

SZABÓ PÉTER

SzövegKönyv

ANGOL szövegértési feladatok



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16 HOME EXCHANGE

BEFORE YOU READ

1 Describe your home by answering some of the questions below.

- Do you live in a house or a flat?
- How long have you been living there?
- If you live in a flat, which floor is it on?
- If you live in a house, do you have a garden or yard?
- Do you own your house / flat or do you rent it?
- Do you have a garage of your own or a personal parking space?
- Would you describe your house / flat as dark or light?
- Do you live in a noisy or quiet neighbourhood?
- Do you live far from the town centre?
- Do you have a view of a park or a busy street?
- How many rooms do you have?
- Do you like living in your house / flat? Why?

2 You need to make several arrangements before going on holiday. Tick the activities that you always do. Add some more ideas.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Plan your route from home to the airport. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Book accommodation and print out the confirmation of your booking. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Put all tickets and passports safely in a travel belt or bag. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Check the weather: the weather forecast should guide your packing strategy. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Leave your house keys and your contact details abroad with a trusted friend or relative. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Place "stop" orders on any regularly occurring deliveries or services. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Check your flight for delays. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Check public transit maps on the web and plan your itinerary. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Securely lock all doors and windows. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Call your bank or credit card company and let them know about your travel plans. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Check that all electrical appliances are switched off and unplugged. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do a web search of your hobbies at your destination. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Check if you need a visa for the country you are travelling to. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

HOME EXCHANGE

Home exchange, also known as house swapping, is an alternative means of travel accommodation, when two families agree to swap their homes for a set period of time, with no monetary exchange taking place. Home exchanging is fundamentally a trust-based arrangement and as such, tends to attract trustworthy, decent, honest people.

How it works

1. List your home

First become a member of a home exchange club. Create your home exchange listing. Add information on your home and area, where and when you want to go and details of your family so that other members can see whether your home may be suitable. Describe your home honestly in your listing and in all correspondence. You want your exchange partners to be pleasantly surprised when they arrive, not disappointed. Never hide the existence of pets.

2. Search for exchanges

Find homes that match your travel plans and exchange partners who share your interests, by using advanced search criteria online. Make contact with other members. Send and receive home exchange offers using the secure messaging system of the home exchange club – without revealing your personal email address.

3. Finalise the exchange

Discuss dates and details with your exchange partner. When ready, use the online Exchange Agreement Form to confirm your exchange. Compile a clear, useful “Guide to Your Home and Surroundings”. This should include local tourist information, instructions for household and electrical appliances, pet and plant care, details of rubbish collection, etc. Phone numbers of a recommended doctor, dentist, babysitter, good restaurants, and helpful friends are always welcome, too.

4. Get ready and go!

No need to repaint the house, but leave your home clean. Make sure that floors are cleaned, refrigerator emptied, oven and hob grease-free, bath and shower free of mould and grime, windows see-through, and surfaces dust-free. Leave at least two sets of clean sheets per bed and two sets of towels per person. It has become a home exchange tradition to leave a small gift of welcome: a bottle of wine or champagne, a local speciality. Always a special surprise. Close the door, turn the key, and go off on holiday knowing that your home is in the good hands of another home exchange member.

DEVELOP YOUR READING SKILLS

1 Skim the whole text and choose which of these descriptions a), b) or c) best summarises what the text is about.

- a) Home exchange is becoming a more and more popular means of travel accommodation all over the world.
- b) If you follow these simple guidelines, you will learn how to set up a home exchange successfully.
- c) Of course, not everything about a home exchange works out perfectly, but that's to be expected when you swap houses with a complete stranger.

2 Read the text again and put the events in the correct order.

- Get in touch with other members by using a secure messaging system.
- Sign a digital exchange arrangement.
- Prepare your home for the exchange.
- Use advanced search features and find your match.
- Now the fun starts – get ready for your exchange vacation!
- Get to know your partner and arrange an exchange.
- Become a member in a home exchange club or start a free trial on a home exchange website.
- Write a good and honest description of your home.

3 The lines have been mixed up: Write down the original instructions.

- a) Become information
- b) Create homes
- c) Add home exchange offers
- d) Describe the online Exchange Agreement Form
- e) Find your exchange
- f) Make contact a special welcome gift
- g) Send and receive a member
- h) Discuss with other members
- i) Use dates and details
- j) Confirm your home
- k) Compile your listing
- l) Leave a clear and useful guide

VOCABULARY AND USE OF ENGLISH

1 Find the correct word or expression for...

- a) a piece of cloth that you use for drying your skin
- b) the letters that someone sends and receives
- c) unhappy because something you hoped for has not happened
.....
- d) someone who takes care of children while their parents are away
.....
- e) electrical kitchen equipment used for keeping food and drink cool
.....

