

Simplified Speech #133 – Moving to a foreign country

Episode description

Have you ever lived or thought about living in a foreign country? If so, hit play and listen to Andrew and Suzanne's perspectives about living in a foreign country. In this episode, Andrew and Suzanne talk about the ups and downs of living in a foreign country. Tune in to hear this interesting conversation full of natural English expressions and vocabulary.

Fun fact

An expat is someone who does not live in the country they hold citizenship in. Expats make up a little over 3% of the world's population! The Expat Insider conducted a survey this year in which 12,420 expats around the globe participated to determine the best and worst expat destinations. Taiwan, Mexico, and Costa Rica made up the top three best expat destinations.

Expressions included in the study guide

- To bring [someone] up to speed
- Label
- All walks of life
- To tie up one's point
- A tall task
- To have blinders on one's eyes



Transcript

Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Hello, everyone, my name is Andrew.

Suzanne: Hey, guys, I'm Suzanne.

Andrew: And this is the Culips English Podcast.

Hello there, everyone. Welcome back to Culips. You are listening to Simplified Speech. And if you don't know what that is, well, let me explain. Simplified Speech is the Culips series that features clear, natural, and easy-to-understand English conversations about interesting topics. And we hope that by listening and studying with this episode, you'll be able to improve your English listening, speaking, and vocabulary skills. And to help me teach this lesson today, I'm joined by my cohost, Suzanne. Hey there, Sue.

Suzanne: Hey, Andrew. Hey, listeners. So great to be here with you guys. Today we're going to talk about a very interesting topic, about our experiences moving to a different country.

Andrew: Yes, moving to a different country. And, Suzanne, recently, I threw a story up on our Instagram and I asked our followers if they had any suggestions or topics that they would like us to cover in an upcoming episode. And many people requested that we talk about immigration. And when I saw this suggestion, I thought, aha, this is a great topic for us to chat about, because I realized that most members of the Culips team are actually immigrants, ourselves. All of the hosts and even some of our team who work behind the scenes are immigrants, and live and work in a country that's not their home country. Suzanne, you and I are examples of this, right? You're from the States, from the USA, but you're living in Canada. And of course, I'm from Canada, but I'm living in South Korea. So I thought it would be a good idea for us to talk about our personal experiences with immigration and moving to a different country. So that's what we're going to do today.

Suzanne: Awesome. But before we start, we'd like to give a shout-out to one of our listeners from Taiwan with the nickname Dadanny, hopefully I'm saying that right, who left us a positive review and five-star rating on Apple Podcasts. Dadanny wrote, "Excellent podcast, I've been listening to Culips for 6 months. I highly recommend English learners out there to take a chance and listen to Culips. This will help your English learning!" Yes, thank you so much, Dadanny.

Andrew: Yeah, thank you so much for that excellent review. We really appreciate it and we're happy to hear that you enjoy listening to Culips, Dadanny.

Now, listeners. If you would like to get a shout-out on an upcoming Culips episode, then all you have to do is leave a rating and review on Apple Podcasts or your favourite podcast app. Now, leaving a positive review and a five-star rating really helps English learners from around the world find Culips and study with us.

Now, Sue, we have one more announcement to make and that is about the study guide for this episode. Everyone, the best way to study with this episode is with the guide, and that's because inside the study guide, there is a full transcript, along with detailed vocabulary explanations of all the important vocabulary and examples of how to use that vocabulary in a realistic, natural context. There's a quiz, there are questions that will help you practice writing and speaking, and more. So to get the study guide and follow along with it as you listen to us today, all you have to do is visit our website, Culips.com, sign up, and become a Culips member.

OK, Suzanne, so I think it's time for us to get started with this topic about moving to a different country. And we have a lot that we could talk about. I guess maybe the best place to start is by sharing a little bit of your background. But, Suzanne maybe some of our newer listeners don't know your backstory. So could you **bring everyone up to speed** and let us know why you decided to move from the USA to Canada?

