



1 • New lives

PRE-READING 1 You will read a text about a young Spanish man in the USA. What do you think he will say about his new life? Underline one answer.

- 1 He came to the USA *to learn English / to meet new people.*
- 2 He has started listening to *hip-hop / jazz.*
- 3 He likes watching *American football / baseball.*
- 4 American people *are friendly / are not very friendly.*
- 5 He *misses / doesn't miss* Spanish food.

PRE-READING 2 Look at the key words in **bold** in the text and tick the sentences True (T) or False (F).

For example:

- If you study **journalism**, you want to be a doctor. T F
- 1 A **course** is a set of lessons at a school or university. T F
- 2 Your **free time** is the time that you don't work or study. T F
- 3 If something is **popular**, people like it. T F
- 4 **Alcohol** refers to drinks like cola and orange juice. T F
- 5 If people are **aggressive**, you feel safe. T F
- 6 If something is **exotic**, it is strange and interesting. T F
- 7 If clothes **fit** you, they are the right size for you. T F



Xavier – a Spanish student in Chicago

A I'm a student at Granada University. I'm in the middle of my studies, and my degree course is **journalism**. To work in the media, it's very important to speak good English. In the future, I hope to travel a lot in my job, and work with people from all over the world.

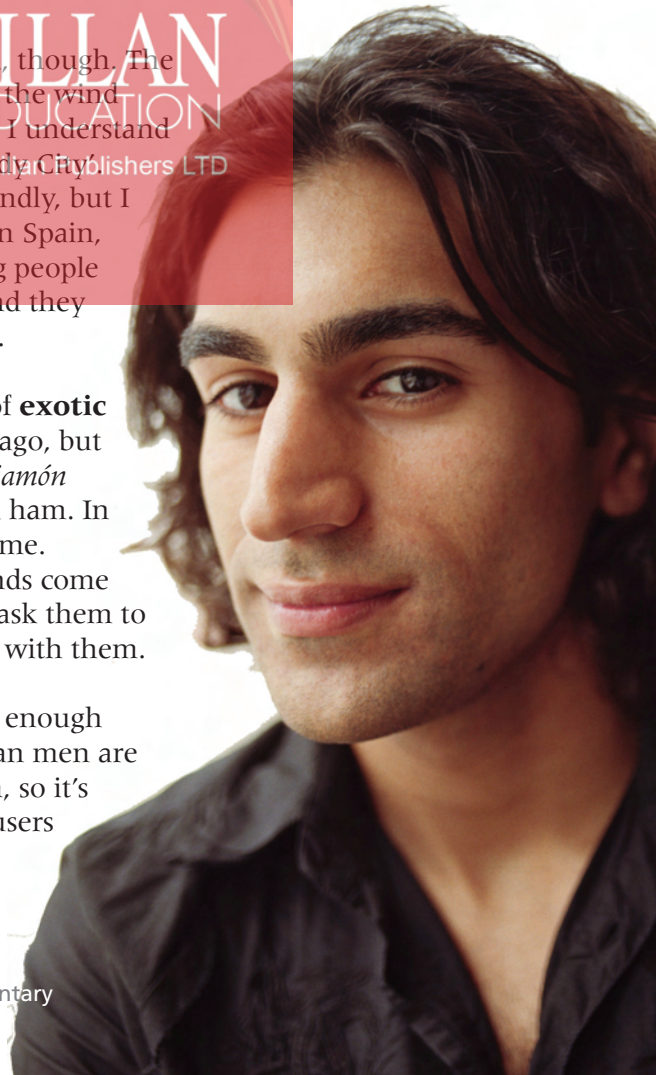
B I'm studying English at a language school in Chicago, a large city in the American Midwest. My **course** finishes in six months, but I want to stay longer. I'd like to stay for another year, but I'll have to find a job.

C I'm really enjoying my **free time** here in the USA. Of course, the nightlife in Spain is good, but in Chicago there are fantastic bars and clubs where you can see live music. I've started listening to jazz. In Spain, people don't watch baseball on TV, but here it's very **popular**. I've been to see the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago White Sox play a number of times.

D Not everything is good, though. The winters are freezing, and the wind blows right through you. I understand why they call it the Windy City. Most people are very friendly, but I don't feel as safe as I do in Spain, especially at night. Young people drink a lot of **alcohol**, and they can get quite **aggressive**.

