

INTERVIEW with Kevin

1. Can you please tell me your name, age, occupation, household, place you live in ?

My name is Kevin, I'm 32 years old, I run a logistic freight forwarding company, I have a family of 3, living in Chicago.

2a. Can you tell me what your normal day schedule is like?

After I started my own business, I'll go to work, come home, eat dinner, work a little bit more, and play with my daughter.

2b. What about on the weekends?

Weekends, I take my daughter to parks, playgrounds, or daughter's friend's house. Now that I think of it, I feel like weekends seem more busy compared to weekdays.

I used to go ride bike, but I haven't ridden it like 2 years.

3a. What are some nearby places you usually go? (within 15 minutes)

My office is 15 minutes away so that's the usual place I go.

There is a public park that is also about 10 minutes away but I rarely go there.

I think that's about it. I only go to my office and home that are near.

There is a bike trail near my house which is my favorite part.

3b. Are there places you often go that are not near your home? (more than 15 minutes)

The Korean Market is like 30 minutes away from our home.

Shopping mall is about 20 minutes away.

4a. What made you move out from your previous place / what made you decide to move out

After I moved to Chicago and got our daughter, I thought about settling down here so we decided to purchase a house.

4b. What are pros and cons about your previous and current neighborhood?

The rent was cheap compared to LA and also it was a cozy neighborhood.

It had a well-gated apartment community and it was clean.

Our current neighborhood is way better. It is in a gated community with playgrounds, gym, and swimming pool.

5a. What is the most important factor in searching for your new place?

When I was searching for a new place to purchase, I looked for a neighborhood that had similar conditions as our previous neighborhood, but better. Somewhere that is a gated community with a better school rating.

5b. Was there a specific neighborhood that you are looking for in your new place?

When I first came to Chicago, I looked for a home that was near my previous work place.

I did not know anything about the place so I did some research on Google and drove around neighborhood to neighborhood and I ended up finding our previous apartment. It was a safe neighborhood with a good school rating and when I wanted to buy a home, I thought of it as an upgrade. Better condition of the house and a nicer neighborhood than our previous place.

6a. What were your methods on researching new places to live?

I used zillow and hired a real estate agent to help me.

6b. How was the experience?

Hiring an agent was much easier than using zillow. I personally think working with a real estate agent was much easier than using zillow to search around, check one by one. On the other hand, my agent would give me the whole list of what I preferred.

7a. What made you decide to choose your home?

It was a gated community townhouse with a couple playgrounds, a swimming pool and a gym. I thought it would be safer for my daughter to go out and play while my wife watches her in the community than going to an open public park.

7b. How satisfied are you with your new place?

Very satisfied. Work is 15 -20 minute drive, grocery markets and shopping mall is not too far, Chicago downtown almost 30 minutes away. I think I found a good location to live.

8. What is your plan for the next 5 years in terms of place to live?

I recently opened up an LA branch office and thought about moving back to LA but, for my daughter's education, I think living here could be a better choice. So I guess we will be living here for a while.

INTERVIEW with Lynn Choi

1. Can you please tell me your name, age, occupation, household, place you live in ?

My name is Lynn Choi, I am 27 years old, I'm a motion graphic designer, I live with a roommate in Los Angeles.

2a. Can you tell me what your normal day schedule is like?

I go to Pilates about 7 in the morning, come back and work remotely. Work is done between 5-6 PM. I eat dinner right away and take my dog for a walk.

2b. What about on the weekends?

Mainly I go to my parents house on the weekends. Other than that, I hang out with my friends or go to the mall.

3a. What are some nearby places you usually go? (within 15 minute)

Shopping mall is about 15 minutes away and also pilates is 10 minutes away from my place. There's also my favorite coffee shop near the pilates place so I go there often.

3b. Are there places you often go that are not near your home? (more than 15 minute)

My parents' house. It's about an hour drive without traffic.

4a. What made you move out from your previous place / what made you decide to move out from your current place?

I've been living with my roommate since we were in college but, sadly my roommate decided to move back to Korea. I've been searching for places but it is stressful and not easy. Since I'm working remotely, I'm also considering going back to my parents house.

4b. What are pros and cons about your current neighborhood?

It's in LA. So back when I moved in here with my roommate, our most important factor was whether it was secure or not. And our current place is pretty secure and it is a gated area so first thing is I feel safe. Other pros are there are many good restaurants, bars, and cafes to go to. Cons are that the streets are grimy.

5a. What is the most important factor in searching for your new place?

For me is the gated community or gated parking structure. I prefer somewhere that is secure and safe.

5b. Was there a specific neighborhood that you are looking for in your new place?

I don't have a specific neighborhood, but I want somewhere safe and quiet would be nice. And good pricing.

6a. What were your methods on researching new places to live?

I used apartment.com and zillow

6b. How was the experience?

Apartment.com was a horrible experience for me. It was easy to find apartments near the area, but most of the pricing was not up to date. I would call in to double check the price and the price would be higher than it was posted.

