COUCH SURFING

a) Read the definition for *couch* and look at the CouchSurfing website.

couch /kaotʃ/ *noun* 1 a long comfortable seat for two or more people to sit on (= a sofa) 2 the bed in a doctor's room for a patient to lie on

Basic information: Male, 22. DJ. Has couch.
Languages: French, English
Description: I love travelling.

Host: **Artur Dorner**
Location: Vienna, Austria
Basic information: Male, 27. PhD student. Has couch.
Languages: German, English
Description: I love meeting people and showing them my wonderful city. Better to come at weekends when I have more time!

Host: **Judit Hetzke**
Location: Budapest, Hungary

b) Listen to part of a radio travel programme. How does CouchSurfing work?

c) Now listen to the speaker give more details about CouchSurfing. Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE?

1- CouchSurfers usually pay their host a little money.

2- You need to create a profile on the website.

3- When you find a person with a bed, you call them to agree the days you want to stay.

4- You have to offer other people a bed in your house or flat.

5- CouchSurfing is safe because you can read what other travellers say about the host.

6- The host always shows their guests their city.

7- You can CouchSurf all over the world.

e) A British newspaper asked their travel journalist to try CouchSurfing. Listen and complete the gaps using the correct form of *BE GOING TO* and the verb in brackets.

Presenter: Tell me about your plans, Philip.

Journalist: I _____ (TRAVEL) round Europe – to Paris, Vienna, and Budapest.

P: How long _____ you _____ (STAY) in each city?

J: Just one night in each place.

P: Who _____ you _____ (STAY) with?

J: In Paris, I'm going to stay with a guy called Théo, in Vienna with a guy called Artur, and in Budapest with a woman called Judit.

P: _____ you _____ (**SLEEP**) on a couch?

J: Only in Vienna, luckily. In the other places I have a bed.

P: How _____ you _____ (**TRAVEL**)?

J: I _____ (**TRAVEL**) by train.

P: What _____ you _____ (**DO**) in each place?

J: I don't just want to see the typical tourist sights. I hope I _____ (**DO**) things that aren't in a guide book.

P: Well, have a good trip and good luck!

f) Listen to four speakers talking about their experience of CouchSurfing. How many people did not enjoy the experience?

g) Listen again and match the speakers to the sentences A-D.

SPEAKER 1

SPEAKER 2

SPEAKER 3

SPEAKER 4

a) CouchSurfing gave me the chance to make friends.

b) CouchSurfing helped me with my work.

c) My host was also my tourist guide to the city.

d) My second experience of CouchSurfing was better than the first.