E You can buy all types of **exotic** food in the shops in Chicago, but it isn't easy to find good *jamón serrano*, a type of Spanish ham. In Granada, I eat it all the time. Whenever family or friends come from Spain to visit me, I ask them to bring some *jamón serrano* with them.

F I'm pleased that I have enough clothes with me. American men are generally taller than I am, so it's quite difficult to find trousers in Chicago that **fit** me.



COMPREHENSION 1 Read the text and match the questions (1–6) to the paragraphs (A–F).

- 1 Is there anything you are not so happy about? _____
- 2 What was the most important thing you brought with you from Spain? _____
- 3 What do you like about life in the USA? _____
- 4 How long do you plan to stay? _____
- 5 Why did you come to the USA? A
- 6 What do you miss most about Spain? _____

COMPREHENSION 2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 In line 1, *in the middle* means ...

- a near the start.
- b near the end.
- c** between the start and the end.

- 2 In line 2, *in the media* means ...

- a in television, radio, and newspapers.
- b** teaching a language.
- c travelling.

- 3 In line 6, *enjoying my free time* means ...

- a wanting to have more free time.
- b** not getting much free time.
- c being happy when I have free time.

- 4 In line 11, *fantastic* means ...

- a not very good.
- b** very good.
- c expensive.

- 5 In line 12, *live music* is ...

- a on a CD.
- b** played in the place that you are in.
- c very good.

- 6 In lines 14 and 15, *the Chicago Cubs* and the *Chicago White Sox* are ...

- a places in Chicago.
- b** interesting buildings.
- c baseball teams.

- 7 In line 17, *freezing* means ...
 - a very cold.
 - b quite warm.
 - c snowy.
- 8 In lines 17 and 18, *if the wind blows right through you* ...
 - a it is difficult to feel warm.
 - b you fall down.
 - c it hurts you badly.
- 9 In line 29, *have enough clothes* means that he has ...
 - a less than he needs.
 - b what he needs.
 - c more than he needs.

COMPREHENSION 3 Match the adjectives (1–8) and nouns (a–h) that go together in the text.

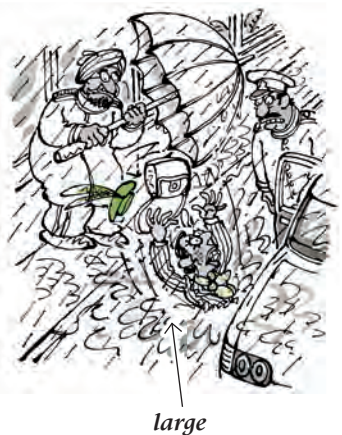


- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1 good | a bars and clubs |
| 2 large | b people |
| 3 fantastic | c English |
| 4 live | d winter |
| 5 freezing | e food |
| 6 friendly | f young people |
| 7 aggressive | g music |
| 8 exotic | h city |

These adjectives go with a lot of other nouns. Underline the word that is not correct.

For example:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| good | weather / <u>sky</u> / luck / little boy |
| 1 small | man / house / noise / pieces |
| 2 fantastic | weather / holiday / news / pain |
| 3 live | football match / party / concert / interview |
| 4 freezing | light / night / water / hands |
| 5 friendly | holiday / neighbours / dog / smile |
| 6 aggressive | behaviour / chat / argument / attitude |
| 7 exotic | island / drink / animals / news |



Grammar

Adjectives and infinitives

If we use a verb clause after an adjective, the verb is an infinitive.
*It's very **important to speak** good English.*
*It's **difficult to find** trousers that fit.*

GRAMMAR 1 Change the sentences using an infinitive after the adjective.

For example:

In the USA, finding clothes that fit is difficult.

It's difficult to find clothes that fit.

1 Learning English in 6 months is impossible.

It's _____ English in 6 months.

2 Making friends in a new country isn't easy.

It isn't _____ friends in a new country.

3 Talking with food in your mouth is rude.

It's _____ with food in your mouth.

4 Seeing how people live in other countries is interesting.

It's _____ how people live in other countries.

GRAMMAR 2 Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Then compare your answers with a partner.

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1 I think it's easy to _____

2 It's difficult for me to _____

3 I think it's interesting to _____

4 In my country, it's unusual to _____

5 In my country, it's impossible to _____

6 In my country, it's very rude to _____

SPEAKING Talk to a partner and answer the questions.

