

B2-C1 Worksheet: After 12 Home Exchanges, I Would Never Book a Hotel Again - 31 March 2026

Article

A recent Guardian travel feature explores the growing appeal of home exchanges as an alternative to hotels. The article follows Rory Boland, a travel editor who says that after 12 swaps, he would never go back to ordinary accommodation if he could help it. For him, the main attraction is not only the money saved, although that is clearly part of the appeal. It is also the chance to stay in real homes, settle into neighbourhoods and feel less like a tourist passing through. In his view, a home exchange can make travel feel more personal from the start.

Boland argues that the arrangement works best when both sides go into it with trust, flexibility and realistic expectations. Rather than checking into a standard room, travellers walk into a lived-in space with books on the shelves, local recommendations on the table and a stronger sense of how daily life actually works in that place. He says the best swaps offer more than a roof over your head: they can open up a city in a way that hotels rarely do. At the same time, he admits that the idea may put some people off because it involves handing over your home to strangers.

Even so, the article suggests that home exchanges are striking a chord at a time when many travellers want to cut costs without giving up comfort. They may not suit everyone, but they raise wider questions about trust, value and what people really want from a holiday. For some, luxury means room service and privacy. For others, it may simply mean staying somewhere that feels genuine, unusual or unexpectedly welcoming.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. The writer says cost is the only reason people choose home exchanges.
2. Boland believes home exchanges can make travel feel more personal.
3. The article suggests successful swaps depend partly on trust.
4. Hotels always give a stronger sense of local daily life than home exchanges.
5. Some travellers may feel uncomfortable letting strangers stay in their home.
6. The article presents home exchanges as suitable for absolutely everyone.
7. The final paragraph contrasts different ideas of luxury.
8. The article implies that unusual accommodation can sometimes feel more rewarding than standard options.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. go back to	A. to become comfortable in a new place
2. help it	B. to reduce spending
3. settle into	C. to make someone feel less interested in something
4. pass through	D. to be able to avoid doing something
5. go into	E. to feel familiar or emotionally effective
6. put off	F. to enter a situation with a particular attitude
7. hand over	G. to be right or appropriate for someone
8. strike a chord	H. to return to something
9. cut costs	I. to give control or possession of something to another person
10. suit	J. to stay somewhere only briefly on the way to somewhere else

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. alternative	A. real and authentic
2. appeal	B. ability to adapt easily
3. flexibility	C. local area where people live
4. realistic	D. freedom from being watched or disturbed
5. neighbourhood	E. a place to stay
6. arrangement	F. another option instead of the usual one
7. privacy	G. an agreed system or plan
8. genuine	H. attractive quality
9. rewarding	I. practical and sensible
10. accommodation	J. worthwhile and satisfying

Use the new language

Please choose 5 words or phrases and make your own sentence using the new word or phrase.

Discussion Questions

Student A

1. Would you ever try a home exchange instead of a hotel? Why or why not?
2. What kind of accommodation usually suits you best when you travel?
3. What is the most unusual place you have ever stayed?
4. Is staying in a real neighbourhood more appealing than staying in a tourist area?
5. Have you ever stayed somewhere that felt especially genuine or memorable?
6. What kind of place would you love to stay in one day?
7. Do you prefer privacy on holiday, or do you enjoy a more local and social experience?
8. What small details help you settle into a new place quickly?

Student B

1. Does home exchange sound like smart travel or unnecessary risk?
2. Why do some people trust strangers more easily than others?
3. How much should travellers cut costs, and where should they still spend money?
4. Can home exchanges really reduce the distance between tourists and local life?
5. What does luxury mean now: comfort, privacy, convenience, or something more personal?
6. Are hotels becoming less interesting as travellers look for more authentic experiences?
7. Should platforms do more to protect people who hand over their homes?
8. How might travel habits change if people become more careful with money in the future?

Answer Key

True/False: 1=F, 2=T, 3=T, 4=F, 5=T, 6=F, 7=T, 8=T

Phrase Match: 1=H, 2=D, 3=A, 4=J, 5=F, 6=C, 7=I, 8=E, 9=B, 10=G

Synonym Match: 1=F, 2=H, 3=B, 4=I, 5=C, 6=G, 7=D, 8=A, 9=J, 10=E

Example sentences with the phrases

1. After working abroad for two years, she did not want to go back to office life.
2. He laughed and said he could not help it if he was curious.
3. It took me a few days to settle into the rhythm of the city.
4. We only passed through Milan, so we did not see very much.
5. You need to go into the interview with confidence.
6. The cold weather put a lot of people off the camping trip.
7. They were nervous about handing over the keys to their flat.
8. Her story struck a chord with anyone who has moved abroad.
9. We cooked at home most evenings to cut costs.
10. This kind of quiet holiday would really suit me.