

1 Read the article and tick (□) A, B, or C.

While multi-generational living is normal in many cultures, in some countries such as Britain and the US, it isn't very usual. However, homes where grandparents live with their children and their families in the same house are becoming more common in these countries because of the economic climate. Here, the members of one extended family explain how it works for them.

Georgina – Anna's grandmother

I was really pleased when my son wanted to move back home. I love spending time with Anna, my granddaughter. She's a lovely little girl at the minute – so happy and affectionate – everybody who meets her likes her. It will be wonderful to watch her grow up. I think even my unsociable husband is enjoying it! We eat together twice a week and, once a month, we have a family conference – my husband and I, my son and his wife – to discuss how things are going. We try to respect each other's space. Having my son here makes me less anxious about the future, too. At the moment, we're healthy, but in a few years we're going to need more help.

Esther – Anna's mother

Actually, it's all working out well! My mother-in-law remembers what it's like to have young children, so she's very patient with Anna and sympathetic to me when I'm tired. She often just says: 'Go and rest. I'll look after her'. I think she wants to give advice about what Anna eats and what time she goes to bed, but she usually says nothing! And occasionally I ask her opinion and find her ideas are really sensible. We are all learning to be quite honest with each other, which I think is a good thing.

Chris – Anna's grandfather

I prefer a quiet life and a tidy house, and I think young people should be independent, but my wife loves having the family here. From a selfish point of view, it's good for me too because Georgina is quite talkative and now she can chat to her daughter-in-law. I think it's a very satisfactory situation for everyone concerned!

Alan – Anna's father

I was worried because my mother can be bossy, but actually, she is being sensitive and we're lucky to have a reliable babysitter in the house! My dad is sometimes moody, but he's very affectionate with Anna. We're planning to buy our own house in a couple of years, but I think we'll stay near my parents because the relationship between Anna and her grandparents is so special.

Example: More people are living in extended families in Britain than before.

A True X B False C Doesn't say

- 1 Georgina thinks that Anna is charming.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 2 The family meets to talk about how they are getting on once a month.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 3 Esther gets very impatient with Georgina because she talks a lot.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 4 Chris is happy that Georgina has a good relationship with Esther.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 5 Chris thinks that they need a bigger house.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 6 Alan is always kind to his mother.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 7 Alan says that they are going to live with his parents for many years.
A True B False C Doesn't say

2 Write G for Georgina, E for Esther, C for Chris, and A for Alan.

Example: I was very happy about the family moving in. G

1. I'm less worried about the future now. _____
2. I'm not always very sociable. _____
3. I think it's good to be honest. _____
4. We can enjoy going out sometimes. _____
5. I'm quite bossy but I'm learning to be sensitive. _____
6. I sometimes need a little advice. _____
7. I love the relationship between the grandparents and their granddaughter. _____
8. It's good for young people to live alone. _____

3 Read the article and tick (□) A, B, or C.

In 1990, the World Bank published a report showing that there were over a billion people in the world with an income of just one dollar a day. At the start of this century, the United Nations promised to halve this figure by 2015. It has been working hard to keep this promise ever since. A series of short films was made to show what you can buy in different countries with this tiny amount. In a market in Nepal, for example, they could only buy four bananas and a loaf of bread. It was impossible to buy meat or any protein.

Other people have been horrified to learn how enormous the problem is and have taken action in different ways. A UK charity called 1 Dollar a Day has been raising money to invest in projects to improve health, clean water, education, etc. They have also given people loans to help them set up a business as it is difficult to borrow money if you have no bank account.

In the US, two school teachers decided to try spending only one dollar each day on food for a month and have now written a book about their experience. They say they were often starving, and got bored with eating the same food. And they couldn't afford to buy healthy foods such as fresh fruit and vegetables. The book describes how much rich countries waste, and how they try to save money by buying cheap food from other countries.

The World Bank has recently published another report on how the situation has changed since 1990. One dollar is worth less now, and food and fuel cost more, so it is difficult to work out exactly how much progress there has been. However, there have clearly been some amazing changes. Between 1990 and 2008, the number of people who earned salaries below the poverty line went down from 43% of the developing world to 22%, so the UN has already made a big difference. Of course there is still a huge amount to do to improve the lives of millions of people throughout the world.

