

7A | Life changes

VOCABULARY: phrasal verbs with *live* READING

1 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

for off on out of through up to

- 1 I love travelling and I'm quite happy living _____ a suitcase.
- 2 I don't need much money to live _____ – just enough for food and basics.
- 3 I can't understand people who live _____ their work – there are more important things in life.
- 4 You haven't really lived if you haven't lived _____ difficult times.
- 5 I want to live my own life. I'm not interested in living _____ my parents' expectations.
- 6 There's no point working if you can live _____ social security.

2 Work in pairs. Do you agree or disagree with the sentences in exercise 1?

1 Read the article below about a woman who has moved from the city to the country. Answer these questions.

- 1 What was Zoe doing before she moved?
- 2 Why did she move?
- 3 Is she happy with her decision? Why or why not?

2 Read the article again and put the phrases a–g in the gaps 1–7.

- a and I just didn't feel like looking for another job
- b and a busy social life of expensive restaurants and late-night clubs
- c and she blushed with embarrassment
- d and I knew I wanted to stay
- e and one of Kathy's wonderful dinners
- f and says she has no regrets
- g and she has learnt to drive a tractor

3 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- Zoe says that she has no regrets. Do you think that she will have any regrets later?
- Are you happy with your lifestyle? Why or why not?
- Would you like to make a radical change to your lifestyle? What kind of change?

Redundancy was the best thing that ever happened to me

Like many of her colleagues, Zoe Chambers lived for her work. She was a successful PR consultant and life was going well – she had a great job, a beautiful flat on London's fashionable King's Road (1) _____. Then, the unthinkable happened. One evening in June last year, she received a text message telling her she was out of work. Suddenly, as she put it, life was 'hell'.

'The first two weeks were the most difficult to live through,' she said. 'After everything I'd done for the company, they fired me by text! I was so angry (2) _____. I hated everything about the city and my life.'

Then, Zoe received an invitation from an old schoolfriend, Kathy, to come and stay. Kathy and her husband, Huw, had just bought a farm in north-west Wales. Zoe jumped at the chance to spend a weekend away from London, and now, ten months later, she is still on the farm.

'The moment I arrived at Kathy's farm, I loved it (3) _____,' said Zoe. 'Everything about my past life suddenly seemed superficial. When I asked Kathy if I could work for her, she refused to take me seriously at first. She told me how much farm hands get paid (4) _____.'

Zoe has been working on the farm since October of last year (5) _____. 'It's a hard life, physically very tiring,' she says. 'In London I was stressed and often mentally exhausted. But this is a good, healthy tiredness. Here, all I need to put me in a good mood is a hot bath (6) _____.'

After almost six months on the farm, Zoe says she has never felt bored. Every day brings a new experience. Kathy has been teaching her how to ride a horse (7) _____. Since Christmas, she has been helping with the lambing – watching a lamb being born is incredible, she says, 'It's one of the most moving experiences I've ever had. I could never go back to city life now. Redundancy is the best thing that has ever happened to me!'

GRAMMAR: present perfect continuous 1

Use the present perfect continuous

- to talk about actions which started in the past and are still in progress now.
I've been living here for six months. {- I still live here.)
- often with time expressions and *for* or *since*. Use *for* + time expression to talk about the length of time the action has been taking place. Use *since* + time expression to talk about the starting point of the action.
for ten years, for a long time, for the last six months, ...
since I left London, since last September, since last Saturday ...
- in questions with *How long ... ?*
How long have you been waiting?

Make the present perfect continuous with *have/has + been + verb + -ing*.

I've been working here for over six months.
He's been working here since he was a boy.

Use the present perfect simple (not the continuous) with stative verbs.

I've been here since last autumn. Not *I've been being here.*

Φ FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT STATIVE VERBS AND CONTINUOUS VERB FORMS, SEE PAGE 14

Q SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 74



Complete the text. Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect continuous.

Dave is a violinist. He (1) _____ {study} music for the last ten years and last year he moved to London to look for work. Dave (2) _____ {live} in London for five months now and while he is looking for a job with one of the London orchestras, he (3) _____ {work} as a waiter in an Italian restaurant. One of his colleagues in the restaurant (4) _____ {also / look} for a job as a violinist and for the past two months they (5) _____ {play} their violins for the customers in the restaurant. Their concerts (6) _____ {get} a lot of attention in the local press and they (7) _____ {receive} requests to perform in restaurants all over the city. Could this be the beginning of a new career?


