

<b>NAME</b>	
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## **LISTENING 1**

You will hear four different speakers. Choose the answer (**A**, **B** or **C**) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each speaker.

### **Speaker 1**

- 1** How did the speaker feel during the move?  
**A** He felt it might be impossible to downsize.  
**B** He found the experience very exciting.  
**C** He was relieved to get rid of so many things.
- 2** How does he feel about his new flat?  
**A** He hates the uncluttered space.  
**B** It can seem very enclosed and cramped.  
**C** He enjoys spending time in it.
- 3** How did the speaker feel about her dream home?  
**A** She had nightmarish dreams about it.  
**B** She was horrified by the size.  
**C** It made her feel nervous at times.
- 4** What is the best thing about the house for the speaker?  
**A** being able to accommodate some heirlooms  
**B** being able to get rid of some of the larger furniture she owned  
**C** having the room to store away larger possessions

### **Speaker 3**

- 5** What is the speaker's opinion about city centre living?  
**A** It can be unexpectedly quiet.  
**B** He loves the hustle and bustle.  
**C** He can't wait to escape from it.
- 6** What does he say about his partner?  
**A** She feels trapped by the proximity of other buildings.  
**B** She misses not having an outside space.  
**C** She finds city living far too expensive.
- 7** What does the speaker say about her home?  
**A** It has very limited space.  
**B** She spends a lot of time in the kitchen.  
**C** It cost more than she planned.
- 8** What does she say about the local cafés?  
**A** There are very few good ones.  
**B** There are too many of them.  
**C** It's a good place to meet neighbours.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.

## **LISTENING 2**

You will hear Tim Cole talking about guidebooks. Choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear.

**1** Once, when Tim used a guidebook in Australia,

- A** he found the best budget hotel ever.
- B** it took him ages to find the place he was looking for.
- C** he ended up at an unexpected destination.

**2** Tim believes the problem with guidebooks is that

- A** some of them are very poorly researched.
- B** many things have changed by the time you read the book.
- C** they are only regularly updated.

**3** The thing Tim particularly dislikes about guidebooks is

- A** the recommendations about where to eat.
- B** that they have too much information about nightlife.
- C** the limited amount of information about history and culture.

**4** Other things which should be included in guidebooks are

- A** clear and detailed maps of the area.
- B** as much information as possible about an area.
- C** good pictures of well-known tourist sites.

**5** What is Tim's view on digital guidebooks?

- A** They can be problematic when downloading.
- B** He can't find what he wants as easily as he can in a traditional guidebook.
- C** He likes the fact that they're tailored to your individual requirements.

**6** What did Tim like about Twitter tourism?

- A** It allowed him to meet more local people than tourists.
- B** The advice from other travellers was extremely helpful.
- C** He discovered some unusual things to do.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

## KEY

1 A 2 B 3 C 4 A 5 B 6 B 7 A 8 C

### Narrator: One.

**Speaker 1:** When I was in the process of moving, I began to wonder if it was really feasible to live in such a small space. I mean, I've always had lots of stuff, so whittling it down has been a pretty daunting task. I'm still working on it, actually. It's hard to part with some things but the payoff is that there's less and less clutter and a lot less dusting and tidying to do than in my old flat. I spend more time outside, of course, because you can feel pretty hemmed in in such a small space and that can be too much at times. I was stuck inside for a couple of days last week in all that heavy rain and I really did begin to feel that I was going to go crazy.

### Narrator: 2

**Speaker 2:** This was to be our dream home but in some ways it's turned out to be a complete nightmare. I'd always lived in flats where I could pretty much see into every room, so I had no idea how edgy I was going to feel in a large house like this. I have to be careful not to watch horror films on TV because I start to imagine every creak and groan from the rafters is actually someone lurking in one of the other rooms. Of course, it's glorious to have so much space after years of living in poky flats. I've finally been able to take my grandfather's grand piano and a beautiful old sideboard out of storage. I would never have got them into my old place.

### Narrator: 3

**Speaker 3:** I used to think it would be good to move out of the centre of the city but, really, we've got it all right here. Apart from the usual shops, there's a cinema, some rather pleasant cafés and even a really great arts centre with a theatre where they show excellent movies. If we lived out of town, we'd both really miss all that. Sue is always on about how much she would love a big house with a garden but I think in her heart of hearts she would never be able to justify the expense. A nice balcony with a few pot plants is enough, though I must admit here we're walled in by other buildings on all sides and that gets to me sometimes.

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### Narrator: 4

**Speaker 4:** I tried to find something a bit bigger but everything I looked at was way outside my price range. I've had to put some of my things into storage but perhaps one day when I have my dream home I'll have space for more than a sofa bed and a desk! I tend to go out to eat – even for breakfast. The kitchenette is so tiny there's barely room to chop a carrot and it's difficult to get rid of the cooking smells afterwards. There are loads of cafés on this street anyway, so I'm spoilt for choice in terms of places to eat. A lot of my neighbours hang out there in the mornings as well, so I've got to know them. There's a real sense of community here.

## KEY

1 C 2 B 3 A 4 A 5 B 6 C

**Tim:** I'm Tim Cole, and as an experienced travel writer, I'm here to tell you not to believe everything you read in guidebooks because following some of the recommendations they give can result in the most bizarre situations. I'll never forget the night I arrived in Sydney, for example. I'd turned up at the address of what I thought was a budget hotel given in the guidebook at 1 a.m., exhausted and looking forward to a few hours' rest, but instead found myself at a comedy club, which at the time I didn't find at all funny.

The problem is that too many travellers are too trusting of their guidebooks and don't bother to research even the most basic facts before they set off. Some guidebooks are only updated every couple of years, so it's no wonder many things have moved on by the time you get there. The most important thing when choosing a guidebook is to check the publication date; if it's not within the last twelve months, don't buy it.

Then the other thing to think about is who the guidebook is aimed at. If you're into the history and culture of a place, don't buy a guidebook full of information on the alternative nightlife scene. But my pet hate, and something I'm always extremely wary of, are the restaurant suggestions. So often I've turned up somewhere and the menu, price and décor bear no relation to the place I've been reading about – if they haven't already gone out of business and shut down, that is.

Other things to look out for in a guidebook are the maps. These need to be detailed but not so small you can't read them. You don't want to have to carry a magnifying glass around with you. Books that include unnecessary information are another thing I find annoying – like photos of famous places, for example. We already know what the Eiffel tower looks like! Why not include more background information instead?

Of course, most guidebooks are also now available in a digital format and many travellers prefer using these because they're obviously not heavy to carry, so you can download as many as you like. But I don't find them easy to use at all because navigation is much harder than flicking through the index at the back of a book. Life's just too short and you can never guarantee you'll have wifi access anyway. Until I can get a digital travel guide which is tailor-made for my individual trip, I'm happy to stick with the traditional form of guidebook.

However, on my trip to Hawaii last summer I experimented with a new way of getting good travel advice: Twitter tourism. Instead of using a guidebook, I decided to rely on the advice of locals and visitors alike – and let them choose what I should visit, where I should stay and what I should eat. I didn't mind as long as their advice was based on a recent experience. It actually worked out really well and it felt like a real adventure. Without the Twitter travel tips I'd never have visited the Ukulele Festival or eaten spam sushi. One thing I'd never imagined doing – and I'm so grateful for the advice – was a ten-kilometre kayak expedition along the coast for a night time swim with manta rays in a huge cave. A truly magnificent sight. And my top tip for anyone visiting Hawaii!