

PRE-INTERMEDIATE UNIT 7

1A Work in pairs and discuss. Why do you think people decide to make big life changes? Think about the following ideas.

- where they work/study
- where they live
- what they look like
- what they do

B What do you think is the most important reason to change your life? Why?

2 Read the article about a man who changed his job. What job did Anthony use to do? What does he do now?



*It's often said that money doesn't buy you happiness. Somebody who would definitely agree is thirty-eight-year-old Anthony, an ex-corporate lawyer who **swapped** his high-flying city **lifestyle** for a much more relaxed way of life in the beautiful Welsh countryside. Here, Anthony tells us his story.*

I used to work for a big international law firm in London, dealing in corporate law. I worked really long hours but I didn't mind because everyone else I knew worked long hours, too, and we made up for it at the weekend! I had a pretty good life; I owned a great flat in a nice neighbourhood, ate out at the most fashionable (and expensive) restaurants and went **abroad** on holiday at least four times a year. But deep down I had a feeling that something was wrong, that I wasn't satisfied with something in my life.

Then about five years ago, I was visiting friends in the countryside and we walked past a farm advertised for sale. I can't really explain it, but as I stood there looking at it, I just knew that was where I **belonged** and needed to be. It sounds silly, but it was such a strong feeling I couldn't **ignore** it. So, I went back to London, **handed in my notice**, sold my flat, bought the farm and swapped my expensive suits for wellies!* It's not been an easy five years – I didn't know anything about farming so I've had to learn very quickly! I still work very long hours like I used to, but I find my work so satisfying. And I love the peace and quiet of the countryside.



*Wellingtons = waterproof, rubber boots

3 Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 What type of restaurants did Anthony use to eat at?
- 2 How often did he use to go on holiday?
- 3 How long has he been a farmer?
- 4 What did he buy in the countryside?
- 5 What did he exchange his suits for?
- 6 What does he like about the countryside?

4 Match the words and phrases in bold in the text with the words and phrases with a similar meaning 1–6.

- 1 the way you live – your activities, habits, job, etc.
- 2 exchanged
- 3 told his employer he was leaving his job
- 4 in or to a foreign country
- 5 felt happy and comfortable somewhere
- 6 pay no attention to something

5 **7.1** Listen to Phoebe talking about changes she made to her life. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Phoebe used to work at a small school.
- 2 Phoebe enjoyed living in London.
- 3 She used to read on the train on the way to work.
- 4 She shared a flat with two other teachers.
- 5 She didn't use to do very much exercise when she lived in London.
- 6 Now Phoebe walks to work every day.
- 7 She goes to the cinema most evenings.
- 8 She thinks she is healthier than before.

6A Listen again and complete the sentences.

- 1 I used to spend over an hour on _____ commuting to work each day ...
- 2 ... the carriages were always so _____ ...
- 3 I really wanted my own _____!
- 4 I didn't use to do much exercise because I was always _____!
- 5 Instead of _____ onto a crowded train ...
- 6 Since I moved here I've _____ running and yoga ...
- 7 I'm even going on a two-week yoga _____ in Bali ...

B Match the answers above with words and phrases with similar meanings below.

- 1 spending time with friends
- 2 started doing
- 3 time spent practising an activity in a quiet place
- 4 trying to fit into a small space
- 5 the underground trains in London
- 6 room to do what you want
- 7 full of people

7 Work in pairs and discuss. What's your idea of a perfect lifestyle?