

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbcvVkiUZQY> Couch Surfing Report- BBC News

Before you watch, match these words from the report to their definitions:

<b>Resourceful :</b>	a) a sudden failure of something, such as an institution, a business or a course of action
<b>Willing (adj) :</b>	b) an extra amount of money that you must pay in addition to the usual price
<b>Couch:</b>	c) to let someone stay in your house
<b>Surcharge:</b>	d) a small hotel or private home where people can pay to spend the night
<b>Collapse (noun):</b>	e) ready or pleased to help and not needing to be persuaded
<b>Premise:</b>	f) good at finding effective ways to deal with problems
<b>To put someone up :</b>	g) a chance to understand something or learn more about it
<b>A guest house :</b>	h) a principle that you consider to be true, that you base other ideas and actions on
<b>Insight:</b>	i) a long comfortable seat for two or more people to sit on

Now watch the report and answer the questions below:

1. What exactly is "couchsurfing"?
2. "The era of cheap travel is over." What reasons are given for this?
3. How do couchsurfing websites work?
4. How much did the number of people couchsurfing grow during the year that this report was made?
5. Who is Brian? Where's he from? Where did he stay, and for how long?
6. What does Brian like about couchsurfing?
7. What gave the reporter the right to go couchsurfing in one of the world's most expensive cities?
8. How much is a room in an average hotel in Tokyo?
9. What did the reporter sleep on?
10. What did the reporter gain from couchsurfing in Tokyo?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GJ9Si\\_ly-o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GJ9Si_ly-o) TED Talk: Clarissa Howe – Couchsurfing

Watch the talk and answer the questions below:

1. At the beginning of her talk, Clarissa gives examples of three couchsurfers she has hosted. Where are they from? Where have they travelled? Name something remarkable about each one.
2. What sort of people may be interested in attending Couchsurfing Community Meetings, other than the couchsurfers and hosts?
3. Some people may have misgivings about the safety of couchsurfing. Name three things the website provides to counter these misgivings.
4. What cultural misunderstanding arose between the host, Tiana, from Germany and her guests from Hong Kong?