

## Socializing 12: Working away from home

### Practice 1 | Useful Expressions

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**Directions:** Listen and repeat.

- **be homesick** - to acutely long for one's family or home
- **at a disadvantage** - in a position that gives others an advantage over one
- **feel at home** - feel as comfortable and relaxed as you are at home
- **home away from home** - a place where you feel as comfortable as you do in your own home
- **double date** - a date in which two couples participate
- **fairly** - very much
- **advancement** - progress, improvement
- **time consuming** - taking a lot of time
- **get accustomed to** - to get used to

## Practice 2 | Dialogue

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**Directions:** Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

*Robert has recently taken a job at a new company.*

*Unfortunately, it means he has to be away from his family for long periods of time,  
as the job is in another city.*

*He is discussing this with his co-worker while they are both having coffee in the kitchen.*

**Daniel :** Hey, you're the new guy, Robert, aren't you?

**Robert :** Yes, I am. I'm afraid you have me **at a disadvantage** as you know my name but I don't know yours.

**Daniel :** I'm Daniel. We work in the same department. Nice meeting you, Robert.

**Robert :** It's a pleasure meeting you, too.

**Daniel :** So, do you like your new job?

**Robert :** Yes, I **fairly** enjoy it. It is a great opportunity for **advancement**. Only that I sometimes **get a bit homesick**.

**Daniel** : Oh, really? You're not from around here?

**Robert** : No, I'm not. I actually had to move here from another city to get the job.

**Daniel** : And do you just miss your old city or do you have a family there?

**Robert** : I left my wife back home. I wanted to take her with me, but she still has some courses to finish there before she can come. And the commute would be too **time consuming** and would cost a lot over a month.

**Daniel** : So you haven't seen your wife since you moved here, have you?

**Robert** : I try to go home at least once a month. Next weekend she'll be coming over to see how her new home looks like and **get a bit accustomed to** the new city.

**Daniel** : That's nice. Well I hope you two enjoy living here. It's wonderful, there's a lot to do. Oh, why don't you come visit my home? You can **feel at home** there. Maybe we could even go out together, you two and me and my wife. You know, **double date**.

**Robert** : Sure, that would be great. I hope this new place will be **home away from home**. Anyway, have to get back to work so talk to you later.

**Daniel** : Oh, right, me too. Bye.

**Check your understanding:** Answer the following questions.

1. How does Robert feel towards his home?
2. Why can't he see his wife often?
3. Why didn't he bring his wife with him?

## Practice 3 | Role-Play

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**Directions:** Have a role-play with your teacher in the following situation.

### Situation

You have moved to another city for a new job and have left your spouse in your old city for a while. You are discussing this with your co-worker.

### Expressions:

- homesick
- commute
- time-consuming
- at a disadvantage
- get accustomed to
- make a sacrifice/compromise
- make career a priority
- a beneficial experience nonetheless

## Practice 4 | Discussion

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**Directions:** Discuss these topics and exchange thoughts with your teacher.

1. Have you ever had to go away from home for work? For how long?
2. If you found yourself in such a situation, would you commute however far from your home or just move?
3. How hard do you think it is for a couple to go through such an experience?
4. Would you accept to work far away from home? What if you had a child?
5. When you were young, did your parents ever work away from home? If so, what was it like?