

## Should we stay or should we go?

Look at the following situation:

### SITUATION:



Carlos Silva was working in the textile industry, but he has been made redundant because of new technology. Now he is considering leaving the country for good and starting a new life in Canada. He and his family are having dinner and the topic of choosing whether to stay or go is obviously mentioned. The parents have already discussed the situation between them, but still they want to hear their children's opinion on this matter. Apparently they have agreed on selling the house and investing their life savings in buying the tickets for all the Family. They know their children may not agree with their plans.

1. *In groups of 4 students, write down and role-play a possible dialogue between Carlos Silva and the other members of the family.*

### **Your character:**

**Carlos Silva:** You are aged 49. You have been made redundant and want to emigrate. You have a family to support and can't survive very long without an income. Your company has given you 7000 € redundancy money. You can't find a job although you have applied for quite a few.

You have seen some ads in the newspaper offering attractive jobs in Canada and you think this is a wonderful opportunity for you and your family to start afresh in a new country. Nevertheless you are a pessimistic person who's afraid of the "unknown". You love your country and your life there with your friends. You don't speak any foreign languages.

**Mother:** You are aged 43. You have 2 children. You are a confident and optimistic person. You are a secretary in a tourism office so you are able to find cheap suitable accommodation in Canada as well as adequate transport facilities. You believe emigration will be good for your children's future. Since you speak 2 languages fluently, you believe you will find a job in tourism or translation. You know you will miss your friends and relatives.

**Son:** You are a 16-year-old student. Like most youngsters, you love the safety and happiness of living next to your best friends, and your school. You have a practical, realistic attitude towards life, but you are also a bit lazy and relaxed. You love your city and the entertainment facilities available, such as malls, cafés, shops, cinemas, leisure activities, sports centres. You are an athlete who plays football in the local club and you feel you will lose an excellent opportunity since you and your family have both invested a lot in your athletic training.

**Daughter:** You are aged 24. You are taking a degree in veterinary science and your boyfriend is graduating from the local medical school. Since you are a little romantic you are already making plans for the future, namely getting married and opening a private local practice in the country. Nevertheless, you've always loved the countryside and being away from the big city. You speak fluent French and you feel you would be able to learn a new language. You also feel that research work is better developed in Canada than in your own country so you may even consider doing a masters degree and improving your research work.