

Skills test 1

READING

In between worlds: culture shock

Although going to live in a foreign country can be an exciting adventure, it's sometimes a difficult experience. Everything is new and different: big things like the language and culture, and smaller things like where to buy bus tickets or if you can go shopping on a Sunday. Feeling out of control can make you feel helpless, confused, and frustrated.

There are usually several stages that you have to go through before you can feel at home in your new environment. After the initial excitement of arriving, reality can make you feel angry and impatient. You may even blame your new home for this. Then, as you begin to understand and appreciate your new world better, you start to feel less uncomfortable, and eventually you settle in. Not everyone goes through all these stages – and some people don't spend long enough in the new culture to go through them.

The Honeymoon stage: First, the differences between the old and new culture are seen in a romantic light, everything seems exciting and wonderful, and the move just feels like an extended vacation abroad. You might love tasting new dishes, enjoy the different pace of life and cultural customs, even the way people dress differently.

The Negotiation stage: It may take a few frustrating days, weeks, or months to accept all the differences between the old and new culture. Some people start to miss food the way it is prepared "back home", others find the locals' different habits annoying or their lifestyle too fast or slow.

The Acceptance stage: A few more weeks or months, and you get used to the new culture and develop your everyday routine. By this point, you don't think of your "new culture" negatively or positively because it no longer feels like a new culture. You just get on with your life. This is now your home.

The Reverse Culture Shock stage: Ironically, when you return to your own culture, you may go through the same experience in reverse, and find that you no longer feel completely at home in the country you were born in. Some people will give up trying to feel at home in their new country and return home sooner than

they planned. Others get so used to the new world that they choose to stay there permanently because they can no longer live anywhere else.

1 Read the article. Match sentence beginnings 1–11 with endings a–l. There is one extra ending.

- 1 e Living in another country
 - 2 _____ Sometimes people feel confused and frustrated when they
 - 3 _____ The first feeling most people experience in a new country
 - 4 _____ People who feel angry and impatient in the new culture sometimes
 - 5 _____ The stages are not experienced by everyone, as
 - 6 _____ In the Honeymoon stage, people living in a new country
 - 7 _____ Differences in the Honeymoon stage between the old and new culture
 - 8 _____ When people go through the Negotiation stage, they slowly
 - 9 _____ When people start getting used to the new culture, they
 - 10 _____ Some people experience a reverse culture shock
 - 11 _____ When people fail to get used to living in their new country, they
- a sometimes go back home before they planned to.
 - b when they go back to their old country.
 - c is excitement.
 - d must move there permanently because it's their home.
 - e is exciting, but sometimes difficult.
 - f blame their new country.
 - g feel they are not in control.
 - h get used to the differences in tastes, customs, and lifestyles.
 - i are seen with positive feelings.
 - j some only stay there for a short time.
 - k begin to find a routine for their normal lives.
 - l view their world as an exciting place.

2 points for each correct answer

20

Skills test 1

2 Match five of the underlined words to the definitions.

1 an unusual, exciting or dangerous experience

adventure

2 feeling annoyed or impatient _____

3 to enjoy or understand the value of _____

4 longer, increased _____

5 the usual order or way that you do things _____

6 discussions to reach an agreement _____

2 points for each correct answer

	5
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Reading total		25
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Skills test 1

WRITING

1 Write a note to your friend to say you cannot go to the movies with him / her. You should:

- include a suitable greeting.
- apologize for changing your plans.
- give the reason you cannot go to the movies with him / her.
- suggest another time you could go together.
- find a suitable closing phrase.

Write your note in 80–100 words.

shorter writing task

	10
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2 Your teacher has asked you to write a book review for an English language book

club. You should summarize the plot, describing the main events and characters,

and say why you would recommend the book. Write your review in 140–180 words.

longer writing task

	15
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Writing total

	25
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Skills test 1

LISTENING

1 Listen to a man talking about his business. Write true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Pawel Kowalski is from Poland. **T**
- 2 Pawel and his wife live in Kielce, Poland. _____
- 3 Pawel started his company three years ago. _____
- 4 Pawel's wife is American. _____
- 5 Their company organizes events like weddings and conferences. _____
- 6 In his previous job, Pawel was a security guard. _____
- 7 Pawel's company also provides security arrangements. _____
- 8 Pawel is in charge of cooking. _____
- 9 The company serves dinners at wedding and employs permanent waiters. _____
- 10 Pawel thinks foreign visitors don't always enjoy formal dinners. _____
- 11 The company gets feedback from their clients. _____

1 point for each correct answer 20

2 Listen again. Complete the sentences from the text with one word only.

- 1 I came over to the US three years ago ... and I fell in love with your country instantly.
- 2 Barbara ... is responsible for looking after _____.
- 3 We do a lot of _____ events for the banking trade.
- 4 We always buy the freshest _____ at the market.
- 5 We always try to _____ whatever our clients request.
- 6 We get many _____ comments from them.

1 point for each correct answer 5

Listening total 25



3 Discuss the statements. Do you agree or disagree?

- 1 "A good job is a well-paid job."
- 2 "It is often easier to talk about our problems to our grandparents than to our parents."

max. 5 points for each topic 10

Speaking total 25

SPEAKING

1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 Do you know anybody who has lived in another country? What were the pros and cons for them?
- 2 What jobs are popular with young people in your country? Why?
- 3 What kind of blogs do you read or know about? Why do people read those blogs?
- 4 What is your favorite book or movie? Why?
- 5 What are the most important things in life?

max. 1 point for each topic 5

2 Look at the photos. Compare schools in your grandparents' time and now. Talk about school subjects, rules and discipline, and classroom equipment.

max. 10 points 10

Skills test 1 total 100