

Listen to this audio and then answer the questions



7 1.1 Listen to a radio interview about favourite books . Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Trevor Jones is a writer.
- 2 His teacher made him interested in science.
- 3 His favourite book is about science.
- 4 Pip, in *Great Expectations*, didn't have parents.
- 5 Trevor Jones had a good childhood.
- 6 Pip had a good childhood.

8 Complete the extracts with the correct words. Then listen again to check.

- 1 I am from the South_____ of England.
- 2 I work on medicines that will hopefully help the_____ of many people.
- 3 I had a much more_____ upbringing
- 4 Pip deals with almost_____ situations.

9 What was the last book you read? Would you recommend it to someone? Why/Why not?

Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully. Answer all the questions in English.

CouchSurfers – the community that won't lie down

One April, Casey Fenton bought a cheap ticket from the United States to Iceland. He planned to stay for a long weekend. There was just one problem: he had nowhere to sleep. He didn't want to stay in a hotel, so he emailed 1,500 students in Reykjavik, Iceland's capital, asking if he could sleep on someone's couch. Amazingly, he had dozens of replies. After a wonderful weekend with his new friends, he realized that there was a fantastic opportunity for cultural exchange through 'Couch Surfing'. He decided to start a website to make CouchSurfing possible.

www.CouchSurfing.org was launched in 2003. Its mission statement said that the idea was to 'create inspiring experiences', with a focus on cross-cultural sharing. Since then, tens of thousands of people have stayed on strangers' couches in 230 countries, had the chance to see places through the eyes of a local person, and made wonderful friendships.

So how does it work? If you want to be a host, you write your profile on the website, saying where you live, your age, job and hobbies. If you want somewhere to stay, you type the name of the city. A list of people appears. You look at their profiles and photos and choose a person. Then you contact them to see if they are free. In many cases, they meet you for a coffee first before allowing you into their home. Then, if you seem normal and friendly, they let you stay on their couch.

The idea of CouchSurfing seems dangerous. Would you really want to stay with a stranger? The website has several ways to protect its users. Before choosing a person to stay with, you can read what other CouchSurfers say about them. There is also a system of 'vouching'. This means that other people promise that your host has a good character. It is impossible to make CouchSurfing completely safe, but there have been no horror stories so far.

And the benefits? Here's what the CouchSurfers say on the website. 'It offers me a window to see the beautiful planet in the best way'. (Liu, China); 'What a great way to travel and meet people!' (Cecilia, Paraguay); 'CouchSurfing changed my life. Meeting people all around the world, discovering their way of life, their culture, getting new friends,...everything becomes possible with CouchSurfing'. (Kim, Malaysia)

Questions.

1. Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points using your own words (approx. 50 words)

2. Mark the following sentences true or false (T/F) according to the text. Then write the part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer.

- a. A Couchsurfer is a traveller who arranges to stay in a hotel.
- b. Casey Fenton hardly got replies to his e-mails asking for somewhere to sleep.
- c. The website says CouchSurfing focuses on cross-cultural sharing.
- d. The website doesn't have any means to make CouchSurfing safe.

3. Find words and phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here.

- a. when you give something to someone and they give you something else
- b. made a new product available
- c. a text that explains the purpose of an organization
- d. someone who has guests

4. Pronunciation.

- a. In which of the following words are the letters "th" pronounced /θ/? : although – thought – these – mother
- b. In which of the following words the -ed ending is pronounced differently? emailed- planned- worked – lived
- c. Find two words in the text that include the sound /aɪ/. Underline the sound.
- d. Which is the odd one out? around – how – own – town

5. Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning. Use the word in brackets and/or the expression given, making the necessary changes.

- a. Although it was raining heavily, we went for a long walk. **Despite**
- b. Early travellers invented boats. Cross-continental travel became possible. **If early**.....
- c. They succeeded in breaking the record. (**MANAGE**)

6. Would you like to be a CouchSurfer? Why? Why not?