

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? *An overseas posting with Macrohard*
- What country did Michael want to go to, and why can't he go there? *The Netherlands, no positions are available there.*
- What language is necessary for the position in Barcelona? *English*
- Why should Michael decide as soon as possible? *Because they need to start the visa application process, and it can take a long time*
- If you were faced with this decision, which would you take and why?



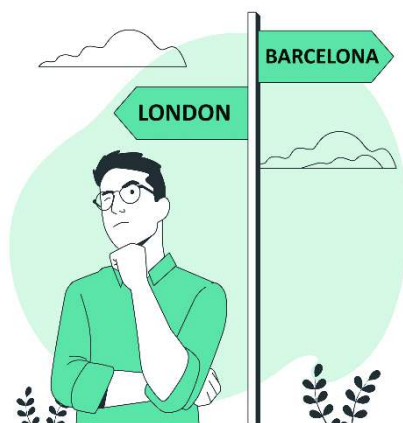
2. When discussing a hard choice in English, there are a lot of useful phrases to help you. Look at the phrases below and match them to their meaning on the right. These phrases are used in the conversation you will listen to in the next exercise.

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

- a) Why is Michael surprised he got the position? *Because 20 other people applied*
- b) Why is Holly not surprised he got the position? *Because Michael is the only one who is both a certified software engineer and has experience giving workshops*
- c) How does Michael feel about the city of London and why? *He doesn't mind it. He thinks it's too crowded, the traffic is bad, and it's very expensive*
- d) What does "Estoy embarazada" mean in Spanish? *I'm pregnant*
- e) Why is Michael nervous about speaking Spanish even though the office language in Barcelona is English? *Because he knows outside of work he will have to speak with his colleagues in Spanish.*
- f) What is Holly's suggestion to Michael to help him decide? *Make a pros and cons list*





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.

London

Pros: *Much better salary (30% more),
Michael is comfortable in English.*

Cons: *traffic, crowded, expensive.*

Barcelona

Pros: *Nice sandwiches, swimming pool
on the rooftop of the office, people are
welcoming, office is smaller.*

Cons: *Not comfortable in Spanish,
lower salary.*



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? His new team leader Janis Telvin, her email is *janis_telvin@macrohard.com*
- b) What does Michael need to do if he wants to move back home? *Give 6 months notice to Macrohard*
- c) What does Michael need to do if he wants to stay longer than 3 years? *Apply for a long term residence visa*
- d) How often will Macrohard pay for Michael to come home for holiday? *Once a year*
- e) Why is Michael not happy with the accommodation Macrohard offers him? *It's a share house, he will have to share with 3 other people*
- f) Look at the visa application form below and fill it out with Michael's details.

Personal Details

Surname <i>Haybecker</i>		First Name <i>Michael</i>	
Nationality <i>Croatian</i>		Citizenship (if different from nationality) <i>Denmark</i>	
Current Address (Street name and Number) <i>29 Classengade rd</i>		D.O.B <i>25/8/1996</i>	
City, Postcode, and Country <i>2100, Copenhgen, Denmark</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Checking a box for confirmation (See instructions on page 12) <input type="checkbox"/> You <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse			

Document No.38520-1

Number 1

Number 2

The number above is required.

Insurance

Check only one box.

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

- g) What advice does Michael give Ramon about visiting Copenhagen? *Don't come in March because it's too cold and dark, come in June.*
- h) What does Michael need to send to Ramon to complete the application? *2 passport sized photos and a copy of his passport.*

Audio Transcript 1: Holly

Holly: Hey Michael, congratulations, I heard you got accepted to go and work overseas!

Michael: Thanks Holly. To be honest I'm kind of surprised I got it, there was so much competition, I think about 20 other people applied.

Holly: Sure, but as far as I know you're the only one who is both a certified software engineer and has experience running workshops. That's pretty valuable.

Michael: Good point.

Holly: So where are you going to go?

Michael: Well that's the thing, I've been offered positions in both Barcelona and London, and I really can't make up my mind.

Holly: Have you been to either of them before?

Michael: I've been to London... I don't mind it, but to be honest I didn't love it. It's too crowded and it's insanely expensive. On top of that I can't stand the traffic in London.

Holly: And Barcelona?

Michael: I haven't been to Barcelona but I've been to Spain a couple of times. I love it there, the people are so welcoming. Also they have these little sandwiches called pinchos that are the most addictive food I've ever had.

