## PRE-INTERMEDIATE UNIT 7

**1A** Work in pairs and discuss. Why do you think people decide to make big life changes? Think about the following ideas.

- where they work/study
- where they live
- what they look like
- what they do

**B** What do you think is the most important reason to change your life? Why?

**2** Read the article about a man who changed his job. What job did Anthony use to do? What does he do now?




*It's often said that money doesn't buy you happiness. Somebody who would definitely agree is thirty-eight-year-old Anthony, an ex-corporate lawyer who* ***swapped*** *his high-flying city* ***lifestyle*** *for a much more relaxed way of life in the beautiful Welsh countryside. Here, Anthony tells us his story.*

I used to work for a big international law firm in London, dealing in corporate law. I worked really long hours but I didn't mind because everyone else I knew worked long hours, too, and we made up for it at the weekend! I had a pretty good life; I owned a great flat in a nice neighbourhood, ate out at the most fashionable (and expensive) restaurants and went **abroad** on holiday at least four times a year. But deep down I had a feeling that something was wrong, that I wasn't satisfied with something in my life.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Then about five years ago, I was visiting friends in the countryside and we walked past a farm advertised for sale. I can't really explain it, but as I stood there looking at it, I just knew that was where I **belonged** and needed to be. It sounds silly, but it was such a strong feeling I couldn't **ignore** it. So, I went back to London, **handed in my notice**, sold my flat, bought the farm and swapped my expensive suits for wellies!* It's not been an easy five years – I didn't know anything about farming so I've had to learn very quickly! I still work very long hours like I used to, but I find my work so satisfying. And I love the peace and quiet of the countryside.



*Wellingtons = waterproof, rubber boots

**3** Read the article again and answer the questions.

1 What type of restaurants did Anthony use to eat at?
2 How often did he use to go on holiday?
3 How long has he been a farmer?
4 What did he buy in the countryside?
5 What did he exchange his suits for?
6 What does he like about the countryside?

**4** Match the words and phrases in bold in the text with the words and phrases with a similar meaning 1–6.

1 the way you live – your activities, habits, job, etc.
2 exchanged
3 told his employer he was leaving his job
4 in or to a foreign country
5 felt happy and comfortable somewhere
6 pay no attention to something

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**5** 7.1 Listen to Phoebe talking about changes she made to her life. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 Phoebe used to work at a small school.
2 Phoebe enjoyed living in London.
3 She used to read on the train on the way to work.
4 She shared a flat with two other teachers.
5 She didn't use to do very much exercise when she lived in London.
6 Now Phoebe walks to work every day.
7 She goes to the cinema most evenings.
8 She thinks she is healthier than before.

**6A** Listen again and complete the sentences.

1 I used to spend over an hour on _____ commuting to work each day …
2 … the carriages were always so _____ …
3 I really wanted my own _____!
4 I didn't use to do much exercise because I was always _____!
5 Instead of _____ onto a crowded train …
6 Since I moved here I've _____ running and yoga …
7 I'm even going on a two-week yoga _____ in Bali …

**B** Match the answers above with words and phrases with similar meanings below.

1 spending time with friends
2 started doing
3 time spent practising an activity in a quiet place
4 trying to fit into a small space
5 the underground trains in London
6 room to do what you want
7 full of people

What's your idea of a perfect lifestyle?

LIVEWORKSHEETS