

July 2008

Tapescript – Patricia

My name is Patricia and I'm from Brazil, from the north-east of Brazil. Basically my husband is British so I got married and then moved to England. Now, for about two years this time but before I lived here in 1998 for three and (a) half years studying English.

Yeah, when I first came to England, I came to study English then I went back to Brazil and then I started teaching English at Cultura Inglesa in Brazil. It was really really good. And then I came to England again this time and I couldn't really get a job as an English teacher because being a foreigner obviously people come to England to learn English with a native English person. They don't want a Brazilian teaching them English, which is completely understandable. So, yes, then I met my manager at church, which was really good. So I met her at church and they were doing interviews for editors and, yeah, thank God, I got the job as an editor. I actually didn't really know that you could move from teaching to publishing but it is actually something quite normal, that lots of teachers, they move from teaching to publishing. So, yeah, as an editor I work for the Latin America group. At the moment I'm working on a book which is actually going to be published in Brazil.

Oh, yeah, it is different. It's very different. Yeah, the structure here is completely different. Like here, I think here is more structured than it is in Brazil: the jobs and the way you follow up what you've been doing, your development, your tasks, your aims for the future. I think here is more organised in that aspect.

Yeah, here I work from nine to five and I've got one hour for lunch: one hour break and in Brazil normally people work from eight to six and they have two hours lunch break so they, some people, still have siesta. So, for example, my father has got a shop. So from twelve to two he has lunch and he takes a nap as well and then he goes back to work at two o'clock which actually the doctor say it's really really healthy, is really good for him. It's quite, quite, funny because people here, I've noticed, they don't really sleep during the day, not even at the weekends. It's just not a habit but I do feel like in the afternoon



after lunch, you do, I think everyone feels a bit tired and if you had like half an hour to just sleep a little bit, it would be perfect.

Holidays, they're very different, yeah, than it is, ... in Brazil, you normally have a month holiday but when, when we say a month, it's counting weekends and everything. We don't have, like, like we have here 22 working days off. We have the month of January. So normally from, from Christmas until the end of January, or something like that, I mean that's how it used to be when I was teaching and that was also the students' break. Um, during winter, which is in July in Brazil, so during winter, we do have, like, one week, two weeks break. Here is much more flexible.

It is completely different. Um, yeah, I think British people are very organised. They work by rules and by structure. So everything is very much guided, in a way, and therefore organised which I think is really good. Sometimes in Brazil we are very improvised. I mean, I'm not saying we're not organised, or, we do a great job, they, but it's just something about our culture, about being spontaneous.

I wanted to be a teacher which is, I don't know, quite funny. I used to put my toys, like dolls, fluffy toys, whatever, put everything together in front of me and teach them something. That is a, I don't know, that's funny. Yeah, yeah, I wanted to a teacher.