- 2 Look at the time expressions in the box. Which ones can we use with /brand which ones with *since*? Mark the expressions *for* (F) and *since* (S).

a long time	I left school
last summer	about three hours
I started work	the last two weeks
1996	ages
	as long as I can remember

- 3 Find three mistakes in the sentences and correct them. Explain why the verbs are incorrect.
- 1 I haven't been understanding any of your explanation.
 - 2 How long have you been studying English?
 - 3 How long have you been knowing your best friend?
 - 4 How long have you been being in the classroom?
 - 5 How long have you been doing this lesson?
- 4 Work in pairs. Answer questions 2-5 in exercise 3 using expressions with *for* or *since*.
- 5 Choose five of the expressions in exercise 2 and write sentences that are true for you, or a member of your family, using the present perfect continuous.

My dad's been collecting jazz CDs for as long as I can remember.

VOCABULARY: metaphor

- 1  1.54 Listen to a poem from *The Lord of the Rings* by JRR Tolkien. What is it about?

The Road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing¹ it with eager² feet,
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands³ meet.

1 following 2 with enthusiasm 3 things you must do

- 2 The sentences below contain metaphors of life as a journey. Translate them into your own language.


- 1 Her life **took an unexpected turn**.
- 2 Her life was **at a crossroads**.
- 3 She and her husband **went their separate ways**.
- 4 She **embarked** on a new stage of her life.
- 5 She felt that it was time to **move on**.
- 6 She realized that there was **no turning back**.
- 7 She wanted to **take a new direction**.
- 8 Suddenly, her life **took off**.

- 3 Complete the text with the phrases in bold in exercise 2.



JK Rowling was born in Bristol on July 31st, 1965. After graduating from Exeter University, she worked as a translator and researcher for Amnesty International in London. But she wanted to (1) _____ and she moved to Portugal. There she (2) _____ on a new career as an English teacher and fell in


love with a Portuguese journalist. But their marriage ended in divorce and the couple (3) _____. Rowling suddenly found herself (4) _____. Should she stay in Portugal and continue teaching or return to the UK? She decided that it was time to (5) _____. She went back to Edinburgh with her baby daughter and that's where her life (6) _____. For years, she had had an idea for a book and she now completed *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The book (7) _____ immediately and when Hollywood bought the film rights to Harry Potter, there was (8) _____.

- 4  1.55 Listen to the recording to check your answers.

- 5 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.


- Do you know anyone whose life has taken an unexpected turn?
- Have you ever made a decision and felt that there was no turning back?
- Have you ever felt that you were at a crossroads in your life?
- Have you ever wanted to take a new direction in life? What did you do?

LISTENING

- 1  1.56 Listen to an interview with a man whose life has taken a new direction. Answer the questions.

- 1 How has his life changed?
- 2 How has this changed his day-to-day life?



- 2  1.56 Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why did he decide to leave his job?
- 2 Why didn't his wife leave her job?
- 3 Why did he feel guilty about going to work?
- 4 How long has he been looking after Ben?
- 5 Does he enjoy his new lifestyle?
- 6 Is it an easy lifestyle?
- 7 Would he like to go back to work one day?

- 3 Find these expressions in tapescript 1.56 on pages 144–145. Explain what the words in italics refer to.

- 1 *It* didn't make much sense.
- 2 We were missing out on *it* all.
- 3 Neither of us was there to see *it*.
- 4 *It* all turns into a game.
- 5 *That's* great.

- 4 Would you be happy as a 'stay at home' parent? Why or why not?

SPEAKING

- 1 Work in pairs. Look at the list of life-changing events below and discuss these questions.



- Which are the three most important changes?
- Which is the most difficult decision to make?
- Which is the easiest change to deal with? Which is the most stressful?
- Have you had to make any of these changes in your life? If yes, what difficulties (if any) did you face?

- 2 Imagine that you have just made a big life change. Use your imagination or choose one of the ideas on page 127. Write your answers to the questions in note form.

- What change have you just made?
- Why did you decide to make this change?
- How long have you been doing what you are now doing?
- What difficulties did you face at the beginning?
- Are you happy with the change?
- Are there any aspects you particularly enjoy? Are there any that you really don't like?
- How long do you think you'll continue with this new lifestyle?

- 3 Work in pairs. Interview your partner about their life change. Find out as much as you can about their new lifestyle.

Useful language

I think the most difficult thing was ...

I really didn't know what to expect ...

At first I was excited/nervous/unsure ...

It took me some time to ...

From the start I really enjoyed/loved/hated ...

It's the best thing I've ever done!

I'd recommend it to anyone!

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 Work in pairs. Read the information and discuss these questions.

From a legal point of view, life in England and Wales begins at the age of ten. The law says that children from ten upwards can understand the consequences of their actions. The next big birthday is at sixteen, when you can leave school, get a job and pay tax and smoke. You can also leave home and get married (if your parents agree). At seventeen, you can drive or ride a small motorbike. At eighteen, you can get married without your parents' permission and you can finally vote. You can also buy alcohol, play the National Lottery and get a tattoo.

- Are these ages the same or different in your country?
- What do you think the various minimum legal ages should be?