Suzanne: Yeah, it's a very classic reason, Andrew. I moved to Montreal, because my heart fell in love with a French guy. So I met Olivier in New York, and we were long distance, that's my partner. We were long distance, New York, Montreal, New York, Montreal, back and forth, back and forth for 4 years. And it was getting exhausting having to move back and forth every other week, and only seeing each other on the weekends.

And Olivier tried to move to the States. But at that time, he was still a French citizen only and not a Canadian citizen yet. So it was difficult for him to immigrate to the US. As we know, immigration to the US can be challenging. And because I was an American citizen moving to Canada, there were more options for me to immigrate.

So I knew I wanted to do a master's degree in linguistics. So I did some research and found our awesome program at Concordia, met the professors, hit it off with the professors, and really felt like that was the answer, that Montreal was the place for me, that that was the best choice for us as a couple, for me to immigrate to Canada, as opposed to Olivier coming to the US at that time.

And it was pretty easy for me to get my student visa. So once I got my student visa, I was able to move to Montreal, study at Concordia, and be with Olivier.

Andrew: Nice, very good. And now how long has it been since you've been in Canada?

Suzanne: I think 8 years. I moved here in 2013. This summer makes 8 years, yeah.

Andrew: This summer makes 8 years, wow. So, Sue, do you think of yourself as an immigrant? Is that a **label** that you attach to yourself?

Suzanne: I would say yes. I think if I moved to an English-speaking province, I would feel less as an immigrant because I think the culture is quite similar in the US and Canada. It's not a huge shift in culture or language. However, moving to Quebec and having to speak French in my daily life, it does make me feel like I'm in a different country, like a different place. So it adds that extra layer of difference between my home and my new home.

So I do feel like an immigrant. I will say, in the last couple years since I've solidified my permanent residency, I don't feel as much as an immigrant. Because I think when you're going through all of that paperwork every year and having to reapply for this visa and that visa and next permanent residency and prove your status, I think that definitely reminds you of the fact that you're an immigrant, when you have to deal with all the paperwork.

Andrew: Oh, that's interesting that you feel that way, Suzanne, because I was thinking kind of the opposite, actually. I feel like when you have to renew your visa every year and go to the immigration office, it makes you feel like you're just a temporary resident, and that you're actually not an immigrant because, at least my thinking about what an immigrant is, is somebody who settles permanently in a foreign country. And so if you have to keep renewing your visa, or if you are worried that maybe the following year, you won't be able to renew your visa, that makes me feel like you're more of a temporary visitor in the country. And then if you secure permanent residence or citizenship, even, then you're an immigrant.

So for that reason, I've never really considered myself an immigrant in Korea, even though I've been here for several years, on and off for around 8 years, similar to you, Suzanne, and I do have a permanent residency visa, quote, unquote, because the visa length is only 3 years. So that is the longest visa that I can get. However, it's not really permanent. It's only for 3 years. So there's not that, like, security that I could settle down here and live forever if I wanted to. I don't really have that security. However, I just did recently this year get married to a Korean citizen, and I haven't done the paperwork yet. When I do the paperwork and get the marriage visa, then that will give me a lot more security. And maybe then I will feel more like an immigrant. But up until now, I kind of feel more like a visitor in a foreign country than an immigrant, personally.

Suzanne: Huh, that's so interesting. See, for me, when I have that permanence, it makes me feel like this is more my home or I belong here. But you're right, the definition of immigrant is someone who has immigrated, right? Someone who has really moved from one place to another and has secured permanence in that country. That's so interesting.

Andrew: I wonder if it could be about the different situations that we're in? Because I know Montreal is an extremely multicultural city, there are people from all over the world, that live there, from **all walks of life**. I heard a statistic that it's the most trilingual city in the world.

Suzanne: Wow, that's cool. What are the three languages?

