

3 Before you listen

You are going to listen to a radio programme about the country that topped *The Economist's* survey. Before you listen, tell a partner which country you'd expect it to be and why.

4 While you listen (1)

🔊 Listen to the introduction and take notes on the following:

1. what led to the mass emigration from the country
2. the factors that contributed to the economic turnaround
3. the results of the economic miracle of the 1990s

Compare what you heard with a partner.

5 Speaking

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. Were you surprised that this country came in at number 1?
2. How much do you know about the country?
3. Was there anything that surprised you in the introduction?
4. Do many people emigrate from your country? Where to? Why?
5. Have you heard any other stories regarding national economies and the World Bank / IMF (International Monetary Fund)?

6 While you listen (2)

🔊 Now listen to the three Irish people who moved back home after living abroad – Ian, Jackie and Mary. As you listen, decide which person:

- a. has found moving back a bit of a let-down.
- b. is concerned about the growing wealth gap.
- c. feels their privacy is sometimes invaded.
- d. thinks the new Ireland is over-rated.
- e. left Ireland because of limited employment opportunities.
- f. got fed up with some of the Irish people they met abroad.
- g. found it really easy to find work on their return.
- h. enjoys the irony of the new employment situation in Ireland.
- i. expresses serious reservations about the changes.

Now read the tapescript at the back of the book and underline the expressions that make these points. Are there any other expressions you'd like to ask your teacher about?

7 Voicing your opinion

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

doubts	favour	minds	slight	support
fan	opposed	practice	stand	theory

- a. It's a nice idea in, but I just don't think it works in
- b. I have to say, I've got grave about it myself.
- c. I'm basically in of it, but I do have a few reservations.
- d. I'm a big of the idea. I fully it.
- e. I'm fundamentally to the whole idea.
- f. I don't really know where I on it. I'm still in two about it.

Check your answers and practise saying the expressions.

Put the sentences in order of strength – from 1 (totally disagree) to 6 (completely agree).

8 Practice

How do you personally feel about the following? Decide which of the expressions from Activity 7 you could use to voice your opinions about each. You might also want to use this expression to explain how you feel – *I couldn't care less about it!*

- a cut in welfare spending
- unregulated business activity
- the European Union
- a maximum 40-hour working week
- free dental care for all
- globalisation
- a 5-per-cent cap on wage increases for the next five years

Now compare your ideas in groups of three.

