

Chapter 1

Three Reasons



Amelia dreamed of going to the United States. She wanted to go for three reasons. The first was to earn more money and help support her family in Mexico. The second reason was to improve her English, a language she wished to speak more fluently. And the third reason was simply for the adventure. Amelia had always lived in the same small city in Mexico. At the age of 23, Amelia felt it was time for a new life experience.

Amelia's family was supportive of her decision to go to the U.S. After all, her brother Eduardo already lived in California with his wife, Marisol, and their four-year-old son, Francisco. And Eduardo and Marisol were happy to have Amelia live with them. Eduardo also promised to help Amelia find a job in the hotel where he worked. Of course, it couldn't be a high-level position. But the hotel employed a lot of people. Amelia could definitely find some kind of job there.



In Mexico, Amelia worked as a teacher in an elementary school. It was a job she enjoyed, but almost any job in the U.S. would pay her more. "Besides," thought Amelia, "I can do anything for a while." So Amelia packed her suitcase and said good-bye to her family. After a long journey, she arrived in the United States and waited excitedly for her brother at the trolley station. "I'm here," thought Amelia. "I'm really here."

Answer the questions.

1. Where did Amelia dream of going?
2. What was the first reason that she wanted to go?
3. What was the second reason?
4. What was the third reason?
5. What did Amelia feel it was time for?
6. How was Amelia's family about her decision to go to the U.S.?
7. Who already lived in California?
8. What did Eduardo promise to help Amelia find?
9. What did Amelia work as in Mexico?
10. What would almost any job in the U.S. do?
11. Where did she arrive after a long journey?
12. Who did she wait for excitedly at the trolley station?

A Conversation with Her Brother

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A: Everyone is supportive of my decision to go to the U.S.

B: Good! We're ready for you to come.

A: Are you sure it's okay to live with you?

B: Of course! We're happy to have you live with us.

A: And what about a job?

B: I promise to help you find a job in the hotel where I work.

A: What kind of job?

B: Well, it can't be a high-level position. But the hotel employs a lot of people. You can definitely find some kind of job there.

Past-Tense Verbs

A. Write the negative form of each past-tense verb.

1. employed _____

5. dreamed _____

2. wished _____

6. said _____

3. worked _____

7. thought _____

4. felt _____

8. promised _____

B. Write negative past-tense sentences.

1. The hotel employed a lot of people.

The hotel didn't employ a lot of people.

2. I wished to speak English more fluently.

3. She worked as a teacher.

4. They dreamed of going to the U.S.

5. He promised to help her find a job.

Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing word or words.

1. Amelia's family was supportive of her _____ to go to the U.S.
2. Her brother already lived in _____ with his wife and their son.
3. He also promised to help Amelia find a job in the _____.
4. Of course, it couldn't be a high-level _____.
5. But the hotel employed a lot of _____.
6. In _____, Amelia worked as a _____.
7. But almost any _____ in the _____ would pay her more.
8. So Amelia packed her _____ and said good-bye to her _____.
9. After a long _____, she arrived in the United States.
10. She waited excitedly for her _____ at the trolley _____.

Pronunciation

Check (✓) *d*, *t*, or *id* to show the pronunciation of the final sound in the past-tense verbs below.

	d	t	id		d	t	id
1. arrived	___	___	___	6. dreamed	___	___	___
2. worked	___	___	___	7. employed	___	___	___
3. promised	___	___	___	8. packed	___	___	___
4. wished	___	___	___	9. enjoyed	___	___	___
5. waited	___	___	___	10. wanted	___	___	___

What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes **No** 1. I sometimes dream of going to another country.

Do you sometimes dream of going to another country?

Yes **No** 2. I want to earn more money and help support my family.

Yes **No** 3. I want to improve my English.

Yes **No** 4. I think it's time for a new life experience.

Yes **No** 5. I live with a few members of my family.

Yes **No** 6. I work in a place that employs a lot of people.

Yes **No** 7. I think anyone can find some kind of job in the U.S.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. For what reasons do people from other countries dream of coming to the U.S.?
2. What are good things to do if you wish to speak a language more fluently?
3. Do you have a job in the U.S.? If so, is your job a higher-level position than you had in your native country?