

New Headway

Photocopy this reading text for use in class

READING AND SPEAKING

Multicultural London

1 What do you want from the country you live in? Put these qualities in order of importance for you (1 = most important).

- a safe and honest society
- a good education for children and adults
- the opportunity to find work and have a career
- a good place to bring up your children
- a society where people are free to say and do what they want

Talk with a partner, then in small groups. Discuss your answers as a class.

2 Read the introduction to the article. What is special about London? What is special about Stroud Green Road?

3 Look at the pictures and profiles of the people in the article. Where are they from? What are they doing in London?

4 Work in small groups. Choose two of the people. Read about them and answer the questions.

- 1 When and why did she/he come to England?
- 2 How did he/she find it at first?
- 3 What does she/he say about her/his business?
- 4 How does England compare to his/her own country?
- 5 What family does she/he talk about?
- 6 What does he/she think of living in England?
- 7 Does she/he intend to stay or go back home?

5 Find a student from another group. Compare and swap information.

6 Which of the qualities of a country in exercise 1 are important to the four people? Did they find these qualities in England?

What do you think?

- When people go to live in a foreign country, they can experience culture shock. What do you understand by this?
- Why do people leave their own country? What are they looking for? What are they escaping from?

Project

Find someone living in your country who is from a different country. What do they do? What do they think of living in your country? Bring the information to class and tell the other students.

▶▶ **WRITING** Describing my hometown p62

50 Unit 6 • The way I see it

The world in one street

London is the most multicultural city in the world. On an ordinary street in north London, people from across the globe live and work side by side. Here on Stroud Green Road there are Turks, Chinese, Afghanis, Pakistanis, Vietnamese, Colombians, Polish, Kenyans, and French.

What are the thoughts of the people who live here? What do they think of the land they now call home?

STROUD GREEN ROAD N4



PROFILE
Name Burkan Mehmet, 41
Born Istanbul, Turkey
Business The Sunflower Gallery

“This area is very cosmopolitan, and that’s why I love it. When I first came to England in 1986, I thought it would be like New York, but it was much quieter. I didn’t know anybody, and I wanted to go home.

I came here to study business at college. First I had a restaurant. Now I run this florist’s shop. My customers come from so many different cultures – I learn something new every day.

What I like about England is that there’s a system that works. Things are more organized here. I’m a British citizen now. When I go back to Turkey, I see how I’ve changed. Life in Turkey is faster, and more hectic than here.

I would like to go back to Istanbul one day. But for now, I love London. I’m married, and I have a daughter, Ceren. I wouldn’t think of living anywhere else.”



PROFILE
Name Ming Liang Chen, 50
Born Qingdao, China
Business The Chinese Medical Centre

“I was a doctor in China. My daughter wanted to study in England, so we moved here in 2000.

Life for us here was impossible for the first few years. It was hard to find work. It was also difficult to talk to people. But things got easier as my English improved. People in the West are now more interested in herbal medicine.

My daughter is married and has a son and lives here. I see her every day. That is Chinese culture – children and parents stay together.

This is the big difference for us. In China we are surrounded by family. Here I feel like a foreigner. I miss my friends and colleagues, and my wife is very close to her family back home.

My daughter is settled here, but I think my wife and I will return to China. We’ll see.”



PROFILE
Name Luz-Elena Lamprea, 41
Born Tuluá, Colombia
Business Los Guadales restaurant

“My parents divorced, and my mother came to England to make a new start. I was 19.

For me it was an enormous shock. When you are in Colombia, you think everything in Europe is wonderful. I arrived in September, the weather was awful and the skies were grey. London wasn’t nearly as exciting as I thought.

I spent a year studying English, then fell in love. The marriage didn’t work, but I had two children, Jennifer and Julian.

I bought this restaurant. It’s becoming more and more popular, especially with Europeans. I love my work. It’s the most interesting job in the world. I’m not just serving food, I’m giving people an experience of my culture.

I’m so thankful now that I came here. There is more opportunity. I go to Colombia every year, but when I’m there I miss England. I really love being here.”



PROFILE
Name Mehul Shah, 51
Born Nyeri, Kenya
Business Dental surgery

“I always wanted to study medicine. I had an uncle in London, so when I was 16, I came here.

It was very hard. I remember the drive from the airport. The roads were so much bigger and busier than in Kenya. It was summer, and the weather was lovely. But then of course the first winter came. It was the coldest winter for years!

My patients are of all nationalities, all religions, all colours. I love it. I’m seeing the third generation of the same families.

This is a democratic country. You’re free here, you can say and think, and do what you like.

England is a welcoming society. My children were born here. All their friends are English. I feel British now. I became a British citizen 24 years ago. Britain gave me an education and the opportunity to better myself. This is my country, my home.”