Andrew: Well, it just means that the highest population of people who are capable of speaking three languages live there. So the three languages aren't the same. But out of the population, I don't know, maybe 30% of people can say that they're fluent in three languages. So that usually means they can speak English, French, and their home language from whatever country they originally came from. I think usually that's the situation.

Suzanne: Yeah, that makes a lot of sense. And, I mean, I remember when we started our master's degree, and we were in the room introducing ourselves, I was just blown away with how many people said that they spoke three or four languages. This makes a lot of sense in Montreal, even for business and survival. You do need to acquire French and in turn English, as well. So very cool.

Andrew: Yeah. So just **to tie up my point here**, I think in your situation, it is totally natural that you would feel like, oh, I am home here. I am a part of the city. I'm a part of this country. I'm a part of this province, because there are so many immigrants. However, in my situation in Korea, it's completely different. I'm a very, very, very tiny minority, as a foreigner in this country. And I'll never fit in here, no matter how deeply I know the culture, no matter how well I can speak the language. I'm still always going to be a foreigner, even if I got Korean citizenship, which is **a tall task** in itself. But if I were to do that and became a Korean citizen here, you know, I still wouldn't really be Korean. So I think, Suzanne, that could be a reason why you feel like you're not really an immigrant. But now you're more at home in Canada, whereas I still feel like I'm a visitor here in South Korea.

Suzanne: Yeah, I totally agree. I think that makes a lot of sense. And I think, too, because the cultures are very similar, right? American and Canadian, it's, culturally, it's very similar. And I think for me, you know, I am coming up on 2 years of being a permanent resident, so I am eligible to apply for citizenship at that time. And I think I'm gonna go for it because, one, I don't have to then keep reapplying for my permanent residency, like, not reapplying, but renewing. And two, I would love to vote because when I have that capability and right to vote in the place where I live, I feel like I've really acquired my home status. I feel like, really, I'm a part of the community and I can add my voice to the conversation. So, yeah, it's so interesting, that perspective difference.

Andrew: Yeah, it's really cool. So, Suzanne, we'll wrap this conversation up in a bit. I know that we could talk about this for hours and hours, but we should be conscious of our listeners' time. So I just have a couple more questions for you. And they are what is the best thing about immigrating and moving to a different country? And conversely, what is the worst thing about moving to a different country? I think I can predict your worst thing answer, but I'll let you tell us first and then I'll see.

Suzanne: That's so interesting, because I don't know, I don't know if I have one. I don't know if I have a worst. But I'm interested to know what you think my worst would be because I can think of one. Well, the best thing I really think is getting a different perspective. When you grow up and live in one place, even though in the US I moved around, not a lot, but I lived in New York, I lived in Texas, I lived in Pittsburgh, I went back to New York. So I lived in some different cultural environment, like the environments that I lived in were different culturally, in that, you know, one was very fast paced, and New York City had that kind of erratic energy and a lot of creativity. And then Houston is a little bit slower energy, more spacious, more suburban. So I had a different kind of experience.

But when you leave the country, you really can see your country through the eyes of your new home. So it's kind of a way to get perspective from the outside. And instead of being immersed in that culture for so long. And so I really got to see how, and maybe my American friends and family might not like that I say this, I don't know. Sorry, it's not meant to in any way offend. But what is very interesting is moving out of the US, living away from the US for 8 years, I really see an energy that the US can sometimes think of itself as the only child, like they're the most important and forget that there's, like, many other countries out there that are equally important and necessary to the survival of the world. I think that sometimes in the US, we can get, like, **blindness on our eyes**, like a horse might that's racing, so that they don't run off to the side, they get very focused on just this is my goal, that's it, I'm only seeing one thing. And so I found that that was something that maybe I had, too. And when I left the US, I was, like, oh, there's other things out there. It's not just about the US. I'm not an only child, I have lots and lots of other things around me, and other cultures and people. So I think that was a really important perspective.

