



The following text is the first part of a larger text which consists of four parts. Each one includes exercises centering on the conversation, speech skills, vocabulary and grammar. For the purpose of this lesson demonstration I'm presenting you only this part.

### Part 1.

Pirjo was an au pair in Italy for a year in 1985 and she thought it would be good to go abroad for a real job one day. Four years later, she started working for an IT company in Finland and in 1998 there was an opportunity to transfer abroad within the company. She thought it would be an easy way to experience living in another country again -she didn't want to go somewhere without having a job.

When she took the opportunity to come to Belgium, the initial posting was for two years .... And she's still there. Each time she signs up for another two-year period and now she's been here for eight years.

Pirjo works for a Scandinavian IT company that has around 15 000 employees and offices in several European countries. The headquarters are in Espoo , Finland and there are around 60 employees in Belgium. Apart from Belgians and Finns, they have Greeks, Danish , Swedish and Germans working here.

She's a customer service manager for a Finnish forestry industry customer. She and her colleagues monitor their production and sales servers. She is responsible for ensuring that the customer gets what was agreed and what they are paying for. She's based in Brussels but travels quite a lot.



## Conversation:

### Exercise 1.

Answer the following questions:

1. Had Pirjo ever experienced living abroad before she started working in Belgium ?
2. What kind of job did she do while she was living in Italy ?
3. How long has she been working for her current employer ?
4. Why did she decide to transfer abroad in 1998 ?
5. What would she have done, if she hadn't got the opportunity to work abroad within her company ?
6. How long was she supposed to stay when she first arrived there ?
7. How long has she been here right now ?
8. How many people does this company employ ?
9. Where are its headquarters situated ?
10. How many employees has the Belgian section ?
11. What are the nationalities of Pirjo's colleagues ?
12. In what ways is she responsible for her forestry industry customer ?
13. What else does her job involve ?

### Exercise 2.

Imagine that you're an interviewer and your lecturer is Pirjo. Try to ask suitable questions concerning the information in the text. The questions should be in the 2. person Singular.

example : Hi, Pirjo. How long have you been living and working in Belgium ?



*Your teacher answers.*

Have you always wanted to live abroad ?

*Your teacher answers.*

## Speech skills.

Exercise .

Summarize the text above using the following words and expressions:

in 1985 - real job abroad - an IT company - to get an opportunity - to sign a contract -  
- the Belgian section - multicultural - customer service manager - to take care of

Example : In 1985 Pirjo worked as an au pair in Italy but later she started dreaming about a real job abroad . Then she start working for an IT company and in 1998 she got the opportunity to move abroad within the company. At the beginning she signed a contract for two years but ended up staying there until now. She works in the Belgian section which has around 60 employees. The section is very multicultural since there are people of different nationalities. She works there as a customer service manager which means that she takes care of a forestry industry customer whose production and sales servers she monitores.

## Vocabulary.

Exercise:

Your teacher asks you to explain the meaning of a word or expression from the text.

If you can't explain it in general, try to give the example of a situation which can fully



explain it.

example : Define the meaning of the expression " to take the opportunity".

You can explain it in many different ways. For instance you can say : "If you take the opportunity, it means that you are making use of a new possibility you have".

or

You can avoid a general definition by giving a concrete example : " I take an opportunity when I suddenly meet my favourite actor and ask him for an autogram".

### Grammar:

Exercise:

Form sentences using the following pattern :

I **think** that it **will be** an easy way to experience living in another country again .

I **thought** that it **would be** an easy way to experience living in another country again.

a./ They think that he ..... / arrive/ on Monday.

They thought that he...../ arrive/ on Monday.

b./ She promises that she ...../ start / learning as soon as possible.

She promised that she...../ start/ learning as soon as possible.

c./ They know that it ..... / be/ very hard for him.

They knew that it...../ be/ very hard for him.

d./ He says that...../ participate / in the meeting.

He said that...../participate/ in the meeting.

e./ She tells me that she ..... / invite/ all her friends

She told me that she ...../ invite/ all her friends.