PROVA AUDITIVA

SLEEPING ROUGH

Introduction

In this radio programme you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

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sleep rough – dormir en la calle / dormir en la calle
mortgage – hipoteca / hipoteca
tenants – llogaters, llogateres / inquilinos, inquilinas
squat – casa ocupada / casa ocupada

Ready?
Now read the questions slowly before listening to the radio programme.

QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct. Look at number 0 as an example.

[0.25 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.08 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

0. A homeless person …

A. ☒ won't live as long as a person with their own accommodation.
B. ☐ is a person who sleeps in the streets.
C. ☐ doesn't sleep well at night.
D. ☐ sleeps on crowded benches in parks.

1. The number of homeless young people …

A. ☐ has been the same for the last seven to eight years.
B. ☐ has increased to 5,000 in Russia.
C. ☐ will be discussed by the European Parliament.
D. ☐ is increasing in various European countries.

2. The Swedish MEP says that teenagers …

A. ☐ only come from homes where there is a single parent.
B. ☐ often come from families that have economic problems.
C. ☐ don't usually want to go to school.
D. ☐ usually leave home because their parents can't give them pocket money.

3. The Swedish MEP says that parents of older children expect them to …

A. ☐ find well-paid jobs.
B. ☐ pay the mortgage or rent.
C. ☐ give some money towards family costs.
D. ☐ study at university.

4. According to the Swedish MEP, some older children …

A. ☐ give up work because they get tired.
B. ☐ try to stay at school and do a job at the same time.
C. ☐ don't like having to make a contribution to their families.
D. ☐ create a bad atmosphere at home.

5. The Swedish MEP says that today, social services in a lot of European countries …

A. ☐ pay for young people's education.
B. ☐ find hostel accommodation for all homeless teenagers.
C. ☐ don't help homeless teenagers as much as they did before.
D. ☐ send homeless teenagers back to their parents.

6. According to the British MEP, it is parents' responsibility to …

A. ☐ buy flats for their teenage children.
B. ☐ ask governments to help.
C. ☐ argue with their teenage children.
D. ☐ deal with difficulties at home.

7. The British MEP says she …

A. ☐ lived in a squat when she was younger.
B. ☐ left home for a very short time.
C. ☐ paid for a flat for homeless people.
D. ☐ expected the state to look after her children.

8. According to the British MEP, it isn't necessary for older children to …

A. ☐ go straight to university when they finish school.
B. ☐ continue at school if their families need them to work.
C. ☐ help their parents at home.
D. ☐ stay at home if there are problems.

Presenter: On the *In Europe* programme this week, we look at the situation of homeless teenagers across the continent. We also speak to two Members of the European Parliament for their opinions on what Europe can do about the problem.

Every night, as many as 100 teenagers are sleeping rough across the United Kingdom. In the Ukraine, some teenagers have spent between seven and eight years living on the streets, and in St Petersburg in Russia there are 5,000 homeless young people.

And the numbers are rising. A recent study by the University of York showed that countries such as Britain, France, Germany, Sweden, Poland and Hungary have all seen increases in recent years. Life on the streets is hard. Life expectancy for a homeless person in Britain is only 42 years compared to 80 for people who have their own accommodation. However, homelessness doesn't just refer to people sleeping rough on park benches. Every night, hundreds of youngsters across the continent sleep on their friends' sofas or share a crowded bedroom in an old flat. Of course, the big question is, why do more and more young people find themselves in this situation? This is what Anders Lorensson, a Swedish Member of the European Parliament, had to say:

Swedish MEP: Obviously, economic problems at home create pressures. If the parents – and very often it is a single parent – are unemployed or are in a poorly paid job, then they will obviously have problems paying the mortgage or the rent. They then look to their older children to make a contribution. This usually means having to make a choice between continuing in full-time education or leaving school and looking for a job. Some do try to work and study, but tiredness and stress often mean that they do neither very well and this only adds to the bad atmosphere at home. In some extreme cases, when older children can't help out with the bills, the parents finally ask them to leave. Some politicians suggest that young people take advantage of social services, but I don't think anybody would go through such a difficult experience if they didn't have to. Furthermore, governments across the continent are cutting spending on social services and the result is that more youngsters are sleeping rough. In the past, in a lot of European countries, social services would place these kids in hostels and pay them benefits so that they could at least finish their education, but that happens less and less now.

Presenter: However, not all European politicians share Anders Lorensson's view of the situation. The British Member of the European Parliament Eleanor Powell had this to say:

British MEP: Economic problems do create difficulties, but I think we have to stop expecting our governments to solve all our problems. Parents have to take responsibility for their children and can't just let them walk out of the door and expect the state to look after them. All teenagers have arguments with their parents and some even run away for a night or two; I did! But, nowadays, if life at home isn't exactly as teenagers want, they expect to be able to move out and the government to pay for them to be tenants of a comfortable flat! And if they can't have that, then they think they've got the right to go into someone's private property and set up a squat and live for free! I really believe that families have got to look after their children, even when things aren't going as well as everyone would like. And teenagers must help out at home, too. I agree that we want our young people to be well educated, but if the family is having financial problems then older children should try and find work. They've got their whole lives ahead of them and there will be better times in the future when they can try to get into university. Young people mustn't abandon their families just because things aren't going as they hoped.