Andrew: Yeah, I have to say that I completely agree with you. I think the best thing about me leaving Canada and coming to Korea is exactly the same thing, the perspective that you gain from living in a culture and an area that's very different from your home. Just kind of rewired how I think on so many different levels when it comes to just how people problem solve, how people eat, how people talk, how people think in a different place, really gives you that perspective that there are many different ways to do things and to think about the world. And that's what's beautiful about life, really, is that we can all come from different perspectives and different backgrounds and think about the same thing different ways. And one way isn't right one, one way isn't wrong.

But if I had never left Canada, then I wouldn't know that these alternative ways of doing things and thinking about things even exist. The perspective that I gained from living in a different culture, different language, different everything has been really, really super beneficial for my personal development as a human. And I'd recommend it to anybody who can get the chance. You can get that perspective from travelling. But it's not as deep as living in a foreign country and really getting to see what the perspective is like from the inside. It's super enlightening.

OK, Suzanne, now I have to ask you about the worst thing and you said that you didn't have an answer off the top of your head. So maybe I'll share my worst thing with you first, and you can see if you agree with it.

Suzanne: Right. OK.

Andrew: For me, the worst thing about moving to another country is all of the paperwork and hassle that you have to do at the immigration office when getting a visa. It can be a nightmare having to go to the immigration office, make an appointment. You have to carry all of your documents, you can't have any mistakes. Last, when was it 2 years ago when I got my permanent residency visa, quote, unquote, because it's only for 3 years. But when I got that visa, it was a huge amount of work. It's not like anybody can just get that visa, it's a point-based visa. So you have to have points in a ton of different categories. I had to take a class on Korean culture, I had to pass a language test, I had to have just so many various documents from all sorts of government offices, both in Korea and in Canada, to prove that I actually earned these points.

And it's really stressful. I don't really like it, even going to the immigration office is a chore because there are so many other people waiting there. It's a busy place. The officers who work there are usually very stressed out because they're dealing with these stressed out people all day, every day. So in my opinion, visa and immigration issues at the immigration office, this is the worst part about moving to a different country. It's a real pain in the neck.

Suzanne: 100%. It's really stressful. I mean, my permanent residency application was 4 centimetres, like, 2 inches thick or something. It was a book.

Andrew: Like a thick novel.

Suzanne: It was a novel. I mean, Olivier sponsored me as, like, you know, *conjoint de fait* or common-law partner. And so I had to prove, you know, that we had the phone under the same name and the bank and this and the, you know, the car under the name and the, you know, the pictures from our whole relationship. And we went through countless cartridges of ink for that printer and to print out all of those photos and all of those forms, and then this form isn't filling out correctly. And it's not working on this and the French version and the English version and the ... Oh. I mean, I needed to study, like a 15-page form in order to fill out the 2 inches or 4 centimetres of forms. And then you had to interpret things, right? And that was scary, because it was like it can't be stapled, but you can put this. So it's like, OK, can I use a pin? Can I use a paperclip? No staples. If you had staples, they wouldn't accept it. Things like that. Little, tiny things that, you know, you wouldn't think about.

Andrew: Yeah, it's stressful. It's tough to go through that process of getting a visa. And while you're doing it, it's tempting to think to yourself like, oh, this is so ridiculous. Why does it have to be this challenging? This is such a stupid system. Those are kind of the thoughts that go through your head. But at the end of the day, you know, I'm glad that we have these strict policies in place. I think it's for the best that we do. And it's just kind of one of those things that you have to do. It's a fact of life if you want to move to a different country.

Suzanne: That is it, right? In order to reap the benefits of being a member of that society, you kind of have to go through the rebirth of the painful things, too, in order to get to the joyful time. So, *c'est ça*, that's it. That's true.

Andrew: Well, Suzanne, I think we will wrap things up here. So thank you, everyone, for listening, and congratulations on making it to the end of this episode. That means you got a great session of English listening in today and you can feel good about that.

