

Adapting to Life in the United States

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People from all over the world move to countries where the culture is new for them. It is very difficult to adapt to the new system, but if a person wants to stay, he should learn to adapt to this new culture.

When I was in my native country, Haiti, I always used to think about America. I used to ask myself what was happening in the United States. My father, who was living in America at the time, would come to visit us every year, and I would always ask him if it was true that if a person wanted to stay in America he had to speak English. However, I never believed his answer or agreed with the advice he would give me.

Eventually I came to the United States, but it was very hard to adapt. It was winter when I arrived. My relatives had come to the airport to greet me and when we first saw each other, we were all so happy. Outside it was so cold that you had to wear a jacket. This was new and strange for me, coming from a tropical country! I asked myself why there was snow in the streets. Wearing a jacket became a problem for me. Sometimes I would forget to put it on.

Another problem I had concerned my sense of security. When everybody would go to work and leave me alone in the house, the door would have to be

locked. When I heard the bell ring, I would now have to ask who it was before I could open the door.

Next, when I would wake up, there wasn't any fresh food to eat because my mother didn't have time to cook every day. I, however, didn't like to eat yesterday's food because in Haiti we cooked fresh food every morning, noon, and night.

The last problem I had adapting concerned visiting with friends. Unlike in Haiti, in America there is very little free time for people to come to your house. People are always busy.

Despite all this, I learned to adapt. In fact, the busier I became, the more friends I made. Little by little I began to take the advice that these friends had given me.

It is very difficult to adapt to a new system. However, if a person wants to stay or if he doesn't have a choice, he should learn to adapt and make more friends.

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