Semester I

Reading

Variant 2

1.Read the article about exchanging homes and for questions 1–6 circle the correct answer A–D.

DISCOVER THE WORLD IN AN AUTHENTIC WAY

Exchanging homes is a popular way of having a different kind of holiday. Jane and David Henderson and their two children, aged twelve and fourteen, recently did exactly that. They exchanged their comfortable three-bedroom house in a quiet, very green London district for a flat in Florida.

We asked them if they would recommend the experience.

'Yes, most certainly,' David told us. 'It's a marvellous opportunity to enjoy a completely different lifestyle. The flat was huge and had all the modern equipment that makes life easier, but that wasn't what we liked most. It was the place itself that was incredible, situated on a piece of land with the sea on two sides. We even had a private beach; there was white sand and sunshine. It was beautiful.'

'We both have jobs which involve a lot of responsibility,' continued Jane. 'David works with computers and I'm a journalist, and of course our spare time is spent with our children.

In Florida, they entertained themselves. So, to do nothing but sunbathe, swim and shop was a new experience for us. And, because we had no hotel bills to pay, it was much cheaper and we could afford to stay for six weeks – it was wonderful!'

And what about the children? What did they do? Did they enjoy themselves?

'Yes,' said David. 'They had an absolutely amazing time. You see, when you live in somebody else's home, you don't just stay with the tourists and go on sightseeing trips, you meet the local people. Our children met the local children and explored all the best places in the area.'

But were there any problems when they returned to their home in England?

'None at all,' said Jane. 'The family from Florida left it clean and tidy. All our plants had enough water and looked happy, and they'd left us some beautiful flowers as a thank you. We never met them, but we talked a lot on the phone and they seem like nice people. We still write to them.'

So, will the Henderson family exchange their home again next year?

'Oh, yes!' David told us. 'Maybe we'll exchange it for a house somewhere in a far-away part of the countryside. That would be a completely different lifestyle again.'

1. The text is about people who …

A moved to Florida.

B bought a holiday in Florida.

C sold their comfortable house.

D let someone else live in their house.

2. The Hendersons' own home is …

A near a forest.

B close to the sea.

C outside London.

D with parks and gardens.

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3. What the family particularly liked about their holiday was …

A the easy life.
C the incredible location.
B the size of the flat.
D the modern equipment.

4. Why did Jane and David enjoy the holiday so much?

A They saved some money.
C They spent a lot of time together.
B They spent all day on the beach.
D They spent the time with their children.

5. The children enjoyed the holiday because they …

A liked the new home.
C explored the places with tourists.
B spent time with local kids.
D weren't interested in seeing the sights.

6. The Hendersons …

A found their flat clean and tidy.
C want to exchange homes with the same family again.
B made friends with the family from Florida.
D found their flowers had died when they returned.

2. Read the text and decide if the statements 1–5 are true (T) or false (F).

Similarities attract

'Similarities attract.' This phrase comes to mind as I look around at my guests. I can't believe how many differences there are between the people I know. Let's take the example of my manager. He is so arrogant that people in the office prefer to keep out of his way. His poor secretary speaks very timidly when he's around, as if she were very shy. But it's surprising how she comes alive the minute he leaves the room. You can see her happiness suddenly grow! My cousin Suzie, on the other hand, is the sweetest and most kind-hearted person I have ever known. The problem is that when she starts talking, she simply can't stop. Still, there are far worse habits than being talkative.

And finally, there is Ben. I love him quite a bit, but I'm definitely getting annoyed with his mania for computer games. Sometimes I'm not even sure if he knows what's real and what's just fantasy. But I guess it would be boring if everyone was the same.

1 The writer doesn't believe people are very different. ___
2 The writer's colleagues prefer to avoid their manager. ___
3 His secretary's behaviour changes when he is around. ___
4 Normally, the secretary is a lively and happy person. ___
5 The computer games sometimes annoy Ben. ___
6 Ben loves fantasy games. ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS