

Moving to a New Country 1: Hard Choices



Warm up:

- If you could live in any country, where would you live?
- Have you ever lived in another country? What was it like?
- If you had to choose between living in Australia and Japan, which would you choose and why?
- Do you know anyone from another country who lives in your country? What has their experience been like?
- Do you know anyone who has worked overseas? What did they do and what was their experience like?



1. Michael is a software engineer and workshop facilitator for Macrohard, a software company. Read the email and answer the questions below.

Subject: Congratulations, you've been accepted

Hello Michael,

I'm delighted to tell you that we have reviewed your application to work in one of our overseas offices, and you have been approved to take a position as soon as next month. Unfortunately, your preferred destination in Amsterdam currently has no vacancies, but either Barcelona or London is available. Spanish is preferred but not required for the position in Barcelona, but English is mandatory for both positions.

The position in London is in the heart of the city, which is beautiful, but it may be difficult to find accommodation close to the office (which has about 2000 people). If your commute is more than 45 minutes, we are happy to compensate you for that time.

The position in Barcelona is on the outskirts of the city right next to the ocean, and is a much smaller location, with only 300 employees.

Also, we will help you with the visa application process, but you should decide and start as soon as possible, as both countries are not exactly lightning fast when it comes to approving work visas.

Regards, Ramon Melcini

- What do you think Michael applied for?
- What country did Michael want to go to, and why can't he go there?
- What language is necessary for the position in Barcelona?
- Why should Michael decide as soon as possible?
- If you were faced with this decision, which would you take and why?



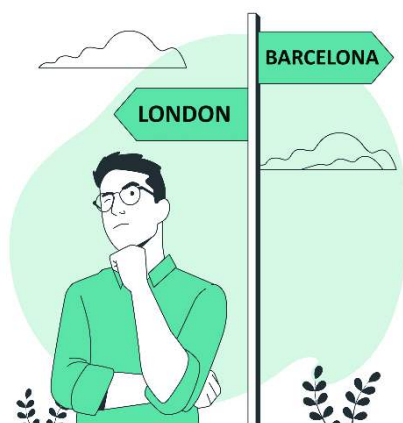
2. When discussing a hard choice in English, there are a lot of useful phrases to help you. Look at the phrases below and match them to their meaning on the right. These phrases are used in the conversation you will listen to in the next exercise.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) Good point | 1. An easy choice. |
| b) A downside | 2. That makes sense. |
| c) To make up your mind | 3.. You should. |
| d) On top of that... | 4. Bad at making choices. |
| e) If I were you, I'd... | 5. To make a decision. |
| f) A no brainer | 6. A negative part of something. |
| g) Pros and cons | 7. In addition / Also. |
| h) Indecisive | 8. The good and the bad things. |



3. Michael is not sure whether to go to Barcelona or London. Listen to his conversation with his friend Holly about it and answer the questions below

- Why is Michael surprised he got the position?
- Why is Holly not surprised he got the position?
- How does Michael feel about the city of London and why?
- What does "Estoy embarazada" mean in Spanish?
- Why is Michael nervous about speaking Spanish even though the office language in Barcelona is English?
- What is Holly's suggestion to Michael to help him decide?





4. Listen to [the audio](#) again and make a pros and cons list for Barcelona and London. Feel free to add your own pros and cons, not just the ones you hear in the audio.

<u>London</u>	<u>Barcelona</u>
Pros:.....	Pros:.....
.....
.....
.....
Cons:	Cons:
.....
.....
.....



5. With a partner debate if Michael should choose London or Barcelona. One person should argue in favour of London, the other in favour of Barcelona.

Politely Asking for Information

Michael decides to go to London, but he realises he needs more information from Ramon. There are many different structures to politely ask for information, one of the most common is "Could you tell me...?"

Eg. *"Could you tell me the address of the office?"* or *"Could you tell me how long the application will take?"*

Another useful structure is "Do you know..?" or "Do you know if...?"

Eg. *"Do you know where the hotel is?"* or *"Do you know if I have to do my own visa application?"*

To be extra polite, you can use "Do you mind" + verb + ing

Eg. *"Do you mind explaining the visa process?"* Or *"Do you mind sending the information via email?"*

Note that in polite questions, we do not use the normal question structure, but the statement structure.

Eg. Standard question: *"Where is the train station?"*

Polite structure: *"Do you know where is the train station?"* ❌

"Do you know where the train station is?" ✅



6. Michael has decided to move to London and has made a list of questions. Look at Michael's notes and write an email informing Ramon Melcini of his decision and asking for the information from the note.

Going to London!!!!!!

- How do I apply for the visa?

- Who should I send receipts to for travel expenses etc?

- Do they help me find accommodation? Where do I stay when I arrive?

- How long am I staying?

- Will MacrotHard pay for flights back on holidays?

Subject:

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7. Ramon Melcini calls Michael to answer his questions and also to ask for some information for the visa application. Listen to the call and answer the questions.

- a) Who should Michael send his receipts to, and what is her email?
- b) What does Michael need to do if he wants to move back home?
- c) What does Michael need to do if he wants to stay longer than 3 years?
- d) How often will Macrohard pay for Michael to come home for holiday?
- e) Why is Michael not happy with the accommodation Macrohard offers him?
- f) Look at the visa application form below and fill it out with Michael's details.

Personal Details

Surname		First Name	
Nationality		Citizenship (if different from nationality)	
Current Address (Street name and Number)			D.O.B
City, Postcode, and Country			

Document No.38520-1

Number 1
| |

Number 2
| |

The number above is required.

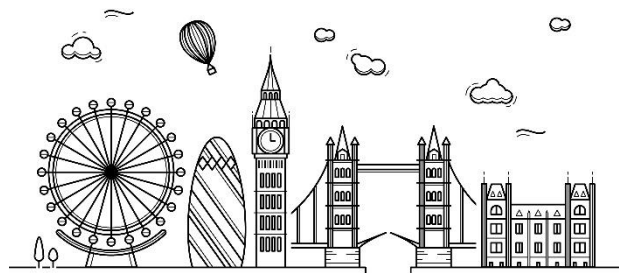
▶ Checking a box for confirmation (See instructions on page 12) You Spouse

Insurance

Check only one box.

- Standard Health Insurance
- Private Health Insurance
- Travellers Insurance
- Other

- g) What advice does Michael give Ramon about visiting Copenhagen?
- h) What does Michael need to send to Ramon to complete the application?



LONDON