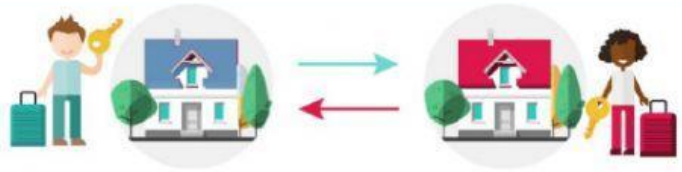


READING

Home exchange



Did you ever see the movie *The Holiday*? In it, Cameron Diaz is fed up with her busy Los Angeles life and decides to exchange her mansion with an anonymous stranger. The stranger, Kate Winslet, lives in a tidy cottage in England and the two spend the Christmas holiday in each other's homes. They both fall in love and get to experience life in a foreign country as a local instead of a tourist.

This charming movie exposed a lot of people to the idea of house swapping, where you exchange homes for a week or two with someone else. Instead of staying in an anonymous hotel, you stay in their home and they stay in yours. Millions of people swap homes every year all over the world. And for those who have to be careful with money, swapping homes is one of the best ways to experience a new place and save money on your vacation at the same time.

Home swaps usually occur simultaneously, staying in each other's home during the same week. However, if you'll be away on business or on a separate vacation while they wish to visit, you can still swap out your home. In this case, you simply arrange to stay at their home at a later date.

Home swapping definitely has many benefits, and one of the most important ones is that you don't pay anything for your lodging. The only cost associated with this practice is the membership fee for the house swapping website (which is essential to find someone to swap with). These fees are usually \$100 or more per year, but since the average price for one night in a hotel often exceeds \$100, most people find this to be a bargain.

Another travel expense that can get prohibitive is eating out. But since you'll have a full kitchen to cook in, you won't need to eat three meals "out" every day. Plus, you'll get to experience local grocery shopping, which can be quite different in other countries. Furthermore, if you and your host agree to swap cars, you'll eliminate car rental costs as well.

Staying in someone's home rather than a hotel is often more comfortable: there are usually movies to watch, books to read, and perhaps even toys for your kids to play with. Some homes have a pool or fitness room as well.

Also, when you swap, you're in an actual home and not an impersonal hotel room. In addition, you're also more likely to get a better sense of the area's culture because you're in a neighborhood rather than a hotel. Living amidst "the locals" can add a depth of perspective to your trip that you would otherwise miss out on in a hotel or tourist-centric area.

Home exchange is especially easy if you have a second home, a vacation home. Because you're not living there all year round, you don't have to try as hard to coordinate schedules. You can make your home available to a wider variety of exchangers with different travel needs.

Another interesting aspect is that home exchanges don't always involve homes: you can also stay in someone's yacht, or even their caravan so you can tour an area. You can often find unique lodging options that are unavailable, or quite expensive, via other means.

Home exchanges take time to arrange. In fact, most sites recommend starting your search at least four to six months before you plan to go on vacation, and you'll also want to be flexible on the exact location and dates.

1. Exchanging homes on vacation is ...

- a. an expensive way to discover new places.
- b. often done for a maximum of two weeks.
- c. only common in certain countries.

2. Most people exchange houses with others ...

- a. at the same time.
- b. when they are on business.
- c. to go on a separate vacation.

3. To do home swapping you ...

- a. don't pay anything at all.
- b. pay the hotel fees for the first night.
- c. pay the internet site used to find the house.

4. When you travel this way you ...

- a. can eat in or out.
- b. have to eat out every day.
- c. have to cook every day.

5. You can save money on your vacation if you ...

- a. agree to use each other's cars.
- b. buy local food.
- c. watch movies at home.

6. Staying in someone's house is more than a hotel room.

- a. luxurious
- b. personal
- c. relaxing

7. When you do a house exchange you normally stay in....

- a. the hotel district.
- b. the tourist town centre.
- c. a residential area.

8. It is more simple to organise a home exchange if you have...

- a. a holiday home.
- b. a tight schedule.
- c. specific travel needs.

9. You can only do a home exchange if ...

- a. you have a vacation home.
- b. you have a yacht or a caravan.
- c. you have good accommodation to offer.

10. When you travel with a home exchange you have to ...

- a. start looking for properties at least a year before you go.
- b. be ready to change the destination and time of travelling.
- c. organise it in the same way as a traditional holiday.

Home
Sweet
Home
Exchange





How to fight cyberbullying

SAY
NO TO
BULLYING

A cyberbully seeks power and control through intimidation. The best way to fight a cyberbully is to not give them the power - just ignore them. If you have siblings, I am sure you have heard your parents

1) This is the same technique that is best used with a cyberbully. There are also some effective new online tools to help you make sure no cyberbullies ever reach you or your family.

