



925English – Lesson 12: Talking about Where you are From

Hi, Tim here with another 925 English Lesson! In today's lesson we're going to learn how to talk about where you are from.

In the world of business, we have the chance to meet people from all sorts of backgrounds. And one of the most common questions we ask people we've just met is "where are you from?" In other words, "where do you come from?"

So how do you answer that question? Well, we can understand it in two ways. First, it might mean where you grew up. That is: where you lived as a child. One way you can talk about where you grew up is to say you "were raised" or "were born" in a certain place. And that place might be a country, a city, or an area of the world.

If someone asks where you're from, you can also just use that word "from" in your answer. Like "I'm from France." And if you grew up in France but you don't live there now, you might say "I'm *originally* from France." Also, if you're talking about which country you're from, you could just say your nationality, such as "I'm French."

How about practicing some of this language? We're going to give you some examples. After you hear each example, try repeating it yourself. Ready? Let's give it a go.

- I was raised in a small town in Ohio.
- I'm Irish, born and bred.
- I'm originally from Santiago.
- I was born in Spain, but now I live in France.

We've just practiced some ways of talking about where you grew up. In other words, these are ways to talk about where you are *originally* from. That's the first meaning of "where are you from?" But the second meaning of this question is "where do you live now?" After all, in the 21st century, many people don't live and work in the same place they grew up.

One way to answer the question is simply to say "I live and work" in such and such a place. That's a clear and direct answer. You might also say "I've got a place in" a certain city. A "place" in this case means a home, as in a house or an apartment. So, for example, you might say "I've got a little place in London."

That idea of "home" can also be used in an answer. You can say that you "call" a certain place home. For example, when someone asks where you're from, and they mean where you currently live, you can say "I call London home." That expression lets people know that you haven't always lived there, but you do now. In this

situation, you might even let people know how *long* you've lived in that place. For example, you might say "I've been in London for the past five years."

Now it's your turn to try using these expressions. You'll hear some examples. After each example, repeat what you hear. Let's begin.

- I live and work just outside of London.
- I've got a place in downtown San Diego.
- These days I call Seattle home.
- I've been in Berlin for the past 10 years or so.

So, as we've seen, the question "where are you from?" can be answered in two ways. It might mean "where did you grow up?" or it might mean "where do you live now?" Usually you can understand from the situation what someone means when they ask that question. And sometimes people want to know *both* where you grew up and where you live.

Okay, we've done a bit of practice with some useful expressions, but how does this sound in a conversation? Let's listen to a short discussion between Dave and Julie to find out.

Dave: So, are you originally from New York?

Julie: No, I was actually raised in a small town near Chicago.

Dave: Interesting, but now you call New York home?

Julie: That's right. I've got a place in Queens.

Can you see how that worked? Dave first wants to know where Julie grew up, which she explains with the expression "I was raised" in a place. Then he wants to know where she lives, and she says she's "got a place" in a certain part of New York.

Now it's your turn to practice. We'll repeat the dialog, but this time we're going to beep out Julie's words. You will have to say those parts yourself. Remember, first you'll say you were raised near Chicago. Then you'll say you've got a place in Queens. Here we go:

Dave: So, are you originally from New York?

Julie: No, I was actually raised in a small town near Chicago.

Dave: Interesting, but now you call New York home?

Julie: That's right. I've got a place in Queens.

All right, so we've learned a few different ways to talk about where you're from. That includes where you grew up and where you live now. In our next lesson, we'll learn about how to talk about your educational background.

Until then, so long and happy learning!

Language Review

A. Matching

Match the first part of the sentence with the correct ending. Each ending only has one

- A. I was raised...
- B. I'm originally from...
- C. I'm...
- D. I was born...

1)		... German.
2)		... in a small town in France.
3)		... Colombia.
4)		... in Chicago.

B. Review Quiz

1. Which of the following expressions can go in the blank? [choose 2]

A: So, where are you from?
B: Well, _____ in downtown Berlin.

a) I've been
b) I've got a place
c) I live
d) These days

2. If you say "These days I call Montreal home," then listeners know that...

a) ... you live in Montreal now.
b) ... you were born in Montreal.
c) ... you have not always lived in Montreal.
d) ... you are Canadian.

3. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions.

I'm originally _____ Spain, but now I live _____ the U.S.

- a) in ... at
- b) to ... in
- c) through ... to
- d) from ... in

4. Which of the following expressions can you use to tell someone where you grew up? [choose 2]

- a) I've got a place in Mexico.
- b) I was raised in Japan.
- c) I live near Paris.
- d) I'm Dutch, born and bred.

5. Complete the dialog with the correct expressions.

A: Where are you from?

B: Well, I _____ in Seattle.

A: But you don't live there now, do you?

B: No, I _____ in Atlanta for the past 15 years.

- a) born ... am from
- b) was raised ... have lived
- c) call home ... am originally
- d) have a place ... grew up

Answers

A. Matching

1. C; 2. A; 3. B; 4. D

B. Review Quiz

1. b, c; 2. c; 3. d; 4. b, d; 5. b