

a Read the title and introduction to the article. Why do you think people move from the city to the country? Why do some people move back?

FROM THE CITY TO THE COUNTRY

AND SOMETIMES BACK AGAIN

Not everyone in the UK who moves to the country ends up staying there. In fact, for the first time in years, as many people are moving back to cities as are moving out to the country.



BOB AYERS

My wife, Jean, and I had lived in London for years, and we both worked right in the city centre. I was a police inspector and Jean was a police dog handler. We enjoyed our jobs, but it was pretty stressful, dealing with accidents, drugs, shootings, and so on. We'd often talked about moving out of London, and we'd had holidays in the country, so we thought we knew what living in the country would be like. Ten years ago, we bought a house in a village in Dorset, with a huge garden.

b Read about Liz Jones and Bob Ayers. Why did they both move to the country?



LIZ JONES

I was just divorced, and bored with my easy, if super-busy, London life. I wanted to live somewhere quieter, simpler, more beautiful, so I sold my house and bought a big farmhouse with 50 acres of land. I'll look after horses, I thought. I'll get a dog. I'll grow all my own food. It will be idyllic and friends will come to stay and tell me how lucky I am to live here.

c ④ 5.16

You're going to listen to Liz and Bob talking about what life was really like in the country. First, listen and complete some extracts. Who do you think stayed, and who do you think moved back to the city?

Liz

- 1 you have to drive miles to find a _____
- 2 they look at you as if you were from _____
- 3 another thing I _____ was the shooting
- 4 an amazing _____ and a pair of nesting herons
- 5 I sat outside underneath millions of _____



Bob

- 6 my wife always wanted to have a _____ or a _____
- 7 so we started with four _____
- 8 it gets incredibly _____
- 9 it can get physically very _____
- 10 there were some local _____ who didn't really like newcomers

d ④ 5.17 Now listen to them talking about their experiences. Check your answer to the question in c.

Glossary

free-range hens hens which live outdoors and can move freely
battery farms farms which keep hens indoors in small cages

e Listen again. Mark the sentences **L** (Liz), **B** (Bob), or **Bo** (Both).

Who...?

- 1 had problems with the house when he / she moved in
- 2 found prices much higher in the country
- 3 got a new job
- 4 bought more land
- 5 didn't behave like the local people expected
- 6 kept animals
- 7 had problems with the weather
- 8 gave work to the local people

f Why do you think one of them succeeded in their new life and the other failed?