If you receive a hurtful message we recommend 2) (it's important to stop the urge to respond), but also blocking the user from your computer, phone or other technological device. Sometimes it takes a long time for Internet Service Providers (ISPs), websites and mobile service providers to take action, but do 3) , eventually they can help stop the cyberbully from going further.

And if you must, sometimes it is best to delete your account and start over again only passing out your new contact information 4)

Also, if you find information online about you or directed at you that you would like to remove, but you cannot find the person to contact, you may want to try to contact the webmaster. You can do this by

5) You may even want to "google" yourself from time to time to see if there is any information you would like to remove.

One of the best things to keep in mind if you want to fight cyberbullying is DO NOT answer a hurtful message with another hurtful message made in a hurry. It is best to stop your emotions from getting the better of you: 6)

Too often emotions are at their peak when you reply to an offensive message and this mix of internet and emotions can be dangerous. Step away from the computer and try engaging in another activity to get your mind on something else - go get 7)

Calm yourself down and do not turn into a cyberbully yourself. Think about it: you are better than that!

Another way to fight cyberbullying is to report the offender to your internet server, the website that you are using, or your mobile phone provider to stop them from attacking others. It will also help to tell a parent, friend or 8) Ask if your school has any support system where you can report cyberbullying anonymously.

Unfortunately, many children are afraid to report incidents of cyberbullying to their parents out of fear that they will either overreact (they may contact the bully's parents, contact the school) or remove their internet or mobile phone privileges. It is very important for parents to take these complaints seriously.

9) parents stay in control and they don't overreact. Children fear that these reactions will make the problem worse.

Another important way to fight cyberbullying is by doing something when you see others being hurt and harassed by someone, whether it is online or offline. Do NOT 10) Tell someone (a parent or teacher) about it. Or search for support groups within school where you can anonymously tip off the offender.

A. the best ways to fight cyberbullying

B. teacher about the incident

C. stand silently watching

D. not be discouraged

E. sending an email to webmaster@[the Web site name/URL]

F. tell you to ignore your sister or your brother

G. to those you absolutely trust

H. take a break and cool down

I. gone against the bully

J. a snack, listen to some music, take a walk

K. however, it is equally important that

L. not only ignoring the message



LISTENING

You will hear an interview to a famous dancer, Bruno Tonloll about his life and early days. Select the correct answer.

1. **During his childhood, Bruno lived at his ...**
 - a. parents' house.
 - b. grandparents' house.
 - c. uncle's house.
2. **Bruno's mother used to work ...**
 - a) helping his grandmother in the kitchen.
 - b) helping his uncle renovate cars.
 - c) sewing for a clothes factory.
3. **Bruno's father worked at _____ during the day.**
 - a) a garage
 - b) a second-hand car shop
 - c) a bus company
4. **Bruno and his father shared a love for ...**
 - a) cars.
 - b) dancing.
 - c) the cinema.
5. **At weekends, Bruno used to ...**
 - a) watch classic musical films at the town cinema.
 - b) dance on his mother's feet on Sunday dancing sessions.
 - c) go to dancing lessons with his parents.
6. **Bruno's father wanted him to be ...**
 - a) a singer.
 - b) a painter.
 - c) an accountant.
7. **He solved his social problems at school by ...**
 - a) using his sense of humour.
 - b) answering back his bullying school mates.
 - c) talking to his family.
8. **For Bruno, home is where ...**
 - a) you really want to live.
 - b) you and your parents were born.
 - c) you can fully live your life.



You will hear some information about the 9 SAFEST COUNTRIES in the world. Match each sentence to the correct country. You have to match TEN sentences only (there is ONE sentence which does not apply to any of the countries).

A. SINGAPORE	D. SWITZERLAND	G. FINLAND
B. DENMARK	E. CANADA	H. NORWAY
C. NEW ZEALAND	F. AUSTRIA	I. ICELAND

0	It is considered the least corrupt country in the world.	B
1	All its citizens have their own house in this country.	
2	If you want to do business, this country is the easiest place to do it.	
3	It is a very rich country thanks to its natural resources.	
4	It is well-known for being a clean and well-preserved country.	
5	It is well-known for promoting cultural integration among its citizens.	
6	It offers great landscapes to film natural locations.	
7	It was one of the last countries to develop its industry.	
8	Most of its 8 million people live in its valleys.	
9	It is well-known for not taking part in war conflicts	
10	The country is almost completely powered by renewable energy.	
11	This country has one of the highest tax rates in the world.	