Example: More than a billion people _____ one dollar a day in 1990.

A gave B earned C saved

- 1 In _____ the UN made a promise to cut the poverty figures by half.
A 2000 B 1900 C 2015
- 2 In Nepal it costs one dollar to buy _____ and some bread.
A cheese B meat C a few bananas
- 3 The charity 1 Dollar a Day lends people money to _____.
A get water B start a business C buy food
- 4 Two school teachers spent one dollar a day on _____.
A a book B vegetables C eating
- 5 They were often very _____.
A tired B hungry C healthy
- 6 It wasn't possible to buy _____ with a dollar.
A unhealthy food B anything C fruit
- 7 The book shows how much rich countries _____.
A throw away B spend each day C can afford to buy
- 8 Since 1990, the situation has changed _____.
A very little B not at all C a surprising amount
- 9 In 2008, _____ of the world's population was very poor.
A 43% B 22% C over a billion
- 10 The writer says we still need to do _____ to help people.
A a little B a lot C some things

4 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

Example: The United Nations wants to reduce the number of people who live on one dollar a day. T

- 1 In Nepal, you can buy fruit and bread for one dollar. _____
- 2 To borrow money, you have to have a business. _____
- 3 1 Dollar a Day wants to improve schools. _____
- 4 To save money, rich countries pay lower prices for food from other countries. _____
- 5 Food has been less expensive since 1990. _____

5 Read the article and tick (☐) A, B, or C.

A radical transport system

As one of the world's fastest growing economies, there has been a huge increase in China's urban population. With so many more people also able to afford cars, China's cities now have some of the biggest traffic congestion problems and produce more pollution than any other country in the world.

But one Chinese engineer, Youzhou Song, has designed an exciting solution: the straddling bus (a bus which goes across and above part of the road, like a moving bridge). This bus, which looks like a train, holds passengers on the top level while cars can continue to drive beneath. The bus, travelling at about 40 kilometres an hour, will not move as fast as a car, but it will never have the problems of traffic jams. It is as wide as two lanes of the road, but it won't slow down the traffic. It can carry 1,200 passengers, and replace up to 40 conventional buses, saving 860 tons of fuel and 2,640 tons of carbon emissions per year. As it also runs on a combination of electricity and solar power, it offers a much greener, cleaner, quieter and more economical form of transport. It is also three times faster and ten times cheaper to build than the same length of underground railway. Designed with a huge window in the top of the bus, it is also a lighter and more cheerful way to travel!

Youzhou Song has thought of everything. The bus will follow fixed routes and passengers will board the bus from stations above the ground. These stations will also recharge the bus with electricity. If you're worried about the bus crashing into other vehicles, don't be. A system of lights and alarms will stop this from happening. Youzhou Song has even designed escape doors which open at the side in an emergency, just like on an aeroplane.

If tests on the new technology go well, Song's company is talking about building over 180 kilometres of bus route. Los Angeles is also interested in this idea for solving traffic problems and, who knows? We may all be looking forward to a new era of elevated bus travel!

Example: The Chinese economy has grown _____.
A very fast ☐☐ B faster than any other country ☐ C very slowly ☐

- 1 In recent years, the traffic in China has got _____.
A faster B better C worse
- 2 An engineer has designed _____ to resolve traffic congestion.
A a train B a bus C a bridge
- 3 The new vehicle will travel more slowly than _____.
A a car B a normal bus C all other traffic
- 4 _____ will be used to run the new system.
A Only electricity B 860 tons of fuel C Electricity and solar power
- 5 The other forms of transport are not as _____ as the new system.
A noisy B quiet C expensive
- 6 The bus will get electricity from _____.
A the stations B the ground C the route
- 7 A safety system will stop accidents with _____.
A pedestrians B traffic lights C cars
- 8 There are plans to build _____ kilometres of bus route.
A more than 180 B 40 C almost 180

6 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

Example: Many more people live in cities in China than in the past. T

- 1 Traffic has got worse in China because more people have cars. _____
- 2 The new bus will carry 40 people. _____
- 3 Cars and the new bus will use different levels. _____
- 4 It is three times faster to build than the underground railway. _____
- 5 The new bus will not pollute the city as much as the old buses. _____
- 6 There will be an escape system similar to an aeroplane's. _____
- 7 China is the only country interested in this new bus system. _____