Unusual homes

Activity 1B & 1C (CD 3 Tracks 11 & 12, 4 minutes 40 seconds)

First, Matt.
Interviewer: Matt, this is a really amazing home. I...I just can’t believe you actually live here!
Matt: Well, it’s not just me – there are four of us: me and my wife and our two kids. We like the unusual location, and we don’t mind that it’s small. All we have to do if we want more space is climb down and enjoy the forest around us. There’s plenty of room there.
Interviewer: You know, Matt, what I really like is the way you seem to be part of nature. But, you know, it seems like it might be a bit dangerous. Do you have any accidents?
Matt: No, nothing serious so far. And the view is pretty nice, too. Look over there - you can just see the ocean, and we get fantastic sunsets looking west. We really love it here!
Interviewer: So, do you stay here all through the winter, too? I mean, it must get pretty cold.
Matt: Well, yes, it does get cold sometimes, but we don’t mind.

Next, Jean.
Interviewer: Uh... Jean, this is an unusual place to live. What’s it like living here?
Jean: The best thing is that it’s a long way from anywhere. It’s an hour to the nearest stores, and you don’t see too many other people.
Interviewer: It must get lonely out here all alone in the middle of nowhere.
Jean: No, you soon get used to being on your own. And I have my dogs to keep me company. That’s right, isn’t it, boys? (Dogs bark.)
Interviewer: So, what else is good about living out here?
Jean: Oh, there are so many things. The flowers in the spring, the fresh air, and the lake – the lake is just outside the door.
Interviewer: The lake?
Jean: Yes. I have fresh fish for dinner every day. I go out in my boat every afternoon to catch dinner. The boys like fish, too. Don’t you, boys? (Dogs bark.)

Next, Grant.
Interviewer: Wow, Grant, uh...you have a fantastic home! This is a perfect location!
Grant: Thanks, mate. I really love it.
Interviewer: So, tell me something: What do you think are the best things about it, huh?
Grant: It’s such a relaxing place to be.
Interviewer: I’ll say.
Grant: You arrive, open the front door, and walk in – and immediately feel free and relaxed. (Yeah.) Such a contrast from the city apartment where we used to live. The living room and the bedrooms are really big – we love that!
Interviewer: Man, they sure are big.
Grant: And the other thing that surprised us when we came here, is how friendly all the other people are around here.
Interviewer: Oh, really?
Grant: They’re so helpful and generous. We spend a lot of time visiting with our neighbors – having barbecues, just hanging out together.
Interviewer: That’s great. So, uh...how about in the winter? I mean, I’m guessing you get a lot of bad storms, right?
Grant: We do, but we enjoy them!

Finally, Nicole.
Interviewer: Wow, Nicole, so this is where you live all year round?
Nicole: Yes, of course. We sold our apartment in the city, and this is our home now. We love it! Our home on wheels!
Interviewer: That’s...uh...that’s great. Uh...so, what do you love about it? It seems pretty small for a family of four.
Nicole: Absolutely not! Everything is arranged so efficiently that we have just enough room. We all agreed to give away all our unnecessary possessions when we left our apartment. We just have what we need. This means we can live really simply and cheaply. The low cost is a big plus. And we can travel anywhere we want. When the school vacation comes, we just drive off to explore different places – no expensive air fares or hotels to pay for.
Interviewer: So, you, I mean, you-you have no regrets about your new lifestyle? What do your kids think about it?
Nicole: Regrets? Ha-ha-ha! You love this home of ours, don’t you, kids?
Boy and girl: Yeah, we love it. It’s great!
Nicole: See?