

Read the email and answer the questions.

To: Ellie Crest

Subject: Surfing Holiday

Hi Ellie,

I'm so pleased you can come surfing in August! Paul, Rose and Kevin are coming too, so there will be five of us. We've decided to return to New Sands, because the surfboard hire is so cheap there.

I'm starting to think about accommodation. We won't camp again after last year! I hated staying in a tent in all that rain!

Kevin wants to hire a caravan. There are some nice ones with 3 bedrooms, showers and cooking facilities. The problem is, none of the caravan parks take short bookings in the summer. The minimum stay is a week. It's a shame because there are several nice parks near the beach.

There's a youth hostel in New Sands. It's the cheapest option after camping, and there's a big kitchen and dining room where we can cook. The problem is, accommodation is in dormitories and I don't really want to sleep with strangers.

There are a few guest houses in New Sands. Some have triple rooms, so we'd only need to book two rooms. They're not expensive, but we wouldn't be able to cook there. We'd have to eat out at restaurants, or eat sandwiches for every meal! We'll have to book soon if we choose that option, because many guest houses are already full. The hotels in New Sands are far too expensive, even though I'd love to stay at the Sunrise Pavilion with its rooftop pool!

The final option is to rent a cottage. Few cottages offer mid-week breaks in summer, but I found one. It has three bedrooms – a double, a single and a twin, so two of us would have to share a bed! There's a big kitchen diner with a microwave, washing machine and dishwasher. The living room has a TV and DVD player. There's just one bathroom, but there's a separate WC. There's a nice garden too. The problem is, it's 5 miles from the beach, so we'd have to hire a car, because there aren't any buses.

Let me know which option you prefer.

Cheers,

Natalie

Questions

1. Last year the friends stayed in a _____.
A. youth hostel B. tent C. hostel D. caravan
2. Last year the friends had problems with _____.
A. the transport B. the food

C. their surf boards D. the weather

3. The friends want to stay in New Sands for _____.
A. less than one week B. fortnight
C. a week D. a week and a half

4. The problem with the caravan park is that _____.
A. there are not enough caravans to use
B. all the caravans are fully booked
C. there are not have enough beds for everyone
D. caravans are only available for full weeks

5. Natalie doesn't want to stay in the youth hostel because _____.
A. it is unaffordable
B. it does not have any self-catering facilities
C. it is too expensive
D. she doesn't want to share with people she doesn't know

6. The guest house _____.
A. is too expensive B. does not have self-catering facilities
C. does not have a restaurant D. is costly

7. The Sunrise Pavilion _____.
A. does not have a swimming pool B. is too far away
C. is fully booked D. is too expensive

8. Natalie chose this cottage because _____.
A. it is 5 miles from the beach
B. it allows people to stay for less than a week
C. everyone can sleep in a different room
D. it is cheaper than the other cottages

9. In the cottage _____.
A. the shower and toilet are in the same room
B. the cooking area and dining area are in the same room
C. the dining area and living area are in the same room
D. there is only a DVD

10. The problem with the cottage is _____.
A. its inconvenience B. its size C. its price D. its location

Read and choose

The 2009 British Homes Awards challenged the industry to design a house that can adapt to different life stages. The participants were asked to rethink the construction and design of individual homes, so that they were easily adaptable to less mobile inhabitants, and also to

create communities in which ageing occupants could continue to enjoy shared amenities. The top design also had to be attractive to its potential buyers, because the competition was put to the public vote. The winner, gaining 12,000 votes from Mail on Sunday readers, was the strikingly modern SunnySideUp, designed by Kosi Architects. Here are its three main features:

1. Upside Down House

The architects took as a starting point the accepted norm for a house – rows of houses facing onto streets crammed with cars, with living rooms on the ground floor and bedrooms above. Then they scrapped it. They ended up with the living room, dining room and kitchen on the top floor where they can benefit from the light and views and maximise energy efficiency. And they put the bedrooms on the ground floor where the garden aspect gives inhabitants increased privacy, and a cool temperature is maintained throughout the day. The two floors are linked by wide, gentle gradient stairs, which are designed to allow for a stair lift to be fitted if necessary, as owners age.