8. What is your plan for the next 5 years in terms of place to live?

If I do find a place around here with a roommate or by myself, then I will probably stay until there is a change (I hate moving). If I do not find a place I will definitely move into my parents house. My parents' neighborhood is very safe.

INTERVIEW with Mier Lee

1. Can you please tell me your name, age, occupation, household, place you live in ?

My name is Mier Lee, I am 34 years old. I'm a visual designer and I live with my family of 5. I live in Alhambra California.

2a. Can you tell me what your normal day schedule is like?

I work from 9 to 6. After work, sometimes I will go to the gym to work out or just stay home watch TV or go out to have dinner with my girlfriend. I used to go for a short bike ride, but it gets dark early these days.

2b. What about on the weekends?

I usually go hiking in the morning. In the afternoon, depending on my schedule, I go out or just chill at home. Sundays, church and just spend some time with church friends, sometimes until dinner.

3a. What are some nearby places you usually go? (within 15 minute)

Nothing really. I live in like a suburban area so, Pretty much everything is more than 15 minute Maybe like a gym or grocery store but they are both about 15 minutes away from my home.

3b. Are there places you often go that are not near your home? (more than 15 minute)

Beside grocery stores or gym, I usually go hiking that is about 30-40 minutes away from my place. Church on Sundays which is about 30 minutes away.

4a. What made you move out from your previous place?

Well, I used to live with my younger brother and sister, but my parents decided to come back to the US, so I had to find a bigger place for my parents to stay with us.

4b. What are pros and cons about your previous/current (if planning to move out) neighborhood?

I liked my previous place. It was in a quiet neighborhood, and I lived there for about 6-7 years. There was a park within a 5 minute walking distance and grocery stores, gyms, and small shopping centers were within a 10 minute drive, and my favorite part was it was close to my work. Like a 10-15 minute drive depending on traffic.

Q. What about the price?

The price was a little lower than usuals because the homeowner never really raised the rent price on us.

Q How about your current place?

It is still a quiet neighborhood and a good price for a 4 bedroom, but just a bit far from markets, gyms, malls, and etc.

5a. What was the most important factor in searching for your new place?

Most important factor was the price. My brother and my sister are still in school so my parents and I had to pay the rent. I was able to handle the rent price on my own on our previous house but after covid, the rent price went up and a 4 bedroom house was pretty pricey.

Q. Is there another factor ?

A quiet neighborhood? My new Job was a fully remote job and my siblings were also attending classes online so we all agreed that anywhere that is quiet and affordable is fine.

5b. Was there a specific neighborhood that you are looking for in your new place?

Not really, I was not looking for a place to buy and I was also in a bit of a rush so anywhere that was affordable. Also, getting farther and farther away from urban areas, the rent price went down and more quiet neighborhoods.

6a. What were your methods on researching new places to live?

There were few, apartment.com , zillow, and realtor.

6b. How was the experience?

It was okay, but not a big help because in some places there are no photos to check out the places. It just has a rent price. And the direct email thing, they don't reply back or so I have to call until they pick up and arrange the appointment. It was a stressful process.

7a. What made you decide to choose your home?

I think the biggest factor was the price

7b. How satisfied are you with your new place?

If I compare it to my previous place, I liked my previous place better because pretty much everything I need is within 10- 15 minutes of driving distance, but my current place doesn't bother me that much.

8. What is your plan for the next 5 years in terms of place to live?

I have not really thought about it but, Probably move out by myself when my younger brother and sister can support themselves or can help pay the rent with my parents.

INTERVIEW with Steven Hong

1. Can you please tell me your name, age, occupation, household, place you live in ?

My name is Steven Hong, I am 40 years old, I'm a photographer. I live with my family of 4. My wife and 6 month twins. I currently live in Brea, California

2a. Can you tell me what your normal day schedule is like?

My life totally changed after my twins were born, I work from 9 to 6. After work, I come home, cook dinner, eat and take care of my twins. Once a week I go to play ice hockey.

2b. What about on the weekends?

On weekends it's full time with the babies. We would go out with the babies to get food sometimes. Friends and family come to visit often so we are like 70 percent home on the weekends.

3a. What are some nearby places you usually go? (within 15 minute)

At our new place, there is a park within 5 minutes of walking distance. We used to go for a walk with the babies in the stroller. Other than that, grocery stores get food.

3b. Are there places you often go that are not near your home? (more than 15 minute)

Work? The work place is like an hour away, the ice hockey arena is a bit far, one of them is 30 minutes away and the other one is near work, an hour away.

4a. What made you move out from your previous place ?

We got our twins in our one bedroom. Our 1 bedroom was pretty big for a 1 bedroom so we thought it should be okay for a while, but it was not. We needed more storage room and more space in the house. So we moved out before our lease contract ended.

4b. What are pros and cons about your previous and current neighborhood?

Our previous place was a great place to enjoy. It was near downtown so everything was within walking distance. My wife and I would go out to eat when we don't want to cook, have some drinks and walk back home. Costco was next to our condo which was the best for grocery shopping. Sometimes it would get a bit loud on the weekends because it is next to fullerton downtown, but it was acceptable. Now our current place is very opposite from our previous place. It is a very quiet neighborhood and it has lots of trees so it feels cozy.

