

## Do You Miss Your Family?

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**Lindsay:** Good evening guys.  
How are you feeling today?

**Francis:** Great.

**Keriann:** Good.

**Lindsay:** Great. So I want to talk about this concept that Americans tend to move around the country a lot. Is that true? Do you agree with that?

**Keriann:** I think so, especially (um) after graduating from college or starting your own life. You want to explore and move around and see. Maybe you just want to get away from your parents, or your family, and so you move to another place, but I definitely think that most people don't end up where they started.

**Francis:** Yeah, I would agree that once you go to college, you wanna (want to), (you know), go to college somewhere outside of your own city, and then, (you know), start a family somewhere, start a job, maybe in a different order, but yeah, people don't stay in one spot.

**Lindsay:** How far away from your hometown did you guys go for college?

**Keriann:** I went first (uh) about two hours away and then I actually ended up where I started. (Um) but now I'm about eight hours from my hometown and all my family, so...

### Key Vocabulary Words

1. To move around
2. To get away from
3. To grow up
4. To be spread out
5. To get up

**Francis:** I guess I'm a rarity, meaning I have lived in one city (like) all my life practically except when I went overseas to live and study and work, so.

**Lindsay:** Yeah, for me, I, I grew up in New Hampshire and I went down to Virginia for college partly because it was more affordable and also because I just wanted to explore a new region.

**Keriann:** I think that that's a great time to do it is in college because you wanna (want to) get away and you can experience something new, but then you might want to come back afterwards to (somewhere) closer to home. (Um) yeah, my family, we're all spread out now. I have one sibling in Pennsylvania, one in New York, and I'm in Massachusetts, so, yeah. It kind of makes it more difficult to see everybody and build relationships, (um), but then when we do see each other, it's more exciting.

**Lindsay:** Yeah. How often do you get to see your family?

**Keriann:** (Uh), not too often. I haven't seen my parents since Christmas. Before that I think it was over the summer, so I guess now a couple of times a year.

**Lindsay:** Pretty typical I think.

**Francis:** I think so for – but my family is kind of in one area, but I know a lot of people, their family is all spread out, like Keriann was saying, across the US.

**Lindsay:** Yeah, it's really understanding. And you guys just told me that you were both abroad. Francis, you were in Japan?

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**Francis:** Yeah.

**Lindsay:** And Keriann you were in Spain.

**Keriann:** Yep.

**Lindsay:** So what did you notice that was different in those countries compared with the US?

**Keriann:** Well when I was there it was the senior year of high school and everyone was going to college the following year and they were all going to the same university in the same city and that to me was foreign, **no pun intended**, but yeah, they were all just staying right there and they were going to continue living with their parents and they – and now they're graduated and they all still live in the same city, so it's, it was very different.

**Francis:** Yeah (I mean)...

**Lindsay:** What about in Japan, Francis?

**Francis:** (Um) so when I went to Japan, I'd already graduated from college and I was teaching English over there, so there's (there are) a lot of differences between Japan and the US and I guess the main thing is about (um) independence versus community. I really saw that as a, a big difference when I was there.

**Lindsay:** So community in the, in the sense that the family maybe, (like) people want to stay closer to the family.

**Francis:** Yeah. (Um) close to family, but also there's a commitment, there's an obligation to (um) people around you, whether it's (um) your work or just in the neighborhood.

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**Keriann:** I don't think that I would take a job in California or Florida or Alaska or somewhere far away because it's still important that I am near my family, but I think that being eight hours is a fine distance, because they're close enough if I needed to go back for a weekend or if I wanted to do a visit, but -- and I wouldn't have to fly there. (Um), but I, yeah, I don't think that I would move across the country.

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**Francis:** (Hmm).

**Lindsay:** Yeah, what do you think Francis?

**Francis:** Well, I think, (you know), each family is different and if there's an opportunity that's good for your career and it is across the US, I think I would go, even though my family is on the East Coast and that, (you know), could be hard (um) because my mom's elderly, but still you have to think about your own family as well.

**Lindsay:** Yeah, to me it feels a little bit stifling to live really close to my parents, for example, the idea. (I mean) privacy is also (kind of) important, right, as we become adults.

**Francis:** Exactly.

**Keriann:** Yeah. Definitely. My sister lives (uh) about an hour from, (uh), my parents and she has a two year old, so it's actually quite helpful if, if she gets sick or the daycare closes and my mom can get up at six in the morning and drive real quick over there, but at the same time, she also gets a lot of mom attention. So I let my sister deal with that because then my mom leaves me alone a little bit more.

**Lindsay:** Great topic. Thanks guys.

**Francis:** Thank you.

**Keriann:** You're welcome.

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