

Read the text below about culture shock and match these headings (a–c) to the three stages (1–3).

a Trouble in paradise b The road to recovery c The honeymoon period

3 Which stage are you or people you know going through at the moment?

A CULTURE SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM

Many people **would love** to leave their nine-to-five jobs behind and have a life-changing adventure overseas. They **imagine** lying under palm trees as the sun goes down. However, life overseas is not always easy, and many are not prepared for the shock of living in an alien culture.

STAGE 1:

At first, for those who actually **decide** to move abroad, life is an exciting adventure. With their new-found freedom, they **enjoy** exploring their new surroundings, and life seems like an extended holiday. They **don't mind** sampling the local cuisine and discovering other aspects of the local culture. They can even **afford** to practise their foreign-language skills without fear of making mistakes.

STAGE 2:

In many cases, when people **consider** moving to another country, they often **fail** to realize how different life overseas will be. As time goes by, they experience feelings of frustration when language and cultural misunderstandings become a daily headache. In this stage, many people **refuse** to accept the differences of their host country and some actually **avoid** spending time with local people in favour of mixing with others from their home country.

STAGE 3:

Gradually, over time, the visitor realizes they must accept the differences and not fight against them. This change in mentality **encourages** them to improve their language skills and slowly they **manage** to do the things we would do without thinking at home such as opening a bank account. This new-found confidence **enables** them to see a side of life which very few tourists are lucky enough to witness.

Culture shock is a real issue. The secret is to **stop** trying to change your host country; you will not succeed. If not, you **risk** losing your dream and having to return to the old life you wanted to leave behind.

4 Look at the text again and focus on the verbs in red. Complete this table according to the pattern that follows each verb.

verb + -ing	verb + to infinitive	verb + object + to infinitive
imagine lying	would love to leave	encourages them to improve

Find and correct the mistakes with verb patterns in these extracts from the text.

- 1 Many people would love leaving their nine-to-five jobs behind ...
- 2 They don't mind to sample the local cuisine ...
- 3 ... slowly they manage doing the things we would do without thinking at home ...

Complete these sentences with the correct verb pattern and your own ideas.

- 1 If I had the money, I would consider ...
- 2 I am planning ...
- 3 Studying English has enabled ...

Make up and write sentences of your own with the verbs from the text above.

I don't mind renting a flat as long as it is located in a quiet area.

Model essay: *Advantages and disadvantages essay*

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

These days, more and more people are going to other countries for significant periods of time, either to find a job or to study. There are clearly many benefits to doing this, but people who live abroad can also face some difficulties.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living and working in a foreign country.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Writing introductions

sentence	formula for introduction (advantages and disadvantages essay)
1 Nowadays, taking a year out to live or study abroad is becoming increasingly popular.	
2 For many people, especially young adults, the chance to spend an extended period of time overseas is an attractive one.	
3 However, there are both pros and cons to deciding to do this.	
4 In this essay, I will discuss some of the reasons why moving abroad is so popular and some of the challenges to be overcome.	

- a Add an extra sentence to support the first.
- b Focus on the question in your own words.
- c Tell the reader your plan.
- d Write a general sentence about the topic (living/working abroad).

2 Now read this question and a model introduction to it. The four steps in the introduction are in the wrong order. Rewrite it correctly.

These days, people work in more than one job, and often change career several times during their life. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

In this essay, I will look at both sides and try to draw some conclusions.
Many have at least one change of career at some point in their lives.
Nowadays, it is becoming more and more common for people to take two jobs.
But what are the benefits of this situation, and what are the drawbacks?

Write four-sentence introductions for the given two essay questions.

It is often considered that change is more beneficial to people than trying to avoid it and have everything remain the same. Do you think the advantages of change outweigh the disadvantages?

With the rise of e-books comes the decline in paper books. Some people see this as a good step forward while others do not. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

Vocabulary to use in speaking

- Concrete plans
- Take my time
- Rush into doing smth
- Change of scenery
- Harm smth (my job prospects)
- I had to pinch myself
- Immerse myself in
- Broaden my horizons
- Cheer me up
- Keep in contact with
- Vibrant (city /personality)
- Plain sailing (I know it won't be plain sailing)
- It is **right up my street**

Life/work abroad

1. Is salary important to you?
2. What kind of jobs are easy to get in a foreign country?
3. What motivates you more – High salary or job satisfaction?
4. If they don't work abroad would it be helpful to travel in a foreign country?
5. What kind of job would never take no matter the salary?