

TeachingEnglish lesson

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# Settling down in a new country

# Setting down in a new country

Lead-in: Look at the word cloud. How do the words relate to moving to a new country?



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**Task 1: What's important to consider when moving to a new country?  
Read the comments and compare them with the ideas you had.**

**It's important to have a visa and a work permit. Then if you lose your job, you might get welfare benefits. As I work and pay taxes here, I want the same rights as everyone else.**

**I wanted to go somewhere with good schools and hospitals. Now I'm here, I like having support from the community - and places for my kids to go and play.**

**I wanted to live in a place with a vibrant local culture – music, theatre, cinema, you know. And it's great here, because my culture is accepted too.**

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**Task 1: What's important to consider when moving to a new country?  
Read the comments and compare them with the ideas you had.**

**This city is very convenient. There's an extensive public transport network. You can live in the outskirts and work in the centre. There's also an airport.**

**I'd heard of this city before I came here. It's known all over the world for its cuisine, its football team, its style and fashion. I always wanted to live here!**

**I'm happy we moved. I want to live in a place where the streets are safe, where my kids can grow up without persecution, discrimination or violence.**

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**Task 2: You are going to listen to a story by Nino, a woman who migrated to Sofia in Bulgaria. Before you listen, try to guess the information in the summary below.**

Nino comes from 1. \_\_\_\_\_. She moved to Bulgaria 2. \_\_\_\_\_ years ago. Her father decided to move after he saw a neighbour 3. \_\_\_\_\_. The town where she first lived in Bulgaria was very 4. \_\_\_\_\_ to her home town. Nino had a lot of problems with bureaucracy, especially when she 5. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Now listen and complete the summary.**

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**Task 3: Listen to two more people talking about their experience of moving to Sofia in Bulgaria. Complete the table.**

Name	Dmitry	Magdalena
Country of birth		
Number of years in Sofia		
Reason for moving to Sofia		
Things the speaker likes about Sofia		
Things the speaker dislikes about Sofia		
Example of bureaucracy		

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Task 4: These children moved from their country of birth to Cardiff in Wales.

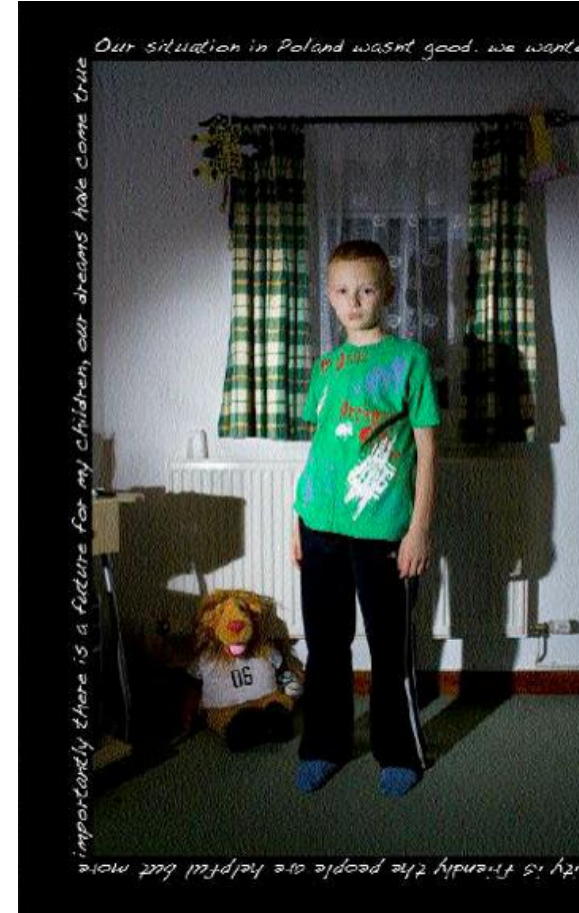


What aspirations do you have for your children?

What do you see when you look out of your window?

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Task 4: These children moved from their country of birth to Cardiff in Wales.



What aspirations do you have for your children?

What do you see when you look out of your window?



