

Nombre: _____

1. Read and answer the questions

GUIDE TO THE PLANET

It all began with their account of a van journey to Australia in 1972. Now there are Lonely Planet guidebooks to some 200 destinations worldwide, and founders Tony and Maureen Wheeler are multi-millionaires.

The *Lonely Planet* guidebooks are books which are loved and hated in equal measure. It's hard to pin down why they provoke such violent emotion; once it was simply because they lied – you'd turn up for the weekly Wednesday ferry to find that actually it goes on Tuesdays. Nowadays they are carefully researched, the information is generally true, and the maps are accurate.

But there is something about the way these books take you over - you become a slave to the guidebook. Arrive in a place and out comes the book: Places to Stay, Things to See, Getting Around, Places to Eat – all of which is undeniably useful, but you end up living a life dictated by Wheeler, and that life might not be right for you. On top of that, everyone else has got one too, so instead of being the independent traveller you thought you were, you end up being just another tourist.

Getting a guidebook such as this right can be a tricky business and it's not entirely fair to blame only Tony. His wife Maureen, who runs the company with him, is equally to blame. It all started in 1972 when, bored with Britain, they set off for Australia. They arrived in Sydney three months later with 27 cents between them. Tony sold his camera, then sat down and wrote a book about the trip. They put the pages together and took it around to the local bookshops and one of the bookshops sold thousands of copies.

Twenty-five years later, *Lonely Planet*, has quite literally, taken over the world. Their 200-odd guidebooks cover nearly everywhere and there are phrasebooks, atlases, walking guides. They sell more than three million books a year and employ around 200 people. The *Lonely Planet* website is visited a million times a day and the Wheelers have replaced the van with a red Ferrari.

I met them for lunch. Tony, now 52, is small with glasses – more like a geography teacher than a traveller. Maureen admits they don't rough it like they once did. 'I don't want to spend all night on a train to India. I've been there and done that, I don't need to keep doing it.'

1. The information in the guides has always been accurate. T F
2. Why might you finally become another tourist instead of an independent traveller?

3. Why did the Wheelers write their first guide?

4. How have the Wheelers profited from the success of the *Lonely Planet* guides?

5. The Wheelers have not changed their way of travelling since they began writing the guides.
 T F

2. Read about Brian's trip and complete the blanks with a suitable linking word

"I'll bring back the car – when I've been to Istanbul!"

Steve Dodge wasn't worried _____ he lent his car to his best friend, Brian. Brian wanted to go to London and his own car had broken down, _____ he needed Steve's for just one week. _____, as Brian McDonald was driving south, he found he couldn't stop. He just became addicted to it. _____ he knew it, he was driving through the Channel Tunnel and into France. And he just kept going and going. _____ Brian told himself he would stop in France, unfortunately, he didn't. _____ he was travelling to Paris, he met a German climber. His new friend persuaded him to go to Switzerland and see the Matterhorn mountain. He said it was

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_____ a wonderful place that Brian just had to see it. _____ this, Brian decided to carry on through Austria, the Czech Republic, and Hungary before he reached Istanbul in Turkey. As _____ as he got there, he started thinking of other destinations, but luckily he realized he had to go back home to Britain. “_____ I return the car to Steve, we will never be friends again,” he thought.

3. Go on reading the story and complete the blanks with ONE word only

Brian finally returned to Britain three months _____ in September. He had travelled more _____ 7,000 miles, but he did not return the car to Steve immediately. “I heard that he was quite angry with me,” said Brian. He was right. Yesterday, Mr Dodge said, “I can’t understand _____ some people think it’s funny. I’m absolutely furious. For some time, I believed he had had an accident. I wondered _____ he had gone but there was no way I could contact him. I did not even know _____ the car was still in the country or abroad. We have been the best of friends _____ many years but Brian’s irresponsible attitude has definitely changed my perspective. He won’t get away _____ it so easily, either” “I did say I would see him _____ a week,” said Brian. “But _____ I was in Europe I decided to stay longer. I suppose I could have sent a postcard or phoned. I just hope he calms down and we can be friends again.”

This now is unlikely as Brian is planning to use the car for _____ trip – this time around Africa!

4. Go on reading and complete the blanks with the appropriate tense of the verbs in brackets.

Whenever you see a + add a modal verb.

Last year Brian _____ (travel) around Australia when he met Emily. Emily Stead is a jumper who _____ (survive) 50 jumps. “It’s fantastic!” she says. “I _____ (+ dream) about going jumping when I was a child. Then, five years ago I _____ (go) on my first jump. I jumped just 20 metres at that time. My last jump was 50 metres from a hot air balloon and I’m looking forward _____ (do) the next one from a bridge in Chicago.”

Some people say it’s the most exciting thing they _____ (practise) in their lives. “Bungee jumping”, as it _____ (know) by most people, _____ (become) very popular in the USA, France, New Zealand and Australia. Every year, thousands of people _____ (jump) 50 metres or more – saved only by a ‘bungee’, an elastic cable that stops them from _____ (hit) the ground.

Other people _____ (not agree). “Bungee jumping,” says Dr. Will Finch in Colorado, USA, “is both stupid and dangerous. People _____ (+ get) seriously injured. Until now, nobody _____ (die) - but, sooner or later, it _____ (+ happen). If I were in the Government, I _____ (not allow) this sport.”

Bungee jumping _____ (begin) in 1979 when two students from Oxford University, England, jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Since then, bungee jumping businesses _____ (appear) all over the USA and other places, although in some countries it is illegal.

In the USA bungee jumpers _____ (+ pay) \$80.- or more to fall through the air at nearly 100 km an hour – risking their lives if the bungee cord _____ (break).

Emily wanted Brian to jump with her, but he refused _____ (accept) her offer. “Safer to stay on the ground,” he thought!!!

5. Brian meets his friend Tessa. Complete their conversation.

Brian Such a long time, Tessa. How are you?

Tessa Fine. And you? Hey, you are really suntanned! You have been on holiday, _____?

Brian That’s right. As a matter of fact, I have just arrived from Turkey.

Tessa: Oh, really? And how did you get on there?

Brian: It was gorgeous. I used _____
but now I have changed my mind. It’s fantastic ...

Tessa : _____?

Brian: No, I hadn’t. This was my first time there, but it won’t be the last

Tessa : _____?

Brian : Well, you know I like travelling cheap. I mainly stayed in small towns or villages.

Tessa : _____?

Brian: Friendly, very friendly! They simply love tourists. Although women are a bit more shy.

Tessa I don’t understand. What _____?

Brian: It’s a different culture, and it’s quite difficult for women to be independent.

Tessa I see And tell me, _____
_____ to get to Istanbul?

Brian: Almost six weeks. You know... I stopped here and there and enjoyed every moment.

Tessa : I’m sure you did! By the way... _____
_____?

Brian: I’m sure you heard I borrowed Steve’s car ... He’s still furious about it!

Tessa : Yes, of course !! I remember now. If I were him _____
_____ !!!

Brian : Ok, you might be right... But I’d like to tell you all about it, anyway.

Tessa: Why _____ next week?

Jenny: Yes, let’s! How about Monday afternoon?

6. Composition.

Write about 80 - 120 words on one of the following:

- Advantages and disadvantages of dangerous sports
- OR
- “As I was looking through the window last night, I noticed ...” (beginning sentence)