Read the text. Then complete the tasks below and on page 39.

The step-on tour guides

For many young people, being a tour guide seems to be the perfect job, almost like a paid holiday with no expenses. In reality, of course, it can be tiring and stressful having to solve all the problems that arise and deal with the constant demands of the people who have paid money for your services.

And it seems that tourists are becoming more demanding, partly due to the internet. They already know a lot of the basic information that guides used to tell them. What they want is something different and special. It's no longer enough to take them round the famous buildings, monuments and tourist sites and tell them a few dates and interesting stories. In fact, tourists nowadays don't like to be labelled as tourists at all. Today's well-informed 'traveller' prefers culture, getting under the surface of things, seeing something of the real life of the place they're visiting.

This need has led to an increase in the popularity of 'step-on guides'. These are people who live in the area and have local knowledge. They take over the tour temporarily and provide the kind of information that the usual tour guide can't offer. 'It's a great way to meet people and give them an introduction to your town or city,' says Moustafa, a step-on guide in Istanbul, Turkey.

Being a successful step-on guide depends on getting to know what travellers really want. This is something that Moustafa has picked up from experience: 'I treat my customers more like students than tourists. But I never lecture them. I don't want them just to take in whatever I say. I think they'd rather interact with places and people.'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer these questions:

1. **Why is this a perfect job for many people**

2. **How can it be not a good job?**

3. **Why are tourists tiring now?**

4. **What do tourists ask for now?**

5. **What do tourists hate?**

6. **What name do they now prefer?**

7. **What made "step-on guides" popular?**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8. What do step-on guides do?

9. How can step-on guides become successful?

Complete the sentences with missing information from the text:

1. Due to the internet, tourists are getting.....
2. Tourists prefer culture to.....
3. Step- on guides are.....
4. Mustafa does not lecture his customers because.....

Are these sentences true or false:

1. Young people do not like to work as tourist guides.
2. Tourists of today are becoming more tiring.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Find words from the text that mean:

1. Talk like a teacher:…….
2. Extra things you have to pay for:……
3. Because of:…….
4. Have a two-way relationship with:……
5. Learn without having any lessons:……
6. things that people want from someone:……

Use words from the above exercise to complete the sentences:

1. No body taught me how to swim. I just……..it…….. .
2. He did not go to work today…… his illness.
3. I don't like it when my family try to …… .
4. Travel ……are increasing as a result of the rise in oil prices.
5. My school has so many …….. These days.

What does each pronoun refer to?

It (line 2): they (line 4):

these (line 10): them(line 12):

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. What is echo-tourism?

1 Read the introduction to an article about 'eco-tourism'. Then answer the question below.

2. How can we avoid harming the environment?

A As more and more people realise the negative impact that their holidays can have on the countries they visit, the popularity of 'eco-tourism' is increasing. The basic idea is that tour organisers and travellers try to make sure that their activities help the environment and local communities rather than harming them. There are many different ways of doing this, but all of them are likely to interest people who prefer learning to sightseeing and would rather interact with local people and nature than sit on a beach. Here, for example, are two of the best 'eco-tours' we have found …

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Whale-watching in the Mediterranean

This is a chance to take part in research into whales while sailing around the north-west coast of Italy. You will spend ten days living and sleeping on the boat as part of the crew, watching for whales and keeping records of their movements and habits to get a clear picture of the impact of human activities. You don't need previous sailing experience, though, as you will receive full basic training. The price is between £1,100 and £1,800, including all meals and travel except the air fare to Genoa, where the boat sails from.

Where you go: _____

What you can do there: _____

Where you stay: _____

How long you are there: _____

How much it costs: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS