

Part 1.

Read a teenager called Jim's blog about moving away from the city to live in the countryside. For each question, choose the best answer, a or b.

A year ago, just before the summer holidays, my parents announced that they were planning to move out of the city to live in the countryside. They said they were tired of their stressful lives in the city, and the high prices. My mother's a writer, so if there's an internet connection, she can work wherever she is. My father's a musician, so it isn't that simple for him, but he explained that he hoped he could find work locally, teaching children to play the piano and the guitar.

Well, the news was completely unexpected, and of course my sister and I weren't interested in hearing about all the advantages of being out of the city – the open

spaces, the wildlife, enjoying the changing seasons, no pollution, all that sort of thing. We didn't want to leave our friends, or all the facilities available to us. My sister's mad about skateboarding, and we both suddenly realised that our school wasn't too bad, despite all the homework!

Instead of listening to us and changing their minds, my parents insisted that it was a great idea. According to them, we were young enough to handle such a big change in our lives fairly easily, and they said they had dreamed of doing this for years. Even worse, they told us they had found a big house in a small village, and that they were selling the flat we lived in so they could buy it. My sister and I imagined it must be a ruin. After all, how could we possibly afford a big house? But actually, we could, because houses are reasonably cheap in the countryside compared to those in the city, and when they showed us pictures of it online, we saw that, in fact, it looked pretty nice.

A month later, here we all are, in a tiny village thirty kilometres from the nearest town. We'll have to get up early to catch a bus to school when the new term starts, which I'm definitely not looking forward to. My sister's taken up mountain biking with some of the local kids, so she's happy. I still miss my friends, but some of them are coming to stay next week, and I've made some new ones, too. One of them's into making animated films, and I've discovered that's really interesting. Who knows, maybe I'll be a famous film-maker one day!

1. Why had Jim's parents decided to leave the city?
 - a) They wanted to feel less worried and more relaxed.
 - b) They couldn't afford to live there any longer.
 - c) The jobs they did had changed.

2. How did Jim feel about moving?
 - a) surprised his parents hadn't asked him what he thought about it
 - b) worried about the way his life would change
 - c) grateful for the chance to go to a different school

3. Jim's parents said that Jim and his sister were
 - a) able to deal with the move.
 - b) right to be excited about the future.
 - c) lucky to have this opportunity.

4. What does Jim say about their new house?
 - a) It was older than their flat in the city.
 - b) It was better than he had expected.
 - c) It was extremely expensive.

5. What is Jim pleased about now?
 - a) He has found a new hobby.
 - b) He lives fairly near his new school.
 - c) He is going to visit his old friends soon.