If you like Culips, and you enjoy learning with us, and you find us helpful for improving your English language skills, then we would really appreciate it if you could support us. And there are several ways that you can do that. The best way is to visit our website, Culips.com, and to sign up and become a Culips member. When you're a Culips member, not only will you get the study guides, including the transcripts for every one of our episodes, all of our previous episodes and all of our new episodes as well, but you will also get some great other bonuses, like an invitation to our monthly livestreams and mini lessons for Culips members, as well as our members-only series, the Fluency Files. You'll also get ad-free episodes, so you don't have to listen to the announcements and the ads every time you listen to Culips. So it's a great thing to do to sign up and become a Culips member. And, again, you can do that right on our website, Culips.com. But that's not the only way you can support us. You could also tell your friends who are learning English to check out Culips. You could follow us on social media. And you could leave us a kind review and a five-star rating on your favourite podcast app.

Suzanne: And you can also contact us at contact@Culips.com, because we love to hear from you. So if you have any ideas for episodes or maybe some questions or comments, please feel free to contact us there.

Andrew: That's right, feel free to send us an email, we love hearing from you. Well, that's it for now, but we'll be back with another brand-new Culips episode soon and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

Suzanne: Bye, guys.

Detailed Explanations

To bring [someone] up to speed Idiom

To **be up to speed** about something is to be informed or knowledgeable about the latest information. Therefore, to **bring someone up to speed** is to make someone aware of the latest information about something. For example, if someone misses a day at work or they join a team that is in the middle of a project, then that person needs to **be brought up to speed**; that person needs to gather the latest information about the project before they can begin helping the others.

Here are a couple more examples with **to bring [someone] up to speed**:

Laurence: Hello, Richard. Welcome to Sunnybrooke Farm.

Richard: Hello, sir. Thank you. It's good to be here.

Laurence: We're very excited to have you working here with us. This is Millie. She's going to show you around the farm and **bring you up to speed on how we run things**.

Richard: All right. Hello, Millie. It's nice to meet you. I look forward to working with you.

Stacey: Oh my goodness, Padma! You're back!

Padma: Yes, I just got in last night.

Stacey: How was India? How was your family? I've missed you so much.

Padma: India was amazing. My family is lovely. And I missed you too!

Stacey: I can't wait to hear all about your trip, and then I can't wait to **bring you up to speed** on all of the latest gossip around here.

Padma: Oh, what kind of gossip?

Stacey: Nope! I'm not telling you anything until you tell me about your trip. Tell me everything.

Label

Noun/verb

The word **label** can be used as a noun or a verb, depending on the sentence. As a noun, a **label** is a name or phrase that categorizes a person or thing. For example, in a grocery store, the **label** on a box of crackers lets the consumer know all of the information about that box of crackers: the ingredients, the caloric content, the brand, etc. However, the word **label** can also be used to define a person or thing in a metaphorical way. In this episode, Andrew asks Suzanne if she would **label** herself as an immigrant. In other words, Andrew is asking Suzanne if she would categorize herself as an immigrant, and if she would want others to consider her an immigrant.

As a verb, if you **label** someone, that means you are assigning that person a phrase or name to describe some aspect of their being. For example, after his scandal with doping came to light, the famous cyclist Lance Armstrong was **labelled** as a cheater and a liar by the media. This **label**, this phrase, will forever be attached to Armstrong and his legacy from here on out.

Here are a couple more examples with **label**:

Ruth: Carrie, you're American. Did you vote for Biden or Trump in the last presidential election?

Carrie: I voted for Biden.

Ruth: So you're a democrat then?

Carrie: I don't like to **label** myself politically. I voted for a democrat this time, but I would gladly vote for a republican in the future if I thought he or she was a better candidate.

Zane: How do you think you did on the English test?

Destiny: Not well.

Zane: Why not? You're not confident in your answers?

Destiny: That's not it. I just don't think Mr. Richards will grade my test fairly. Mr. Richards has already **labelled** me as a troublemaker and a feminist. He's bound to fail me just because he can.

