

Listening & reading practice

Unit 7

LISTENING

- 2   15 Listen to the interview and answer right (✓) or wrong (X).

	✓	X
1 Karen got the idea for her current job when she was working as a travel agent.		
2 Karen gives the example of people who can't see well that need help when travelling.		
3 Karen says that on her company's holidays, people can go camping if they wish.		
4 Karen's company hires people with particular skills to help the teenagers with special needs.		
5 Karen admits that her holidays can be a little more expensive than some others.		
6 Karen points out that museums are usually suitable places to take people with special needs.		
7 Karen was pleased that they managed to get one teenager, Nina, to go swimming.		



READING

3 You are going to read an article about unusual education. Read the text and choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 1 Jenna says that some school-age teenagers now
 - A get extra lessons in some subjects with their teachers after school.
 - B do all their lessons at home with their parents.
 - C have a special teacher who comes to their home to teach them.
- 2 Jenna explains that parents who take their children travelling
 - A often have to leave the family home because of their jobs.
 - B feel they want to give their children practical experience of the world.
 - C think it encourages their children to read more.
- 3 What does Jenna say about teenagers Dan and Fiona?
 - A They've stayed in lots of different accommodation around Europe.
 - B They always choose where the family visits on their travels.
 - C They help in the research to find somewhere interesting to go.
- 4 Jenna says that Dan and Fiona's parents
 - A have the skills required to teach their children.
 - B have a knowledge of similar subjects.
 - C have access to online classes if they need them.
- 5 What is Dan's opinion about the education he's getting?
 - A He's got a better understanding of things.
 - B He's learnt to remember facts better.
 - C He's studying a really wide range of subjects.
- 6 Fiona sometimes wishes that
 - A she was back at school.
 - B she could live in their house again.
 - C she could have contact with her friends.

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An unusual classroom by education correspondent Jenna Ray

Many teenagers attend schools to study subjects like Geography, Science and Maths. But for a rising number their main place of learning is at home, where their parents become their teachers.

And some families go even further and give up the family home to take their children on round-the-world trips! They feel that seeing everything for yourself is a better education than learning about it in a classroom.

One such couple are Ben and Emma Banks, with teenage children Dan and Fiona. They've travelled around Europe with their car and caravan, stopping at places of interest – and Dan and Fiona take part in the planning. The children both check out ideas from guidebooks about areas they'd like to see. But then the whole family has to agree before they set off.

Ben and Emma are both school teachers and decided to take a year off work, and take the children out of school. Ben teaches Science, so he looks after those lessons, plus the Maths and Geography. Emma teaches Art but also speaks a number of languages, so between them they can cover many different classes, and if they feel they're not skilled in something, they look it up online.

Says Dan, 'It's brilliant that we're not limited to the classroom to learn things. It's helped me to really know how things work, for example, rather than just remember facts. Everywhere we go, we find opportunities linked to various subjects, like Maths – working out average plane speeds, and so on at the airport, or Biology – studying the wildlife around a river.'

Fiona agrees with her brother, but adds, 'While I've enjoyed it all, I do sometimes miss sleeping in my own room in our house, and just going into town with friends at the weekends. We still keep in touch with friends, though, and we can watch programmes on our laptops, so it's not too bad. And I wouldn't want to swap places with my classmates for anything!'