GOODBYE TO SUBURBIA

If you met Les and Jo or Kevin and Tania in England, you would not be surprised to learn that Les was a mechanic, Jo worked for social services, Kevin in a steel works and Tania in an electronics factory. That is what they did several years ago before they moved to Spain to work the land.

Six years ago, Les and Jo moved to the Alpujarras, a mountainous region between Granada and the Costa del Sol. Rural depopulation had enabled Les and Jo to buy land fairly cheaply. The nearest village, Castaras, sits on a rocky promontory one thousand metres above sea-level, on the flank of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Les and Jo's farm is in a green and fertile valley far below the village. You have to splash through a stream to get to their tiny farm. It is a ten-minute walk from the end of a steep dirt track. Les and Jo come from Yorkshire and until recently were the only foreigners living permanently in the valley.

Their life is hard. For Jo, taking her cheese to market means rising before dawn to saddle the mule to carry the produce. Kevin takes the olives to the mill in a wheelbarrow. Sitting outside a bar on market day, Les, who is forty, explains his belief in a natural cycle of agriculture. He breaks off to talk in the local dialect to a man to whom he sold a calf. But even among organic farmers, there can be few who rely so totally on man and animal power. Les' method of threshing grain, using a mule on a stone platform, is centuries old. The irrigation system, built hundreds of years ago, which made this one of the most productive areas of Southern Spain, is virtually unaltered and the mule remains dominant on the small, steeply-terraced fields. The ancient olive trees must still be picked by hand, using canes to knock the fruit onto nets. This is the way that Les, who used to work as a mechanic on farms in North Yorkshire, prefers to farm. Les and Jo, moved from their first smallholding two years ago to get more land and a house. They say they don't need a large income. They say they grow most of their own food. They sell their cheese, made from the milk of one cow. 'Being seen to work hard is very important if you are to be accepted into a country community anywhere. When we came, we hardly noticed, we were so busy, but after a couple of years we found we were being introduced as "the foreigners who work hard!"

Some miles away, Kevin and Tania are picking lemons, milking goats, collecting eggs and carrying hay. Five years ago, they lived in Hampshire, a typical young couple on a modern estate with a mortgage and a car. 'Don't make the Alpujarras sound like a paradise.' said Tania. 'It's not. It's hard work, but we are working for ourselves. In England, we were just working to pay the mortgage and run my car and Kevin's motor bike so that we could get to work to earn the money to pay the mortgage.' Said Tania. Kevin had worked as a gardener and on a farm but ended up in a steel works because the wages were double what he could earn on the land. Tania had worked with horses and then as a florist but eventually took a job in an electronics factory. 'Why is it that the jobs you enjoy doing don't pay? When I left the factory, they told me I was making a mistake. I was giving up a promising career. They could not understand what we were doing,' she said. They had decided that they wanted to have some land. 'We came here on holiday and decided it was the place to be.' Kevin recently made his first visit to England since settling in Spain and is more certain than ever that he does not want to return. 'It would mean working for somebody else.'

1. Les and Jo bought their land in an area where

A. other foreigners had already settled.
B. many local people had left.
C. they can see the sea.
D. the land is flat.

2. Les' method of working

A. is the same as most local farmers.
B. is one he is committed to.
C. was imposed on him by his lack of machinery.
D. was learned on farms in England.

3. Which statement is NOT true?

A. Mules are often used in the farming practices in this area.
B. Les does not speak the local language.
C. Jo and Les do not prioritize income.
D. Hard work is highly regarded in country life.

4. When Kevin and Tania lived in England they felt

A. the work they did was productive.
B. they would have to reduce their expenses.
C. they were in jobs with good prospects.
D. what mattered was how much they earned.

5. Tania is worried that…

A. they might have to go back to the U.K.
B. she made a mistake leaving the factory.
C. the writer will portray the area and life they live incorrectly.
D. Kevin may want to leave and go back to England.

6. What is the continued attraction of living in Spain for Kevin and Tania?

A. They enjoy the hard work.
B. They don't have a mortgage.
C. They want to be independent.
D. They like eating their own fresh food.

GETTING THE RIGHT BALANCE

Martin Brown was one of the most successful and (1) _____ salesmen his company had ever employed. He was soon offered (2)_____ as the company's sales (3)_____ in Australia. This would mean a higher salary and more responsibility but also a one-year (4) _____ from his family.

Since he was already feeling a lot of (5)_____ about the lack of time he spent with his family, he was rather (6)_____ about such a long absence (7) _____.

He asked (8)_____ friends for advice and made a decision to ask the company to change the terms of his new (9) _____ so that his family could accompany him to Australia. Fortunately, the company agreed to this despite the (10) _____expense that would be involved.

1. DRIVE _____
2. PROMOTE _____
3. REPRESENT _____
4. SEPARATE _____
5. ANXIOUS _____
6. ENTHUSE_____
7. SEA _____
8. SEVER _____
9. APPOINT_____
10. ADDITION _____

1.DRIVE - driven
2.PROMOTE- promotion
3.REPRESENT – representative
4.SEPARATE – separation
5.ANXIOUS- anxiety
6.ENTHUSE– unenthusiastic
7.SEA- overseas
8.SEVEN- several
9.APPOINT- appointment
10.ADDITION – additional

1.___HAD I KNOWN___ (I/know) what living here would really be like, I _WOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT (never/leave) my hometown.

2. Mike _HAS BEEN LIVING (live) in Dallas for over 10 years now.

3. Sarah wishes she _HAD LEARNT/ED(learn) the language before moving out to Spain as she is finding it very difficult now.

4. She is a very rash person who never once stopped __TO THINK (think) how difficult living in another country would be. I believe she thought it would mean _SPENDING (spend) all day on the beach!

5.Mary HAD TRAVELLED (travel) quite a lot before she MOVED (move) to Italy.

6.It's time you PACKED (pack) your suitcase if you are leaving tomorrow!

7.Lisa CAN'T HAVE KNOWN (modal/know) that you are supposed to bow when you greet someone in Japan otherwise I am sure she would have done it. She is so polite!