1 Would you like to live in another country for a year or two?

2 Where would you like to go?

3 Would you miss the same things as Xavier?

4 What else would you miss about your country?

Effective Skills

PREDICTING You will read about Julie, an American woman working as a computer programmer in Spain. Try to guess what she says about living in Spain. Write one word in each space.

- 1 She has made some good Spanish _____.
- 2 She loves the way people _____ in the street.
- 3 People don't mind if there are _____ in bars.
- 4 She has bought Spanish _____ and will send it back to the USA by ship.
- 5 She doesn't like the noise of small _____.
- 6 She misses American _____.

SKIMMING AND SCANNING Read the text quickly and write Julie's answers (A–F) in the spaces in the text.

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- A I can travel around easily
 - B I would love to just sit and watch a good show
 - C I'll stay here for the rest of my life
 - D I have photos of my family and my friends
 - E I suppose I'm here
 - F find it difficult to sleep well

Julie – a computer programmer in Barcelona

- Why did you come to Spain?

I came to Barcelona because my company offered me a position here. There are lots of Spanish computer programmers but the bosses feel that there should be some American people working here too. I suppose I'm here to learn more about the way they do things in Europe.

- How long do you plan to stay?

When I arrived I planned to stay for a year but that was two years ago. I've made some very good Spanish friends so I have no plans to go home. At the same time, I don't think _____.

- What do you like about life in Spain?

There are lots of things. The food is fantastic and I love the way people eat at tables out in the street. People don't mind if there



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are children in bars like they do in some countries. Spain is small compared to the USA and _____. It's very cheap to travel on buses and trains. I adore Spanish furniture. I have bought a table, some chairs and a bed so I will have to send them back by ship if I do go home.

• Is there anything you are not so happy about?

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_____, especially at the weekend. I live in a big block of apartments and my apartment is at the front. There's a lot of noise outside at night and I hear neighbours coming home very late. A lot of people ride small motorbikes around the city and that drives me mad.

• What do you miss most about the USA?

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My favourite TV programmes, especially on Friday and Saturday nights. _____ and be able to understand every word.

• What was the most important thing you brought with you from the USA? I'm pleased that _____. They are very important if I'm ever feeling lonely or homesick.

READING FOR DETAIL

Read again more slowly and underline the correct phrase in each sentence.

For example:

Julie came to Spain *to learn Spanish / for her job*.

1 Julie arrived in Spain *a year ago / two years ago*.

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2 She *knows some / doesn't know any* Spanish people.

3 Julie *knows / doesn't know* when she is going home.

4 It will be *very easy / quite difficult* for Julie to get her furniture back to the USA.

5 Julie *likes / doesn't like* the noise of small motorbikes.

6 Julie *has got / hasn't got any* photos of her friends and family with her in Spain.

INFERRING

Decide if the sentences are probably true (T) or probably false (F). Underline the part of the text that helps you understand.

1 Julie is unhappy in Spain. T F

2 Julie likes seeing children in bars. T F

3 In the USA, children go to bed earlier. T F

4 Julie hasn't got a motorbike in Spain. T F

5 Julie doesn't understand Spanish perfectly. T F

6 Julie looks at her photos when she is unhappy. T F

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Read again and match the words and phrases from the text (1-6) to the definitions (a-f).

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 don't mind | a like something very much |
| 2 adore | b happy |
| 3 drives me crazy | c unhappy when you are away from home |
| 4 pleased | d are not unhappy about |
| 5 lonely | e makes me very angry |
| 6 homesick | f unhappy because you are not with other people |

USING SYNONYMS

We don't like repeating words so we use words that mean the same (synonyms).

For example:

'I love the way people eat ...' and 'I adore Spanish furniture'

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

large clever gift easy escape attractive

- 1 It's a **simple** computer program, and it's very _____ to use.
- 2 My parents live in a **big** house with a _____ garden.
- 3 I got a lot of **presents** for my birthday. My girlfriend bought me a really lovely _____.
- 4 I need to **get away**. If I don't _____ soon, I'll go mad.
- 5 My children are very **intelligent**. My little boy is so _____ that he can write his name.
- 6 There's a very _____ new student in my class. She's really **beautiful**.

CORRECTING ERRORS

Correct eight words that are spelt wrongly in these notes.



Julie came to Spain to work with computers. She doesn't no how long she will stay. She likes the people, the food and Spanish firniture. She thinks it's very noizy at nite and there are to many small motorbikes. She misses her faurite TV programmes and her frends and family.