

## A Exercise 1 (Track 7)

- Mrs. Smith:* Hi darling, so you're back. You've talked to your personnel manager, haven't you? So how did it go with your transfer to Germany?
- Mr. Smith:* Well, I've got some interesting news for you.
- Mrs. Smith:* Ooh, what?
- Mr. Smith:* They've offered to transfer me to a newly set up German energy trading department. They are going to relocate the current offices to a central headquarters, so now they've asked me to go there. Permanently.
- Mrs. Smith:* Wow! But what about your German language skills? It wouldn't be a problem for me, but you're the one who will be working there.
- Mr. Smith:* That's not going to be a problem. As many international people will be working there, the official language at work will be English. They are even going to put it into my contract. But what about you – what do you think of the idea?
- Mrs. Smith:* Well ... it's great! You know I've always wanted to go somewhere else and do something new – especially seeing as Ron will be starting his course at university in September ... and as a language teacher I don't think I'll find it as hard as you to cope with being in a different country ...
- Mr. Smith:* "Ha ha ha" ... but seriously: What about money? I mean, if we are going to move over to Germany we'll have quite a few initial expenses. We'll have to get a flat – and a car with the steering wheel on the left – you're not thinking of driving with our car for longer than a couple of weeks, are you?
- Mrs. Smith:* You're worrying about the car? What about Ron's university studies? He's just started enquiring about a student loan ...
- Mr. Smith:* Right, I completely forgot about that. It's just as well Ron is going down to Manchester for his studies, so it won't make a difference to him whether he visits us up here or in Germany.
- Mrs. Smith:* Yes, but it will make a difference to him whether his parents will be able to support him or not.
- Mr. Smith:* Don't worry. Our financial situation will not change that much. I'll be working – and I'll even get paid more than I am being paid now – and you will be working as a language teacher, too – we've got our house here and Ron will have his student loan to get him through the first few months at least.
- Mrs. Smith:* Yes, you're right. I'm sure it will all work out in the long run. But it's going to be very tight at first – we're still paying off the house – and we won't be able to sell it very fast, not with the housing market the way it is at the moment. We can rent out the house here, so the mortgage will be covered – well, just about. I don't think we'll go broke, but I simply don't see how we will be able to buy a flat, and a new car, and some decent furniture, and make sure that Ron gets a good start at university.
- Mr. Smith:* Don't worry, we'll find a way, you'll see. We just need to organise ourselves well – we have to enquire about loans and then sit down and decide what we really want and what we really need. Perhaps we could use our car over there for a little longer than two weeks, and maybe we'll even get a place of our own. Renting seems to be quite popular in Germany though, so we might consider that as well. Ron will go off to do his studies, there's no doubt about that – and we'll have a really good time in Germany.
- Mrs. Smith:* Yes, I suppose you're right. People take out loans just to pay for their holidays, don't they – so why shouldn't we get a loan to get us started in Germany? OK, well, since I've got a few days off I might as well start enquiring about loans. I mean, we'll have to make up our minds pretty soon about what we're going to do ...