

Practice 1: You are going to read an article in which four people talk about their lifestyles. For questions 1-10, choose from the people (A-D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person says the following?

- I have become more flexible in my work.
- I could not imagine having a different lifestyle.
- It is difficult to form and maintain close friendships.
- I do not feel as if I am working.
- My lifestyle suits my personality.
- The nature of my living space often leads to tensions.
- Some people are surprised by my choice of lifestyle.
- I try not to accumulate personal belongings.
- Travelling makes it easy to get jobs.
- Many of my ancestors had the same kind of lifestyle.

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A nomadic lifestyle

We hear from four people for whom travel is an important part of their lives.

A Dougie



I come from a long line of travelling showmen, and for most of the year we tour the country from fairground to fairground. It's been in my family's blood for nearly two centuries. There was someone on my father's side who used to train bears, and another relative who lost a finger working as the assistant to a knife-thrower.

I live in a caravan, with my wife, Janie, and the two kids, and because conditions are a bit cramped, we get on each other's nerves quite a lot. Everyone works really hard; we have to set up all our heavy equipment – usually in the middle of the night – then we're on our feet for hours on end every day for the duration of the fair. And after about a week or so we take it all down again, and move on to the next place. It's a tough life, but I don't see myself doing anything else – there's nothing else I'd rather do.

B Lucy

I've taught English in nine countries so far, including Spain, New Zealand, Jordan and now, Vietnam. Being prepared to move around means I never have problems finding work and I think it's helped me become a better teacher, too – I've learnt to adapt to different cultures and respond to the specific problems each type of learner has with the language.

The downside is that, although I've met and worked with a lot of different people, it's hard to get to know them really well, because I'm never in one country for more than a couple of years. We can, and do, keep in touch online, but that becomes fairly superficial after a while and I often lose contact with people.

C Phillip

As the financial director of a multinational company based in France, I spend my life travelling and I'm rarely in one place for more than six months. Home is England at the moment, but last month it was Milan and before that, Atlanta. I live in hotels or rent for short periods, so the sensation is one of being on permanent holiday.

Living nomadically has shaped my attitude to possessions; I do my best to keep them to the bare minimum and I don't get attached to things. If I have to buy something for a house, like furniture or

curtains, I don't mind leaving it behind when I move on. I'm not sure how long I'll be able to go on with this lifestyle; I've spent the last twelve years focusing on my career and I'd quite like to settle down soon.

D Sally

I always wanted to travel and I like being on my own, but I also enjoy towns and cities and spending time with other people. So I live and work my way around the country in a canal boat, stepping in and out of urban life as I choose. I earn my living as a one-woman theatre company, putting on shows for disabled children in the places I visit.

I'm very different from my parents; they still live in the house they bought when they got



married and we never travelled very far when I was growing up. So my old friends from childhood still think it's weird that I never spend more than a week or so in any one place. My only worry is that I'll find it hard to settle in the future. I'm a very restless type and living on a boat certainly satisfies that side of my nature.