2 Match the collocations.

- a) period place
- b) take ready
- c) become speciality
- d) pleasantly of time
- e) make a member
- f) electrical surprised
- g) rubbish contact
- h) local collection
- i) get appliances

3 Put the holiday words and expressions into the correct place.

starter • air conditioning • explore • flight number • palace • menu • delay • fountain • get lost • room service • cathedral • buy souvenirs • market • board the plane • parking • statue • destination • boarding card • minibar • castle • main course • church • go sightseeing • check-in desk • wine list • personal safe • have a look around • pay excess baggage • internet access • three-course meal • late check-in • dessert • gate • departures board • reservation • excursion • half-board • tip • double room • departure lounge

SIGHTS	TOURIST ACTIVITIES	ACCOMMODATION, HOTEL FACILITIES	RESTAURANTS	AIR TRAVEL

OVER TO YOU

1 Read the arguments and take one side. Add your own ideas.

Benefits of Home Swapping

"Think of the savings! No need to pay for lodging every night. Many exchangers offer to exchange automobiles as well, so you can save the rental car expense."

"You can pack lighter when exchanging homes. Exchangers offer the use of umbrellas, warm jackets, picnic baskets, and their computers."

"With home exchange, your home is not vacant, and our exchangers have all been willing to water our plants, take in the mail, and feed our cats."

"We've met wonderful people and forged lasting friendships. There's no better way to see the world – and live like a local – than home exchange!"

Downsides of Home Swapping

"I'm uncomfortable with the idea of a complete stranger staying in my home, even if I talk to them several times over the phone and through email."

"We are concerned about our valuables and that our property or items might be damaged by strangers."

"It's a huge time investment! Home exchanges take time to set up."

"You can't just book your desired dates and destination. Also, you need to get to know the people you'll be exchanging with, and vice versa."

"Home swapping is not for me: I hate the idea of having to cook and clean on my vacation."

2 You want to set up a home exchange. Describe to a potential exchange partner your home, your neighbourhood, transportation, community facilities and attractions – anything you can think of to make a swap desirable.

Example:

Our newly renovated flat is situated in the centre of Budapest, close to the Gellert Thermal Baths. (Gellért Thermal Baths won the "Nicest Thermal Bath of the World" title from journal *El Economista*.) We moved here at the end of 2013 after a big refurbishment. The flat has two bedrooms (one for me and my wife, and one for our 6-year-old son), a big living room and a room which we sometimes use as a dining room, so it is suitable for 4-6 persons. The flat is on the 4th floor (the building has an elevator) and has a good-sized balcony. Budapest is the capital of Hungary and it has a stunning location because it is situated on the River Danube. We live in the heart of the city (kind of a university district) so we have excellent public transport. Most sights are within walking distance!

GLOSSARY AND LANGUAGE BANK

accommodation	szállás
agreement	megegyezés, egyezség
arrangement	megállapodás
care	gondozás
correspondence	levelezés
decent	rendes, tisztességes
detail	részlet
disappointed	csalódott
dust	por
existence	lét, létezés
fundamentally	alapvetően
grease	zsír
grime	mocskok, piszok
hob	tűzhely lap
honest	őszinte
household appliance	háztartási készülék
local speciality	helyi specialitás
means	eszköz
monetary	pénzügyi
mould	penészfolt
oven	sütő
pleasantly surprised	kellemesen meglepődött
rubbish collection	szemétgyűjtés
search criteria	keresési feltételek
secure	biztonságos
see-through	átlátszó
suitable	megfelelő, alkalmas
surface	felület
to confirm	megerősíteni
to empty	kiüríteni
to finalise	véglegesíteni
to hide	elrejtteni
to repaint	újrafesteni
to reveal	felfedni, feltárni
to swap	elcserélni
to take place	megtörténni, lezajlani
towel	törülköző
trust-based	bizalmon alapuló
trustworthy	megbízható, becsületes

I CAN TALK ABOUT MY HOME

We live in a quiet residential area **on the outskirts of the city**.

I live in a one bedroom studio apartment in Seattle with my boyfriend.

We rent a flat on the tenth floor of a block of flats.

My apartment is very **conveniently located**: near the centre, but in a quiet side street.

It has lovely views from the windows.

It's a bright first floor studio flat **in very good condition**. **It comprises** a spacious living room-bedroom, a modern kitchen and a bathroom with shower.

I live in a beautiful roomy house, **situated in a** quiet tree lined road. The property has been recently renovated and includes a modern fitted kitchen.

We live in a two-bedroom terraced house in Chelsea.

All I can afford is a little studio flat, but it's mine and I like to live here.

My parents own a cottage. It's a charming house and has lots of character, but like many old buildings, it's quite dark and difficult to heat.

In the living room, we have a built-in wardrobe, a glass-fronted bookcase, a fireplace, and some upholstered chairs.

Our bedroom has an en suite bathroom, that is, a bathroom connected to the bedroom.

Downstairs, there is a living room, a dining room, a study and a spare room for guests.

We've got a lovely big kitchen with a fridge and freezer, a cooker with two ovens and a dishwasher. Next to it, there's a small utility room where we keep the washing machine.