3
Cellophane on any lampshade	subtract 4
No ashtrays	subtract 2
Refrigerator, washing machine, or clothes dryer in living room	subtract 6
Motorcycle kept in living room	subtract 10
Periodicals visible, laid out flat:	
<i>National Enquirer</i>	subtract 6
<i>Popular Mechanics</i>	subtract 5
<i>Reader's Digest</i>	subtract 3
<i>National Geographic</i>	subtract 2
<i>Smithsonian</i>	subtract 1
<i>Scientific American</i>	subtract 1
<i>New Yorker</i>	add 1
<i>Town and Country</i>	add 2
<i>New York Review of Books</i>	add 5
<i>Times Literary Supplement</i> (London)	add 5
<i>Paris Match</i>	add 6
<i>Hudson Review</i>	add 8
Each family photograph (black-and-white)	subtract 2
Each family photograph (color)	subtract 3
Each family photograph (black-and-white or color) in sterling-silver frame	add 3
Potted citrus tree with midget fruit growing	add 8
Potted palm tree	add 5
Bowling-ball carrier	subtract 6
Fishbowl or aquarium	subtract 4
Fringe on any upholstered furniture	subtract 4
Identifiable Naugahyde aping anything customarily made of leather	subtract 3

Any item exhibiting words in an ancient or modern foreign language (Spanish excluded)	add 7
Wooden venetian blinds	subtract 2
Metal venetian blinds	subtract 4
Tabletop obelisk of marble, glass, etc.	add 9
No periodicals visible	subtract 5
Fewer than five pictures on walls	subtract 5
Each piece of furniture over 50 years old	add 2
Bookcase(s) full of books	add 7
Any leather bindings more than 75 years old	add 6
Bookcase(s) partially full of books	add 5
Overflow books stacked on floor, chairs, etc.	add 6
Hutch bookcase ("wall system") displaying plates, pots, porcelain figurines, etc., but no books	subtract 4
Wall unit with built-in TV, stereo, etc.	subtract 4
On coffee table, container of matchbooks from funny or anomalous places	add 1
Works of sculpture (original, and not made by householder or any family member)	add 4 (each)
Works of sculpture made by householder or any family member	subtract 5 (each)
Every item alluding specifically to the United Kingdom	add 1
Any item alluding, even remotely, to Turankhamen	subtract 4
Each framed certificate, diploma, or testimonial	subtract 2
Each "laminated" ditto	subtract 3
Each item with a "tortoiseshell" finish, if only made of Formica	add 1
Each "Eames chair"	subtract 2
Anything displaying the name or initials of anyone in the household	subtract 4
Curved moldings visible anywhere in the room	add 5

CALCULATING THE SCORE

245 and above	Upper class
185-245	Upper-middle
100-185	Middle
50-100	High prole
Below 50	Mid- or low prole