5a. What was the most important factor in searching for your new place?

When i was searching for this place, i was in a hurry so my only factor was does it have enough space and storage room. Because we were in a rush, we did not think too much about what we should prioritize or have enough time to research.

Q. Is there a factor that you think you should have considered?

After the move, I found out that the neighborhood has a good rating. Like low criminal rate, low noise level, good school rating, but i should have looked carefully about the condition of the house. There were some damaged parts on the house. Another one is probably the price. If we weren't rushed and prepared for it ahead of time, we could have found a place with a lower price.

5b. Was there a specific neighborhood that you are looking for in your new place?

At that time, No. I was looking for a place with enough bedrooms and a large living room for the babies.

6a. What were your methods on researching new places to live?

I asked around friends but, I mainly used zillow.

6b. How was the experience?

It was nice and very easy to use, but after I moved in and found out there were damaged parts in the house, I figured they did an amazing job on photoshopping the photos.

7a. What made you decide to choose your home?

Price was pricey, but they had a nice big living room with extra storage room.

7b. How satisfied are you with your new place?

Damaged parts around the house are acceptable, I like the place except I got farther away from my work and more traffic.

8. What is your plan for the next 5 years in terms of place to live?

The condition of the neighborhood is nice, but if our situation allows it I look forward to buying a house.

INTERVIEW with SungHwi Oh

1. Can you please tell me your name, age, occupation, household, place you live in ?

My name is Sung Hwi Oh. I'm 37 years old. I work as an appraiser. I currently live by myself. I live in Buena Park, California.

2a. Can you tell me what your normal day schedule is like? Like a daily routine?

I have 2 jobs, so I go to the first one by 10 and work until like 2. sometimes 3 or early, like 1. After the first work is done, I start my 2nd job which is my own appraisal business. Depending on the schedule, I would go to different areas that are about 1 to 2 hours away. When inspection work is done, I come home and wrap up my report and I'm done for the day.

2b. What about on the weekends?

Because the appraisal service is my own business and I can manage my working hours, I work on the weekends. I would go out in the morning to inspect 2 to 3 houses(it varies). After finishing the inspection, I come home and finish up the reports or sometimes finish up the ones that I did not complete on the weekdays. I try to rest on Sundays if it allows me. I try to just stay home and play video games or watch movies.

3a. What are some nearby places you usually go? (within 15 minute)

There is a grocery store near my place so I go there quite often. There are about 3,4 movie theaters near the area, all kinds of my favorite restaurants. I think my scope of activity is within 15 minutes of my driving time.

3b. Are there places you often go that are not near your home? (more than 15 minute)

Besides work travel, no. I think pretty much everything is within a 15 minute drive.

4a. What made you decide to move out from your current place?

I'm getting married in December and I'm looking to buy a new place to move in together. It's my house and we can live together, but I got this house a while ago when I did not know anything and now that I'm starting a family, I want a newer and bigger place to prepare for the future.

4b. What are pros and cons about your current neighborhood?

It's fine, if I'm living by myself, but it has a low school rating and I think it's important to send your kids to a school with a good rating. Also, in the long term I don't think my house will be a good investment.

5a. What is the most important factor in searching for your new place?

Everything on buying a house. But you have to give up some of what you want when it comes to buying a house.

Q. Not about the house itself but about the neighborhood. If you have to pick one

For My current situation, I'll say school rating. I want kids and I'm thinking long term to stay in this area.

5b. Is there a specific neighborhood that you are looking for in your new place?

I'm looking at the city next to where I live (Fullerton). It's only like 5, 10 minutes away from where I am at. It is still in the area where my activities happen but my home will be in a nice neighborhood and has a way better school rating.

Q. How did you know that area (fullerton) is a neighborhood that you want?

I heard about it through friends and coworkers, but not until I started working in the appraisal field.

6a. What were your methods on researching new places to live?

Zillow, redfin, and I sometimes receive information from my fellow colleagues.

6b. How was the experience?

I think Redfin is great for buying a house. It gives me good information, decent history data, price, estimated monthly payment, connecting to the agent, open house filters, setting up appointments. It is easy to use.

Q. You work in a real estate related field. Does the app help you a lot?

Definitely. It's related in some way but does not mean I could get all the information I want through this. I have to check in with an agent to know more about it.

7a. While searching for your new home, what will make you decide to buy a new home?

I have chosen my location, so my neighborhood area is set. So, I'll have to wait and keep checking what comes out to the market with a nice floor plan.

7b. Are you satisfied with your current place?

Yes, like I said, if I were to live by myself, yes, but getting married and planning on having a kid, I don't know. Might be just my greed, but I prefer a bigger place in a nice neighborhood for my family.

8. What is your plan for the next 5 years in terms of place to live?

If I move by like next year or so, settle down and have a family. I mean I plan to live in this area unless something else happens that i have to move.