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**Task 4:** The parents of six children who moved from their birth countries to Cardiff in Wales were asked two questions. Read their answers and complete them using the words in the box.

dreams   comfortable   integration   multicultural  
opportunities   studies

1. As I stand and look out of my window, I can see my children's future brighter. In my opinion Cardiff is a city of \_\_\_\_\_ for my family. I can only hope and encourage my family and children to use them wisely.
2. Culture and tradition are essential to mark one's identity. It is important to note that culture and tradition as seen in the context of \_\_\_\_\_ are positive, otherwise they can restrict progress. This is how our family looks at our present and future.
3. The city has openly and freely embraced my children; they are integrating and getting on with things. My hope for Alisha is for her to have a bright and happy future, doing what she really enjoys and hopefully it will enable her to have a \_\_\_\_\_ standard of living.

What aspirations do you have for your children?

What do you see when you look out of your window?

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**Task 4:** The parents of six children who moved from their birth countries to Cardiff in Wales were asked two questions. Read their answers and complete them using the words in the box.

dreams   comfortable   integration   multicultural  
opportunities   studies

4. In this city of Cardiff, we see our children finishing their \_\_\_\_\_ at school, meeting new people and getting better knowledge. We see our children getting ready for their own lives. We can see just a bright, nice future.

5. What Cardiff is giving to our children is a \_\_\_\_\_ world and a place to play a role, open eyes to those who have never been away, a model to export... a real power in our children's hands.

6. Our situation in Poland wasn't good enough. We came to the UK hoping for a better future for our children. The city is very nice; people are helpful and very friendly. My children will have more opportunities. I think our \_\_\_\_\_ have partially come true.

What aspirations do you have for your children?

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## Transcript: Nino's story

My family and I moved to Bulgaria 15 years ago during the civil war. One day my father saw our neighbour getting shot and decided he didn't want to live in Georgia any more. He sold everything and we left.

I only received permanent residency last year. It's weird because every year for the last 14 years I had to prove why the hell I was here. I think I should have received some kind of status long ago.

I am from Tbilisi, and Veliko Tarnovo, where we lived when we first moved to Bulgaria, is very similar to Tbilisi. All in all, there are many similarities between Georgian and Bulgarian people.

Bureaucracy makes it difficult to live and do what you want here. There are also other reasons, but I don't really want to go into politics here.

About the bureaucracy: When I was about to marry, we had to fill in a million documents. First, I had to go to Georgia for a certificate to show I was not married there, which is kind of ridiculous, since I've lived here since I was 12. Then I needed a permit to say I could get married here. I took this to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be certified but they lost it. So, two weeks later when we had our ceremony, we weren't even sure it was a 'proper wedding' because we didn't know if the certificate had been signed.

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## Transcript: Dmitry's story

My name is Dmitry, and I am from Russia.

I came here 12 years ago to study animation on Donyo Donev's course at the Film Academy. Here I met my girlfriend, who is Bulgarian. I'd still like to travel, to live somewhere else, learn another language, but for now I am here.

Bulgarians are very open-minded. People are very open and friendly, especially towards Russians. No-one has ever been negative towards me, even when I didn't speak the language.

The things I dislike here are the same things I dislike everywhere else. There is a saying, 'I like the country, I hate the state'. I like the culture and the communication with people, but I don't like the system as a whole which continuously puts obstacles in front of you, regardless of whether you're a foreigner or a local.

As for the bureaucracy, it irritates me that the police come to my home twice a year to check whether I still live at this address. It's as if I'm some criminal.

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## Transcript: Magdalena's story

Hi! My name's Magdalena Rahn. I'm from the USA.

I was born and raised in California but went to school in New Jersey. After that I lived in France for a year. When my dad asked if I wanted to go with him on a business trip to Bulgaria, I was like, 'Sure, where is Bulgaria?' So I came, stayed to study here and ended up being hired as a copy editor. People value spending time with each other... here you can spend the whole afternoon just talking. They value relationships more than money. Sure, money is important, work is important, but it's not as if they are the most important. What I don't like is that there's trash everywhere that no one seems to mind. People complain about how dirty everywhere is but don't do anything about it. In the States, if you want to change something, you just do it. Here, you just complain about it.

And as for the bureaucracy, when I first moved here, all my stuff was impounded at Sofia Airport. The guy who shipped it had overvalued it and the authorities here just thought I was going to sell it all and leave the country without paying any taxes. So, for the first eight months – until I got my first 'permission to stay' card – all I had was two pairs of jeans, a skirt and a blouse!

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Thanks for attending the lesson