

# Recording scripts

## Unit 14

### Starting off

#### Recording script CD2 Track 21

**Speaker 1:** I've been here now for about fifteen years. It's a good life, though I work hard, but frankly I miss my country and the town where I grew up and dream of going back. I feel special ties to the place and when I retire I hope to return there to be among my friends and my family.

**Speaker 2:** We were just fed up with the crime and feeling of insecurity that surrounded us and it was precisely for that reason that we moved away. What really worried us was the effect it might have on the kids going to the local school. We felt it just wasn't worth the risk. On the other hand, it hasn't been easy coping with the language barrier, I have to admit. At least not for us parents. The kids integrated straight away, of course.

**Speaker 3:** I haven't changed countries, but I've moved from the country to the city because it has better services and more opportunities. To my surprise, many people looked down on me when I first arrived, which didn't exactly make things easy. I suppose they thought: here's some country bumpkin come to the city to make good, and I guess they were right because I have!

**Speaker 4:** I love lots of things about my country: the food, the sense of humour, the newspapers, lots of things. Actually, I have to admit it was the climate I couldn't stand any longer. The short grey days and the continual rain. Mind you, the heat is sometimes a problem here and then I dream of going home. But that's only the odd day here and there. Mostly it's fine.

**Speaker 5:** I guess you could call me a rolling stone, if people still use that expression – I mean, I've been abroad for so long I don't know all the latest slang. You see, unfortunately I'm one of those typical expatriates who spends two years working in this country and three years working in that. I don't think I could ever

go back to my home country because quite honestly I just wouldn't fit in. I'd feel like a fish out of water.

**Speaker 6:** As a professional ballet dancer there's just no way I could have stayed in my home town. Obviously, you have to be prepared to move abroad if you want to get to the top and there's no point in being in this business unless that's your aim.

### Listening Part 4

#### Recording script CD2 Track 22

**Speaker 1:** I was watching this really interesting programme the other day about people who'd come over here to work and had originally meant to stay just a couple of years, but then ended up meeting someone and settling down and things. I thought it was quite remarkable actually because we give the impression of being rather a nationalistic lot but that doesn't seem to be the case at all in fact. They went into people's houses and showed us how they'd been accepted by their in-laws who were adopting all sorts of new customs and behaviours you wouldn't expect. What struck me most was seeing their mums-in-law being taught how to cook new dishes. It was fascinating, a real eye-opener.

**Speaker 2:** I go to dancing classes every Thursday evening. Anyway, there's a student there, quite a young woman, who has only just recently come to this country and the other day she was really looking dead tired so I offered to get her a coffee afterwards and we got talking. Anyway, I found out that she's working here as a nurse to support her family back home; they've stayed behind, you see. Apparently,

there are lots of other people in the same situation as her. Her salary here's enough to provide their schooling, their clothing and all sorts of other things back home. But she's doing incredibly long hours. Actually, the worst thing must be being away from your children and family for years on end! I think I'd find that unbearable.

**Speaker 3:** My daughter goes to school with this girl, Mariska. Her family has just arrived here. They sit together in class, they're friends, and we've got to know the parents a bit. Anyway, they've only been here what seems like a couple of months or so, but they've already set up a travel agency for people thinking of visiting their region. They've got all these local contacts which is a bit of an advantage I suppose, but they're already doing so well that they've even been able to give jobs to a couple of locals as well. I think that's pretty amazing, don't you?

**Speaker 4:** Don't get me wrong, as far as I'm concerned immigration is fine. In fact I think it's really necessary considering the skills shortage we've got here. But it does mean that we've ended up with quite a cultural mix in our office and sometimes it's quite hard for people to get their ideas across and, you know, sort of marry up their different approaches to work. I'm continually surprised by the sheer variety of different takes on a situation and the different expectations people have. Personally, I think this sort of intercultural mix is one of the biggest challenges at work today.

**Speaker 5:** When I started, everyone was born here and spoke the same language. Now it's a real melting pot and that gives rise to no end of problems, not least with the parents. But you have to be flexible and turn these things to your advantage and having kids of five or ten different ethnic backgrounds learning together is a culturally enriching experience for everyone, including me! Many of the children who have come from abroad are so hardworking that it's actually pressuring our local kids to put in more of an effort too. They're getting better results now, which is just the opposite of what I'd have expected and quite a challenge to my preconceptions!

## Speaking Part 4

### Recording script CD2 Track 23

**Teacher:** What are the benefits of a multicultural society?

**Sara:** I think it encourages tolerance towards other cultures, other ways of life, other religions perhaps, and that can be very educational. I think it can open up people's minds to other experiences that they might not be able to have otherwise.

**James:** I personally think it can make society itself richer by having diversity within it and lots of people from different backgrounds, different outlooks, different ways of doing things and different cultural experiences.

**Teacher:** Should people who go to live in another country adopt the culture of the country where they go to live?

**Sara:** That's a contentious issue! Not necessarily. I think it's possible for different cultures to live side by side and I think with most cultures there's a certain overlap of similarity and I think people should be allowed to have some of the elements of their own culture as long as they're not detrimental to the good of the majority.

**James:** Yes, I'd go along with that.

**Teacher:** How can governments help immigrants?

**James:** What they need to do is provide lots of information at the beginning so that people can make the transition into the new society. Housing is something I think they should be providing, so they're covering people's basic needs to help them integrate as quickly as possible. Also, I think there should be offers of tuition in the new language, tuition about the new culture, possibly. I don't know if that should be compulsory, but at least it should be on offer.