Holly: Ok so... do you prefer the office in London then?

Michael: No, the office in Barcelona is much smaller, which I prefer, and I looked up pictures and the Barcelona office look much nicer. They have a swimming pool on the rooftop!

Holly: Seriously? That's... kind of ridiculous. But then That kind of sounds like a no brainer to me. You prefer Spain, the office looks nicer, what's the problem?

Michael: Well Spain has some pretty serious downsides too. The biggest is that I'm really not comfortable in Spanish. Technically I can speak it at a B1 level, but in a situation like a business meeting I'd be lost. Last time I was there I was late for an important work meeting and I said "Estoy Embarazada" which I thought meant "I'm embarrassed."

Holly: Ok... what does it actually mean?

Michael: I'm pregnant.

Holly: Pregnant! Ok that's hilarious, but I can see the problem. But isn't the office language English?

Michael: I mean sure in theory, but everything outside of business will still be in Spanish. If I want to get along with my colleagues outside of work it will all be in Spanish, and that's a problem. On top of that the salary is much higher in London. The cost of living is higher too, but even with that I'd still end up making about 30% more in London. I really hate this, I'm so indecisive when it comes to big life choices.

Holly: Yeah that's a tough one. If I were you I'd sit down and make a pros and cons list. That always helps me make tough choices.

Michael: Good idea, I'll do that, thanks.

Audio Transcript 2: Ramon

Michael: Hello, Michael speaking.

Ramon: Hi, am I speaking to Mr Michael Haybecker?

Michael: You are, how can I help you?

Ramon: Hi Michael, my name is Ramon Melcini, we talked before via email about your posting to the London office.

Michael: Ah Mr Melcini, thanks so much for calling, I just sent you an email about London.

Ramon: Yes, I just received it and I thought I'd just call and answer your questions. Also, we can do your visa application for you, I'll just need to ask a few questions to complete the form.

Michael: Ok great

Ramon: Now with regards to who you should send receipts to, please send them to your team leader in London. Do you have her email yet?

Michael: Ahh no, I don't even know who she is yet.

Ramon: Ok no problem. Her name is Janis Telvin. I'll give you her email, do you have a pen?

Michael: Ahhhh one second... Ok, ready

Ramon: Her email is janis_telvin@macrohard.com

Michael: Ok so just to confirm that was janis_telvin@macrohard.com

Ramon: Right. Now with regards to how long you can stay in London, it's really up to you, but anytime up to 3 years. The most important part is you give us at least 6 months notice before you move back.

Michael: And if I want to stay longer than 3 years?

Ramon: Well that's possible, but you would need to apply for a long term residence visa, and we can't help you with that. Oh also just so you we can pay for flights home for holiday once a year. Anything more than that will have to come out of your own money.

Michael: Ok got it. Aaand... I feel like I'm forgetting something.

Ramon: Oh right, the accommodation, I almost forgot. We can provide you with temporary accommodation for the first 3 months but after that you'll have to find your own place. The good news it's close to the city, the bad news is you'll have to share a kitchen and bathroom with 3 other people.

Michael: Seriously? A share house?

Ramon: Well it's an expensive city Mr Haybecker, you can take it or leave it.

Michael: Well I guess I don't have a choice.

Ramon: Ok, one more thing, I just need a few details for your visa application. Could you spell your last name for me?

Michael: Sure, it's Haybecker

Ramon: Ok great, and when were you born?

Michael: 25th of August 1996

Ramon: Ok great. Now where do you live at the moment?

Michael: 29 Classengade rd in Copenhagen. That's Classengade. The postcode is 2100

Ramon: Ah that's right, you're in Copenhagen. How is it there? I was thinking about doing a holiday there in March.

Michael: Oh Copenhagen is lovely but I wouldn't come in March if I were you, it's just dark and windy. Better to wait until June.

Ramon: Ok, good tip. And do you have insurance yet?

Michael: I do, I have travellers insurance with Allied Insurance, I plan to get standard health insurance once I arrive.

Ramon: Great. And are you Danish?

Michael: Actually no, I'm Croatian, but I have full Danish citizenship.

Ramon: Ok great, that should be everything, just send us two passport sized photos and a copy of your passport as soon as possible and we can submit the application.

Michael: Great, thanks so much for your help Ramon.

Ramon: You're welcome, is there anything else I can help you with?

Michael: No that's everything, bye.

Ramon: Bye.