Zane: He can't do that! If he does, go to the administration and complain.

All walks of life

Phrase

When people talk about **all walks of life**, they are referring to people who have many different types of jobs, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. If something is open to **all walks of life**, it means that it is open to anyone and everyone regardless of the person's race, gender, social status, or bank account balance. As an example, public schools are open to children from **all walks of life**, meaning any children who live near the school are able to attend. In contrast, private schools are only open to children who can pay the tuition or who receive scholarships to go there.

Here are a couple more examples with **all walks of life**:

Heather: Which do you like better, the city or the country?

Lizzy: The country all the way. I hate the busyness and traffic of the big city. Plus, the air is so much fresher in the countryside. How about you?

Heather: I prefer the city. I don't like the crowds, either, but I love seeing all the different types of people. You can see people from **all walks of life** in the city. It makes me realize how big the world is and how much I still need to learn and explore.

Lizzy: Wow, I never thought of it like that. People are pretty similar to one another in small towns.

Johnny: Khalid, have you ever been to Mecca?

Khalid: I haven't, but my father has.

Johnny: Did he tell you what it was like?

Khalid: A little bit. He said it was a very powerful experience for him both emotionally and spiritually. He said there were thousands and thousands of people there from **all walks of life**, worshipping together.

Johnny: Wow, I've heard about it, but I can't begin to imagine what it must be like to visit in person.

Khalid: Neither can I, but I'll make the trip one day as well, just like my father.

To tie up one's point

Phrasal verb

The phrase **to tie up one's point** or **to tie up the point of [something]** means to summarize an argument or statement. In this phrase, **point** refers to an argument or statement, and **tie up** means to connect or bring together; therefore, **to tie up one's point** means to bring together, to connect, to summarize one's argument or opinions into one final statement or thought. In this episode, Andrew **tied up his point** about the difference between an expat and an immigrant by connecting the distinctions that he made with the distinctions that Suzanne made. He concluded that immigrants are people who plan to settle down in a foreign country for life, while expats might just stay in a foreign country for a few years before heading back to their country of origin.

Here are a couple more examples with **to tie up one's point**:

Milla: How is your research paper coming along?

Gowri: It's great! I just found an amazing article that really **ties up the point** of my essay. The conclusions in this article will go perfectly with the conclusions I'm trying to make in my research paper.

Milla: That's excellent news. Does that mean you'll have time to go to the mall with me on Saturday? You promised you'd make time for it.

Gowri: It sure does. I'm going to try to finish this paper up by Thursday night.

Milla: Yay! Good luck. I'll stop by later with a coffee to keep you energized.

Gabriel: Could you explain what Professor Roberts said in class today? I was kind of distracted and I wasn't listening closely.

Aaron: Sure. She was talking about the ways in which we can improve our academic writing. She talked about a bunch of stuff, but to really **tie up her point** she said that we need to make every sentence in our introductory paragraph intentional. She said that if we improve our introductions and conclusions, the quality of our writing will improve by leaps and bounds.

Gabriel: Wow, I really must have been spacing out in class today. I didn't hear any of that. Did she give us tips on how to improve those two sections in our essays?

Aaron: Yeah, she did give a few tips. But don't worry. We'll talk more about it on Monday



A tall task

Noun

A tall task, otherwise known as a **tall order**, is an action that is very difficult or nearly impossible to complete. In this episode, Andrew said that applying for and receiving Korean citizenship is a **tall task**. In other words, getting Korean citizenship as a non-native is a very difficult endeavor that takes a lot of paperwork, time, and sometimes money to achieve. In the phrase **tall task**, tall means hard to reach or difficult to achieve, so a **tall task** means a task that is hard to accomplish.

Here are a couple more examples with **a tall task**:

Danah: Carol! I'm sorry to ask this of you, but could you do me a huge favour?

Carol: What is it?

Danah: The caterer I hired for Zoey's 16th birthday party cancelled at the last minute and I need someone to fill in for him. Could you do it?

