

## Changing lives

### Task 3: Student A

Read Jake's story and find answers to these questions.

1. Where does Jake live now?
2. Where did he move from?
3. Why did he and his family move?
4. What are three disadvantages of where he used to live?
5. What are three advantages of where he lives now?

### Jake's story

My parents had a small cottage in the Peak District in England, which they used for walking holidays. After I was born, they started to go to the cottage more. In the end, we used to pack up the car every Friday evening after school and drive for 3 hours to get to the peace and quiet of our lovely cottage. During the week my parents worked in the IT industry near London, we went to expensive private schools, and we all worked long hours and travelled a long way to school or work. We hardly saw each other. We had a lot of babysitters as my parents had to work long hours.

Every Sunday evening, we used to lock up the cottage. But it got harder and harder to leave. Every Sunday morning was torture, and we all hated the idea of leaving our village friends and the beautiful views. Last year my dad had had enough. He sold our big house near London and my parents gave up their jobs and long working hours. They bought a smaller car and sold our speedboat. We are now squashed into our holiday cottage: two adults, three kids and a dog. My parents get the work they can and do lots of work from home. We never have babysitters.

The best change for me is that I am not in a large class in a huge school. I go with my brothers to a tiny local school. After school my Mum doesn't need to drive us around as we get on our bikes and cycle round to see friends. My life is just so different. We feel calm and happy. We have got fewer things. Dad can't buy us all the stuff we used to want. I am outdoors more and have less time for my computer. I have got less but for me it seems like so much more. I am so glad we changed our life.

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### Task 3: Student B

Read Jo's story and find answers to these questions.

1. Where does Jo live now?
2. Where did she move from?
3. Why did she and her family move?
4. What are three disadvantages of where she and her family lived before?
5. What are three advantages of where she lives now?

### Jo's story

I grew up on a farm in a small village in the Peak District in England. We had the freedom of the fields and were outdoors in all types of weather. When I grew up, I started to see that there was a big world out there and I wanted an exciting life. I wanted more glamour and adventure. Life on the farm seemed so boring and I couldn't wait to get away. I studied in London and travelled around the world for a year.

In the early 2000s I was a stylist working on magazines in New York and other parts of America. I lived in Boston and had a hectic social life. It was a million miles from my village. It was exciting but it was also exhausting. After having two children I started to change. My mind kept going back to those fields and hills in the English countryside. In my dreams I walked down all the roads and across the rivers that I knew. I thought of the smells and sounds of that peaceful life. I had everything in Boston. An exciting, successful life and a beautiful home. I wanted to look out at the hills and green fields of England. Boston wasn't home.

When my dad rang to say an old farmhouse in the village was up for sale, I jumped at the chance to buy back in to my old life. I persuaded my husband and kids to leave behind the American lifestyle. We made a difficult decision. It was more frightening than travelling around the world by myself.

Then when we got here, I saw that my decision is not unusual. I have met old school friends who still live and work in the countryside, but I meet more and more new faces. In our local school over half of the families are not locals. They are people who come from cities all over Britain. They have usually given up expensive houses and good jobs to move their families to a smaller house. They do the work they can find and they say they are happier. I know I am happier to be in my village and my family are too.