

Unusual Homes B2 Reader

TASK You are going to read a magazine article about four people who live in unusual homes. For questions 1-15, choose from the persons A - D.

A **Miriam Rees** lives in a lighthouse on the west coast of Scotland. Even though the lighthouse is still in use, it does not have a keeper because everything is automated. Rees rents the living quarters and some of the storerooms, and the only condition is that she has to allow access to maintenance engineers any time they visit. This is no hardship, since they are rarely needed.

Rees really appreciates the fact that she is living close to nature and far from city crowds. She loves watching the local wildlife, and she is an artist, so she enjoys having time and opportunities for painting. When she wants human contact, she simply logs on to the Net. She also uses this to order supplies from the nearest harbor, which she then collects using her own boat.

Rees admits that her lifestyle would not suit everybody, but claims that it is bliss for her.

B. **Larry Hale** has a boat that is both his home and workplace rolled into one. He used to be a deep-sea fisherman, but changed his lifestyle when it became clear that the fishing industry was in danger of wiping out the oceans' fish stocks.

Fishing can be a dangerous but rewarding occupation, and Hale has made a lot of money over the years. However, he is now much less wealthy, so he has sold his house and kept the boat. Hale earns some money by taking people on whale watching trips or other wildlife-related excursions. Now that everything he owns is on the boat, he has to be very tidy, otherwise there would be no room to move around in. He is used to living on his boat, he says though he does admit to finding it hard to cope with the cold on the worst winter days.

Nevertheless, he claims that the lifestyle suits him, especially the freedom to be wherever he wants.

C. **Ruth Mars** is an architect, and one of her most amazing projects at the moment is her own house. She originally wanted a chalet in the mountains, but after buying a large plot on a mountainside in a remote area.

she discovered that could not get official permission to build a house there. After a lot of discussion with the planning authorities, she got a license to build her home in a cave that was in the mountainside

Professionally, this presented Mars with an enormous challenge. She would not have agreed if she had not been permitted to include some large windows in the design, and she is proud to report that his has been achieved without the windows even being noticeable to causal visitors to the area. Mars put a great deal of thought into how she could make the best use of the space available, and is certainly pleased that the position of the house in the earth and rock means that it is easy to heat. What is more, she has won awards for her house, and is now getting some exciting new projects to work on.

D. **Karl Krenz** is a professional housesitter. He is employed by an agency that provides people to live in the holiday villas of wealthy people who do not want to leave their properties unoccupied for long periods of time. Usually, the important thing for the client is that their house looks lived in.

Obviously, the property needs to be kept clean and tidy, and sometimes the owner asks for skilled work to be done where necessary. Krenz is actually a qualified electrician who can also undertake plumbing and decorating jobs, so he is in high demand.

The downside of this job, apart from not having a home you can call your own, is that it is rare for the client to permit more than one or two people to occupy the house. However, these houses often have luxury facilities like saunas, swimming pools and games rooms. Krenz tends to view his assignments as extended holidays with responsibility included.

He takes his work very seriously. However, although it is a job that he enjoys, he is considering finding a new line of work so that he can settle down and make a permanent home for himself.

Which person...

has a different home fairly frequently?	1
may be in different places without a change of home?	2
was forced to have a certain type of home because of regulations?	3
has to let in certain people sent by the owner of the property?	4
has received official recognition or praise for their home?	5
uses their home for business purposes?	6
lives in a building designed for a specific job?	7
used to earn a lot of money?	8
really appreciates being close to nature?	9
does repair and maintenance jobs on their home as part of their work?	10
would appear to have opportunities for luxury recreational activities?	11
must find the internet a very important tool at times?	12
is qualified to design homes?	13
would appreciate better heating?	14
is thinking about changing their career?	15

