

Speaking - TP (60mn) - Working Abroad

Discussion

Activity 1

Groups of 3 or 4 students

Imagine you have decided to go and work abroad for a year. Which of the things in the list below do you think are the most important when choosing a new country to live and work in? First rank them from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important) in the middle column – ‘individual choice’.

	Individual choice	Group choice
the climate		
the food		
the distance from your own country		
the type of job you could get		
the amount of money you can earn		
the music, art and cinema produced there		
how easy it is to travel within the country and to other countries		
the number of other people from your country who already live there		
the languages spoken		
the sports played there		

Activity 2

When you are finished, discuss your choices in your group with at least one other person. Explain *why* you have ranked them this way.

Now try to agree in your group on which order the characteristics above should come in. Write this in the right hand column – ‘group choice’. Is there anything missing from the list?

ROLEPLAY

Your work for a recruitment agency that specialises in jobs overseas. Recently you have had a number of problems with employees breaking their contracts early because they were homesick. You have decided to ask all new interviewees about how they will cope with living and working in a foreign country, away from their family and friends.

Activity 1

In your group, make a list of six questions that you could ask to assess whether they will be able to handle working abroad.

Example: Which other countries have you visited? Did you like them?

Try to encourage the students to choose open questions (requiring longer answers) rather than closed questions (answered with yes or no), as this will increase the amount of speaking practice they do.

Suggested interview questions:

Have you ever lived overseas before?

How do you plan to stay in touch with your family and friends?

How often do you think you will want to return home?

What will you do if...? (e.g. you can't buy food from your country)

How do you plan to make new friends?

What's the longest amount of time that you've been away from your family before?

Do you have any friends or family who are living overseas?

What kind of things do you think will be different in another country?

Activity 2

Interview someone from another group. Make notes of his or her answers.

Activity 3

Compare your interview notes with your group. Who do you think the agency should hire?

Justify your choice.