Carol: How many people would you need me to cook for and when is it?

Danah: It's for 60 people and it's the day after tomorrow.

Carol: The day after tomorrow? You want me to prepare and cook for 60 people in less than 2 days and find staff to help me serve the food? That's **a tall task**, Danah.

Danah: Um, I also need a cake.

Carol: Oh my gosh!

Mr. Gaphy: What are you doing, Saerom?

Saerom: Studying.

Mr. Gaphy: You've been working really hard lately.

Saerom: Yeah, I need really good marks this quarter. My parents said that if I raise my average, they'll finally buy me a drum set.

Mr. Gaphy: Wow, that's **a tall order**. Well, good luck. I hope you make your goal. Let me know if I can help.

To have blinders on one's eyes

Idiom

To have blinders on one's eyes, or just simply **to have blinders on**, is to be completely oblivious to something near you or to something happening around you. **Blinders** are little pieces of leather that horses wear over their eyes to limit their vision. These blinders keep the horses focused on the road in front of them, which reduces the likelihood of the horses getting spooked by something passing them on the road.

If a person is said **to have blinders on their eyes**, then they walk around like a horse that can only see the road right in front of them, totally unaware of what's going on around them. This phrase can be used literally to refer to a person who is really bad at navigating, or more figuratively to describe people who are willfully ignorant. For example, in this episode Suzanne says that people who never leave their home country often **have blinders on their eyes**—they don't realize how big the world is and how much you can learn from living or travelling outside your home country.

Here are a couple more examples with **to have blinders on one's eyes**:

Jason: Dude, look at that cool sculpture over there! When did that get there?

Marcus: They installed that, like, 3 months ago. We pass by it every day. You must **have blinders on your eyes** if you only noticed that right now.

Jason: Really? Wow, I really am oblivious! Well, it's still really cool. I wonder who sculpted it.

Marcus: It probably says who made it on the statue. Wanna go take a look?

Jason: Yeah, let's do it.

Ellison: What are you doing, Aidan?

Aidan: I'm preparing a care package to take to Zach while he's in the hospital.

Ellison: What? Why? Zach tried to beat you up last week. He's a bully. He doesn't deserve your care package.

Aidan: Yeah, I thought that way too at first, but, Ellison, we've **had blinders on our eyes**. The reason Zach is such a bully is because his home life really sucks. His mom died last year and his dad is never home. He doesn't have anyone to take care of him.

Ellison: Wow, I had no idea. It doesn't excuse him being a bully, though.

Quiz

1. **Sarah is always telling people what to do and how to do it. If people don't do things the way she wants, she gets angry. What label could we attach to Sarah?**
 - a) lazy
 - b) bossy
 - c) patient
 - d) sad

2. **Jerry has blinders on his eyes when it comes to cleanliness. He's not _____ how dirty his room is. What word goes in the blank?**
 - a) happy with
 - b) scared about
 - c) aware of
 - d) excited by

3. **True or false? A tall task is something that always costs a lot of money to complete.**
 - a) true
 - b) false

4. **Which sentence below is similar to "bring someone up to speed"?**
 - a) to outrun someone
 - b) to over run someone
 - c) to tell someone what's new
 - d) to keep up with someone

5. **Which word goes in the blank? London is a multicultural city filled with people from all walks of _____.**
 - a) Earth
 - b) live
 - c) time
 - d) life

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever lived in a foreign country? What were the best and worst parts about living in a foreign country?
2. If you had the chance, what country would you like to try living in for a short time? Why?
3. What do you think would be the most difficult thing for foreigners to adapt to in your home country? What is it about your country that might entice people to move there?
4. If money were not an issue, would you rather travel around many countries spending a short time in each one, or would you rather choose one country to live in for a long period of time?
5. Are there any labels that you've attached to yourself or that others have attached to you? What are they and what did you do to be categorized that way?

Quiz Answers

1.b 2.c 3.b 4.c 5.d

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