

Topic: Hometowns

Let's get started... Where were you born? Where did you grow up? Did you grow up in the same town where you were born? Did you like your hometown?

Background:

Everyone is born somewhere and grows up somewhere. Some people stay in the same town for their whole lives. Some people stay in the same town throughout their childhoods. Some people move around a lot. However, for almost everyone, there is usually one special town that feels like "home." This "hometown" may evoke feelings of nostalgia, comfort, and reminiscence. It may bring other, mixed memories, if there were problems in that town or home country. But the power of emotion and memory is strong. What do the words "home" and "hometown" mean to you?



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

- Where is your hometown? Is it in the city, in the countryside, or in a small town?
- What is special to you about your hometown?
- What positive memories do you have of your hometown?
- Do you remember any problems your hometown had?

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

What did you like about growing up in your hometown?

What things were important to people in your hometown?

What are some things you want other people to know about your hometown?

What are some things you wish you could change about your hometown?

What do you wish had been different in your town when you were a child?

Do you think that your hometown was a good place to grow up? Why or why not?

Was there a special place in your hometown that you enjoyed going to or spending time in? Tell a partner about this special place, and why it was special for you.

Do you have friends or family members from this hometown whom you still keep in contact with? Do they still live in this town? Why are they still there, and why did you move away? Talk to a partner about these questions in your hometown, and in your partner's hometown.

Was your hometown large or small?

Are your memories of your hometown primarily positive, negative, or neutral?

Do you ever wish you had grown up in a different town or a different place? If so, where would you like to have grown up? Why?

What do you think makes a good hometown for children and families?

Do you wish you could raise your children in the same hometown where you grew up? Why or why not?

Do you think that your hometown influenced you, or affected the person you grew up to be, the person you are now? How?

New words and Idioms:

Hometown; village; countryside; nostalgia; evoke; reminiscence; grow up; positive; negative; neutral; primarily; place; memories; "sense of place;" raise children; influence; affect.