

BBC Learning English

Talk about English

Webcast

Thursday August 2nd, 2007



bbclearningenglish.com

Neil: Well, I asked some people in London who have lived and worked abroad firstly if they'd recommend it and secondly what they found difficult to cope with. Let's hear them.

I would definitely recommend living abroad. It's completely changed my life and broadened my horizons and made me think about more than just that what's in my immediate surroundings. It's interesting to observe other cultures but it's also quite character building to have to fit in with another culture. And have to tolerate different people and to learn how other people live.

The biggest frustration was probably language frustrations. I lived in Japan and I couldn't speak Japanese properly for a couple of years when I was there. Just not understanding how things are done and also some cultural differences it's very... some cultures are completely different to your own and to them it's completely normal and to you it's not and sometimes however hard you try to understand a different culture, you can't always.

I'd certainly recommend living abroad because for one thing you can escape the British climate, which is reason enough, and you can also meet lots of nice, interesting new people and learn another language, which is a fantastic skill.

Obviously, learning another language can be a slow and frustrating experience and also in certain countries, for example in South America where I lived, people can have a stereotypical view of you. They might think you to be a rich American for example and consequently try and get some money off you.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/webcast/070802_gap_year/