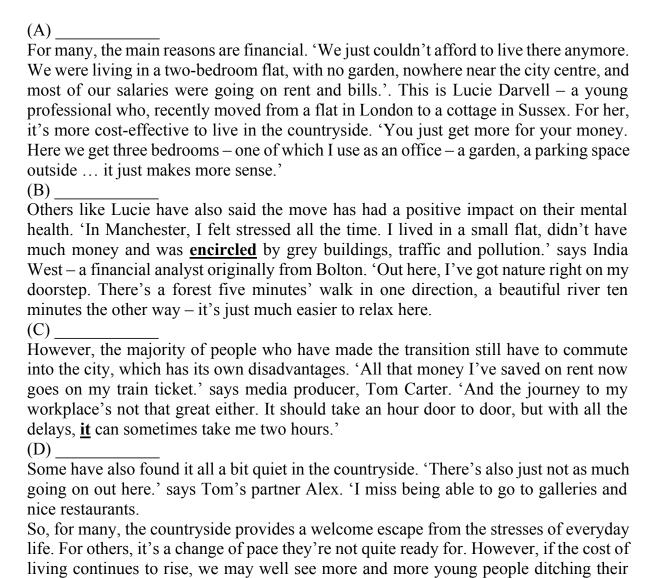## Why young people are moving to the country?

For many young people growing up in the countryside, life in the big city has lots of obvious attractions – more opportunities, better nightlife, a bus service that runs more than once an hour – the list is endless. So, it's easy to see why so many of them leave their rural upbringings behind. However, recently more young people are settling outside of major cities. So, what's prompted the change?

(A) _____
For many, the main reasons are financial. 'We just couldn't afford to live there anymore. We were living in a two-bedroom flat, with no garden, nowhere near the city centre, and most of our salaries were going on rent and bills.'. This is Lucie Darvell – a young professional who, recently moved from a flat in London to a cottage in Sussex. For her, it's more cost-effective to live in the countryside. 'You just get more for your money. Here we get three bedrooms – one of which I use as an office – a garden, a parking space outside … it just makes more sense.'

(B) _____
Others like Lucie have also said the move has had a positive impact on their mental health. 'In Manchester, I felt stressed all the time. I lived in a small flat, didn't have much money and was **encircled** by grey buildings, traffic and pollution.' says India West – a financial analyst originally from Bolton. 'Out here, I've got nature right on my doorstep. There's a forest five minutes' walk in one direction, a beautiful river ten minutes the other way – it's just much easier to relax here.

(C) _____
However, the majority of people who have made the transition still have to commute into the city, which has its own disadvantages. 'All that money I've saved on rent now goes on my train ticket.' says media producer, Tom Carter. 'And the journey to my workplace's not that great either. It should take an hour door to door, but with all the delays, **it** can sometimes take me two hours.'

(D) _____
Some have also found it all a bit quiet in the countryside. 'There's also just not as much going on out here.' says Tom's partner Alex. 'I miss being able to go to galleries and nice restaurants.
So, for many, the countryside provides a welcome escape from the stresses of everyday life. For others, it's a change of pace they're not quite ready for. However, if the cost of living continues to rise, we may well see more and more young people ditching their expensive coffees for a pair of wellies.

**Exercise 1: Read the article. Match each section (A–D) with a heading (1–6). There are two extra headings.**

1. Commuting and local transport

2. Cost of living

3. Services and entertainment

4. National policy

5. Mental health

6. Job opportunities

**Exercise 2: Read the text again. Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct answer.**

1. Which is TRUE about Lucie's moving to a cottage in Sussex, according to paragraph A?

    A. Her new cottage in Sussex has more bedrooms than her flat in London.

    B. Although more money is spent on the cottage, she still loves it.

    C. Her salary is so high that she can afford both a cottage and a flat.

    D. She decided to move to the cottage to build a garden centre.

2. The word **encircled** in paragraph B is closest in meaning to _____.

    A. connected      B. surrounded      C. avoided      D. subsidised

3. The word **it** in paragraph C refers to _____.

    A. the purchase of train tickets

    B. the process for taking saving money

    C. the delays of improving infrastructure

    D. the journey to workplace

4. What can be inferred from the passage?

    A. The countryside is now also developing as fast as the city.

    B. There are no restaurants in the countryside to enjoy.

    C. Some young people are not familiar with the pace in the countryside.

    D. Moving from a city to the countryside will be the best choice for the young.

**ANSWER KEY**

Exercise 1:

A-2       B-5       C-1       D-3

Exercise 2:

1-A       2-B       3-D       4-C