



**1390 Using AirBnB**

Todd explains to Meg how AirBnB works and why people like using it instead of hotels.

**Fill in the blank gaps with the words in the boxes to complete the paragraphs.**

**Todd:** Okay. So we're talking about housing Meg. You know, these days, a lot of people can actually stay in houses when they travel. Like they don't stay in hotels, they stay in a house. Have you heard about Airbnb?



Meg Todd

**Meg:** Yeah, I have heard of it. I've looked at the website a couple of times. Do they have Airbnb where you're from?

**Todd:** They do. They actually do have Airbnb in San Francisco but I have not used it in San Francisco, I've only used it actually traveling in other countries. I used it Thailand and I was going to use it in Japan but I ended up – I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ problems but yeah.

**Set 1**  
because • the • use  
travel • it • of

**Meg:** So how does it work?

**Todd:** Basically, what it works is if somebody owns a house, they can rent out a room. And so, you find a house online and then you book it with the scheduling system online. And then you pay Airbnb the money and then the people \_\_\_\_\_.

**Set 2**  
let • their • you  
stay • house • in

**Meg:** What are the cost usually? Is it expensive?

**Todd:** It can be really cheap or really expensive. You have both ends. I mean, sometimes you can just rent a room and sometimes, you can actually rent the whole house.

So, you know – and now, in places like Thailand or other places in Southeast Asia, what they do is a lot of condominiums now are kind of turning into mini-hotels. So rather than try to find long-term **tenants**, they just search for – or they just rent out their apartments on Airbnb.



**Meg:** Right. Well, it sounds like a good way to stay some place you haven't been before.

**Todd:** It is good. I mean, when I used it in Thailand, what I liked about it was you feel like you have a real, you know, you have real roots there. You're not in the hotel so nobody is kind of **intruding on** you or nobody is coming to clean your room everyday. So you

**Set 3**  
the • really • in  
live • you • place

**Quiz**

- 1) She has \_\_\_\_\_ Air BnB.
  - a) heard or
  - b) never heard of
  - c) used
- 2) He used it in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) San Francisco
  - b) Thailand
  - c) Japan
- 3) He says \_\_\_\_\_ are becoming hotels.
  - a) hostels
  - b) condos
  - c) BNBS

- 4) A squatter is someone who \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) pays good money
  - b) gives good reviews
  - c) does not leave

- 5) He talks about searching for places in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) your local area
  - b) nature areas
  - c) famous cities

**Vocabulary**

**tenant**

Try to find long-term tenants.

A tenant is someone who lives in a house or apartment, usually a renter. Notice the following:



1. There are ten tenants in the building.
2. All the tenants are high-income professionals.

**intrude**

Nobody is intruding on you.

When you intrude on someone, you interrupt them or invade their privacy. Notice the following:



1. I'm sorry to intrude, but can I get your signature?
2. Some people think that commercials are intrusive.

**squatter**

There are three squatters in the house.

A squatter is a person who lives in a building or house but has no legal right to do so. Notice the following:



1. They are trying to evict the squatters.
2. The city has a problem with squatters living in old buildings.

feel like you have more privacy and you feel like \_\_\_\_\_ . And usually, the apartments are in real neighborhoods so they're not in touristy areas. So there are definitely some advantages.

**Meg:** Would you say that it's safe?

**Todd:** Yeah. I guess that's the biggest concern. It seems to be safe. I mean, from what I see – although there was an interesting case recently in California

**Set 4**  
squatters • had • where  
problems • they've • of

And a squatter...

**Meg:** What are *squatters*?

**Todd:** A squatter is somebody who, they take the Airbnb house and then they just never leave.

**Meg:** Oh.

**Todd:** Yeah. And then they're hard to *evict*. So that was one interesting thing. And then also, recently, the company has been in the news because people that have low-income housing, like government subsidized housing, they've been trying \_\_\_\_\_ on Airbnb.

**Set 5**  
rent • to • there  
out • on • apartments

**Meg:** On Airbnb.

**Todd:** And then the city or the government said, "Hey, you can't do that because we give you this house at a discount to help you because you're low income. So you can't use it to make a profit." So it's been a very *debatable* situation.

**Meg:** Yeah. I guess it's kind of like *double dipping*. You're getting a discount or paid in \_\_\_\_\_ then you want to get paid more. So it sounds like a problem.

**Set 6**  
a • and • there  
to • way • live

**Todd:** Yeah. So what do you think? Would you be interested in doing something like Airbnb?

**Meg:** Yeah. I definitely think so. After researching a place, maybe if I have a lot of pictures and it seemed clear that it would be safe, yeah, I think I'd like to do it.

**Todd:** And actually their website is fantastic. Like if you go to their website, you can, let's say, choose a house in Paris or Madrid or whatever. And then they often have like the Google street cam thing so you can see what the house looks like on the inside. And then you could actually do the rotating camera and see what the neighborhood looks like. And then everybody \_\_\_\_\_ and about their stay there, so you'd get a good feel about what the place is like. So it's kind of a new way to travel, and it's kind of cool.

**Set 7**  
about • owner • leaves  
reviews • the • and

**Meg:** Yeah. It sounds interesting especially the reviews. I think knowing someone else has had a good experience, I would \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Set 8**  
interested • be • in  
it • definitely • doing

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## evict

They are hard to evict.

When you evict someone, you make them leave a house or place by law or police. Notice the following:



1. The family was evicted from the house because they could not pay their rent.
2. The people were evicted from the hotel for having a party.

## debatable

It's a debatable situation.

When something is debatable, then there are strong arguments for both sides. Notice the following:



1. Should kids have phones? It's debatable.
2. Immigration is a debatable issue in the news.

## double dip

It's kind of like *double dipping*.

When you double dip, you benefit from something twice. Often this means to get paid twice for the same thing. Notice the following:



- **Is it true the boss was double dipping?**
- Yes, he was paid extra for his housing, and then he was charging it on his expense account.

## Vocabulary Quiz

tenant • intrude • squatters  
evict • debatable • double dip

1. The owner wants to \_\_\_\_\_ the tenant.
2. I was the first \_\_\_\_\_ in my building.
3. The police will evict the \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. When you \_\_\_\_\_ you benefit twice.
5. I think CCTV can \_\_\_\_\_ on privacy.
6. Politics is always \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Speaking Challenge

- Q1 Does your city have squatters?  
A1
- Q2 How many tenants can live in a one-room apartment?  
A2
- Q3 What is a debatable topic in your country?  
A3
- Q4 Do you think ads on Youtube are intrusive?  
A4
- Q5 Should homeless people be evicted from parks?  
A5