



¹ The last big wave of emigration from the UK took place towards the end of the 19th century. During this time, about 90,000 people per year were leaving to start new lives in places like Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US. Today, the numbers are much bigger; every day, thousands of people are on the move and, either temporarily or permanently, setting up home abroad. Their move may be job-orientated or perhaps they think the grass is greener somewhere else. Whatever their reasons, it's clear that more and more people are stepping into the unknown and leaving their own country. In Britain alone, over 400,000 people make the move out of their country each year. In 2010, one survey revealed that almost three quarters of Brits have considered emigrating this year – that's an increase of 300 percent in five years. But where do they go and why? And do they 'live happily ever after'?

² Typically, a lot of people move abroad because of their jobs. They may find that their company is moving them overseas but many people make their own decision, believing they will have more successful careers abroad. Paul Derwin is a scientist who used to be based at a prestigious London university. He was dissatisfied, however, and felt that the opportunities he had were not nearly as good as he wanted and he decided to explore the possibilities California had to offer. 'Emigration is incredibly difficult, emotionally as well as practically,' he says. 'But after ten years here, I've got a far nicer life than before. I have a fantastic job and the recognition I wanted. People take my work much more seriously here. It would be difficult to give that up now.'

³ By far the most popular reason for emigrating, however, is the desire for a better quality of life. Destinations that place a greater value on leisure and have a more laid-back lifestyle were easily

the most popular. People also look for places where the weather is sunnier and generally a lot warmer. Britain is famous for its bad weather especially during the dark and cold winter months. Southern Spain becomes very appealing when you think of the 320 days of sunshine a year. In 2008, over a million people emigrated to Spain and there are thought to be over one million Brits now living there. Cheaper property is another reason given for moving abroad. The cost of living in America, for example, is a bit lower than in Britain and often salaries are slightly higher. For all these reasons, it's not surprising that the top five most regularly chosen destinations for Britons to emigrate to are the US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Spain. The fact that most of these are English-speaking countries is obviously also a major factor for British people. Sue Riddell, a 30-year-old nurse from Birmingham, wants to emigrate to Australia with a group of friends. 'We're fed up of the conditions we work and live in,' she says. 'I went travelling to Australia after I left school and I loved it – the beaches, the fresh air, the sense of space. If I can, I'm going. And I don't know if I'll come back.'

⁴ Despite the fact that so many Britons move abroad, however, most of them go back home after only about three years. Often, living overseas is not quite as attractive as it first seems. Generally people emigrate because they think life is going to be a little better. They sometimes want to do this because they get certain feelings on holiday and they romanticise about what it would be like to live there. They tend to focus on the best aspects and think it will be nearly as good as this all the time, when often that is not the case. Making enough money and getting work abroad can be just as difficult as it is at home and people tend to find they miss family, friends and things they took for granted back home.



READING TIME :

PART A

The following sentences are T or F (write the letter No more) .

- 1 In the late 1800s, a lot of people emigrated from the UK.
- 2 Over a million British people emigrate every year.
- 3 Spain is a popular destination for British people to emigrate to.
- 4 Most people who emigrate go back home after a year.

PART B

Read the article again and match the summaries (a–g) with the paragraphs (1–4). There are three extra summaries.

- a The appeal of many places is the price of property, better wages and the good weather.
- b For most people who emigrate, it's the best thing they've ever done.
- c Many people find that the grass is not always as green as they had hoped.
- d There is a trend in recent times for increasing numbers of British people to emigrate.
- e It's very difficult to get a work permit for popular countries like Australia and Spain.
- f Some people go abroad for about three years in order to earn and save money to go back with.
- g Although emigrating can be hard, it can also provide people with greater job satisfaction.