



SERVICES CULTURE ÉDITIONS  
RESSOURCES POUR  
L'ÉDUCATION NATIONALE

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1006 LVE TER

**BACCALAURÉAT PROFESSIONNEL**

**ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE DE LANGUE VIVANTE**

**ANGLAIS**

**TOUTES SPÉCIALITÉS DU  
SECTEUR TERTIAIRE**

**DURÉE : DEUX HEURES**

**COEFFICIENT : 2**

**L'UTILISATION DU DICTIONNAIRE BILINGUE EST AUTORISÉE**

## Take the Couch

On a recent Saturday morning, five young people huddle in a cozy living room to map out their day. Two are from Montreal. Another is from Chicago. The hosts, Jesse Fenton and Erin Benoit, have lived in the apartment for three years. The guests have had plans to visit for more than a month, but their only contact with their hosts has been through computer screens.

They met through CouchSurfing.com, an online network of travelers, mostly in their 20s, who are tired of staying in hotels or hostels and who want to see the world with a free place to stay – often on someone’s couch. Hosts offer the use of their couches, bathrooms, kitchens and spare beds. They sometimes provide meals and even the use of their cars. They give their guests tips about local attractions and often show them around. They also have the option of simply saying they’d be available only to meet for a coffee, assuming the traveler finds somewhere else to stay. But the point is the same: encouraging people to reach out to one another.

Jesse Fenton’s brother Casey founded CouchSurfing.com with three friends in 2004. Fenton, 29, came up with the idea for the website after planning a last-minute weekend trip to Iceland. Instead of booking a hotel, he e-mailed 1,500 Icelanders through the University of Iceland student directory, looking for a place to stay. Within days, he received more than 50 responses offering free accommodation.

Fenton admits that CouchSurfers and their hosts may not get along. Hosts and surfers are also aware of the potential for theft and other issues, but the website is designed to avoid such problems. It provides safeguards for both parties. For a \$25 fee, the website’s administrators verify bank accounts and mailing addresses, to prove that users are who they say they are. References on each user’s profile build confidence among other surfers.

Mimi Young of Chicago, who slept on the couch during her stay with Jesse Fenton and Erin Benoit, agrees that by the time travelers reach their destination they are already familiar with the hosts. “You’re already in constant communication with them through e-mail, and you’ve already researched their profile, so by the time you finally meet you feel like you already know them,” says Mimi Young, who has used the website to travel to London, Paris, Amsterdam, and Brussels.

“We’re still maturing as an organization, but over time we will make a difference,” Casey Fenton says. “People use CouchSurfing for different reasons, whether just to travel or to connect with people in a strange place. I think most participate to learn as much as they can about other cultures – and about themselves.”

Adapted from: *The Boston Globe*, August 22, 2007

### Vocabulary

**huddle:** (*ici*) se réunir et discuter

**provide:** fournir

**tips:** (*ici*) suggestions, conseils

**directory:** annuaire

**safeguards:** des protections

Take the Couch

**A Répondez en français aux questions suivantes, en utilisant uniquement les informations contenues dans le texte :** (9 points)

1. Pour quelles raisons les voyageurs font-ils appel au site CouchSurfing.com ? (1 pt)
2. Quels services les hôtes offrent-ils ? (1 pt)
3. Que peuvent-ils également proposer ? Donnez quatre exemples. (2 pts)
4. Quels risques ce type d'hébergement peut-il présenter ? (1 pt)
5. Que propose le site pour éviter ces désagréments ? (2 pts)
6. Selon Fenton, que recherche la plupart des utilisateurs hormis l'aspect économique ? (2 pts)

**B Traduisez en français le passage suivant :** (3 points)

de la ligne 27 *You're already...* à la ligne 30 *... and Brussels.*

**C Recopiez le passage suivant en mettant les verbes entre parenthèses à la forme exigée par le contexte.** (4 points)

G. Douglas from Dallas (**use**) CouchSurfing for three years. Here's his opinion:  
"Last year I was in Greece and (**stay**) with the same couple for a week. My hosts (**be**) very nice and they (**take**) me to many interesting places. Next summer, I (**visit**) Turkey. It (**suppose**) to be a beautiful country. CouchSurfing (**change**) my life. You should (**try**) it!"

**D Expression en anglais** (4 points)

Traitez en un minimum de dix lignes le sujet suivant :

How do you usually travel? Would you like to be a CouchSurfer?