

Why do people migrate?¹

Have you always lived in the same place, or have you lived in different places? Watch this clip to see why some people start a new life in a new country.



Before you listen

Preparation: matching

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write A – H next to the number 1 – 8.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. _____ starving | A. To move to a different country, often in search of a better life. |
| 2. _____ to migrate | B. To treat someone cruelly or unfairly because of their race, religion or beliefs. |
| 3. _____ to flee | C. A war between groups of people who live in the same country. |
| 4. _____ to persecute | D. The likelihood that a person will be able to keep his/her job. |
| 5. _____ asylum | E. When a person suffers or dies from extreme hunger. |
| 6. _____ temporary | F. Continuing for a short or limited amount of time. |
| 7. _____ job security | G. To run away from danger. |
| 8. _____ a civil war | H. Protection given by a government to someone escaping danger in another country. |

After you listen

Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. People only migrate from Africa and Asia | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. People only migrate for economic reasons | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. War is one of the reasons why people leave their homes | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. Both adults and children can be migrants | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. Countries always accept migrants | TRUE | FALSE |
| 6. It's not always safe for people to go back to their countries | TRUE | FALSE |

¹ Source: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/freetime/video-zone/why-do-people-migrate>

Check your understanding: matching

Match the reason for migrating with the correct person and write A-E next to the number 1-5.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. _____ She couldn't find work. | A. Ines |
| 2. _____ There was a civil war, and she and her husband were being persecuted. | B. Shakeeb |
| 3. _____ He wanted better working conditions. | C. Sajwaa |
| 4. _____ There was a civil war when she was a baby and her parents were in danger. | D. Alain |
| 5. _____ There were political problems in his country. | E. Priyanga |

Check your language: ordering

Put these words in the correct order by writing a number in the brackets.

- ? () couldn't find () if you () move () to another country () work ()
Would you ().
- parties () different () and her husband () Sajwaa () by () were threatened ().
- If Alain () he would () to his country, () be persecuted () went back.
- find () work () for two years () couldn't () Ines ().
- she was () fled Sri Lanka () when () Priyanga's family () two years old ().
- what () your country () you () would () leave () make () ? ().

Check your vocabulary: gap fill – adjectives

Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

political	different	starving	temporary	better
-----------	-----------	----------	-----------	--------

- Not having the freedom to express yourself is a _____ problem.
- Would you leave if another country offered a _____ life for your family?
- The only jobs Ines could find in Portugal were _____ ones.
- One of the reasons Alain migrated was the people were _____ in his country.
- Sajwaa's family was persecuted and threatened by _____ parties in Iraq.

Classroom debate

- Have you lived in any other places? Do you think you will live in a different country in the future?
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of living and working abroad?
- Do you have any friends or relatives who have migrated?

Answer key

Preparation: matching:

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. E | 5. H |
| 2. A | 6. F |
| 3. G | 7. D |
| 4. B | 8. C |

Check your understanding: true or false:

1. False. People migrate from different countries, e.g. Ines comes from Portugal.
2. False. People leave their countries for political problems too.
3. True
4. True
5. False. Sometimes applications are rejected.
6. True

Check your understanding: matching:

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. E
5. D

Check your language: ordering:

1. Would you move to another country if you couldn't find work?
2. Sajwaa and her husband were threatened by different parties.
3. If Alain went back to his country, he would be persecuted.
4. Ines couldn't find work for two years.
5. Priyanga's family fled Sri Lanka when she was two years old.
6. What would make you leave your country?

Check your vocabulary: gap fill – adjectives:

1. Political
2. Better
3. Temporary
4. Starving
5. Different

Transcript

Sajwaa: Would you leave your home if it would save your life?

Shakeeb: Would you leave if another country offered a better life for your family?

Alain: Would you leave your home if you were being persecuted?

Ines: Would you move to another country if you couldn't find work?

Priyanga: Would you, would you leave everything that you had behind, all your friends, all your family, all your belongings, everything that you played with, everything you grew up with?

Sajwaa: I left Iraq in 2006 with my three children, due to the escalated situation back there. There was a civil war in Iraq, and due to my background and my husband's, we were subject to persecution and threats by different parties.

Shakeeb: I left India because in search of more experience and because I wanted to get more exposed in my job. I wanted to learn more different cuisine and I had always heard about Europe that there's more working and good working environment, more job security, and, you know, people are more accepting people from the other part of the world.

Alain: I left Congo because of political problems. In our country especially, everything is not going in a good way. Everything – that means that people are starving every day, uh, children are not going to school. There's no freedom, you know, you can't even express yourself. And, um, that time I felt if I would go back to the country, I would die or maybe to, I would be persecuted.

Ines: Uh, my name is Ines, I come from Portugal, and I came to the UK because of job, because of work. Uh, at the time, it was not as bad as it is now, uh, but I still couldn't find, uh, any sort of work for two years. Uh, for some time I was doing temporary, uh, jobs and these started to be less and less until I had nothing.

Priyanga: I came here simply for a better life. My parents and I, uh, we left Sri Lanka when I was two years old and we had to flee the country because there was a civil war that broke loose and both my parents were, their, their lives were in danger. Um, and we came to the UK, um, we came here in the year 2000, and several locations, uh, applications, like uh, asylum process was rejected, and we had to keep on, keep putting in fresh claims.

What is it that will make you leave your home, home? What is it that will make you leave everything that you have – all your friends, all your family, everything that you own, and go into a different country?