2. Concealed Parking Spaces

But the feature that, according to Warren Rosing, one of the Kosi architects responsible for the design, was particularly popular with the public, is actually the parking. In a SunnySideUp development no one has to look out onto a street full of cars, or worry about their kids being run over, because the terrace zone at the first-floor level link all the homes and is a car-free zone. Vehicles are tucked away on the lower floor, leaving safe and pleasant spaces outside the houses for people to meet, and kids to play.

A lift takes people directly from garage to living area, so that all residents, including the elderly and those with heavy shopping, can move comfortably between the floors. The natural feel of the front area is enhanced by the planters that are placed outside the kitchens at the front to encourage residents to grow vegetables and flowers where they can be seen. The idea is that not only would they look pretty, but they would be a talking point, encouraging interaction between residents on the terrace area outside.

3. Flexible Space

But it's the fact that the space is designed to adapt to the changing needs, including the fluctuating income of its owners, that makes it a thought-provoking, as well as a winning, design. The lower-floor bedrooms have separate outdoor access so they can be easily let. The idea is that owners can get some extra money to pay for their mortgages during the first years. And later in the future, those bedrooms can be used as a granny flat, or an office, and can easily be converted into a separate one-bed flat if your kids won't leave home. And if more space is required, as well as the usual loft that can be converted, there is potential for a gallery floor to be inserted in the living room.

4. Where can you get one?

At the moment the SunnySideUp house is still just a set of drawings. But Warren Rosing says, "We are hoping to have it built." The organisers are in talks with builders, but due to the economic climate it may take longer than we would like. "We're sure it will be worth the wait" they say.

Questions

1. According to the article, The British Homes Awards challenged architects to design a house _____.

Read and choose

Parents send their children to school to prepare for the time when they grow up. Children learn their native language so that they will be able to communicate fluently with other people around them. Moreover, they can preserve the valuable culture and literature of their country. They learn foreign languages in order to benefit from other country's heritage. The more foreign languages they learn, the more benefits they get. Children also learn Maths to calculate, geography to know about nature, and history to know about human beings and historical events. Nearly everything they study at school has some practical uses in their life.

Questions

1. How many school subjects are mentioned in the passage?
A. five B. four C. six D. seven

Read and choose

My name is Jane. I am 23 years old and I live in a small town called *Snow Owl*. It took its name from the fact that there are a lot of snow owls on the mountain and forest.

The Town

Snow Owl is located on the northern part of the country, established on the base of *Sky Mountain* and surrounded by the *Dark Forest*. Even though the name sounds scary, it is actually very beautiful and nice. The name comes from the appearance of the forest, where the trees are so close together the sunlight cannot come through. A wonderful river comes down from the mountain and passes through the town, splitting it into two. If you ever visit my hometown, beware of the wolves; Especially if you are in the part that is near the mountain.

For most of the year, the town is covered in snow. Not many people know about its existence and I am really thankful for that. I appreciate the fact that it is calm and quiet.

The People

People are really kind and care about each other. We always try to find ways to help each other. However, on the downside everybody knows everything about everybody and if you want to hide, it is extremely difficult.

Sights

The town itself doesn't have a lot of sights to visit. A big historic library from the 1800's, still functional, is standing in the middle of the village, next to the Town Hall. There are also two bridges that connect the town. The one on the south is the oldest and most beautiful. I sometimes go and sit by the river just to admire it.

For entertainment we have the old theatre, some coffee shops and restaurants. Younger people prefer to visit neighbouring towns and cities since it gives them more choices of entertainment.

My hometown is one of the greatest in the world and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Questions

1. Why is this hometown called in that way?
 - A. There are a lot of trees
 - B. There is nice view
 - C. There are a lot of owls living on the mountain
 - D. There are a lot of owls living on the mountain.
2. Why is the forest called Dark Forest?
 - A. There are a lot of parts of the forest that are very dark
 - B. Because the sky in this forest is dark
 - C. Because we cannot see any sunshine here
 - D. There is a story behind this name
3. What is Jane thankful for?
 - A. The living cost is reasonable
 - B. The friendliness of the locals
 - C. Not a lot of people know her town.
 - D. The beauty of the nature of her hometown
4. What is one of the disadvantages living in Snow Owl?
 - A. Far from center
 - B. That everybody knows everybody and it is no easy to have privacy.
 - C. Too many tourists
 - D. Living standard is not very high
5. What kind of entertainment is there?
 - A. There is a theatre
 - B. There are restaurants
 - C. There is a theatre, some coffee shops
 - D. There is a theatre, some coffee shops and restaurants