

Why did I leave London? Love, work or something else?

ECP coach Kez explains why he decided to leave his birthplace of Wimbledon, SW19.

Before you read the complete article, look at this vocabulary and find it in the text:

- to utter:** to make a sound with your voice, or to say s.t. aloud
- nightlife:** entertainment available at night in a town or city
- to outweigh:** to be heavier, greater or more significant than s.t. else
- unfeasible:** inconvenient or impractical
- armpit:** the under-side of the arm at the shoulder; the axilla
- steamed-up:** covered with water vapour
- to be frowned upon:** to be disapproved of; disliked
- tube:** a train running on the London Underground system

I've often been asked the question, "You're from London. Why do you live in Vitoria?"; and sometimes, before I even **utter** the reply, I'm given two choices: "love or work?" The answer was work, but in reality, the answer is far more complex than that.

Living in London may seem like a dream come true for many people; the beautiful streets and buildings, the parks, the **nightlife**. It's true, there are a lot of positive reasons to enjoy England's capital city. However, personally, there were more motives to want to leave.

I had too many jobs to count between the ages of when I left university and when I left the country, each of which had many disadvantages which **outweighed** the advantages. If the job was well-paid, it was necessary to travel for up to 3 hours a day, spending the hard-earned cash on unwanted journeys.

An alternative would have been to rent a house, or room, near work. The uncertainty or instability of the job situation added to the price made this option **unfeasible**. Even if you were doing everything that your job demanded, the boss could say, and often did, "Thanks for your work, but don't come back tomorrow!"

You might think that paying several thousand pounds a year on travel would give you the right to a seat. Instead, it was more likely that you spent your journeys with your

nose pressed into the **armpit** of a fellow commuter, or against the **steamed-up** window, meaning that you couldn't see any of the wonderful city. The transport delays often meant that you arrived a couple of minutes late. The boss would then shout at you, making sure that your day, which had started badly, got even worse.

My lunch "hour" was closer to five minutes, running to the supermarket, through the rain, to get a sandwich and a drink to return to my desk to eat. There was no chance of going home for a 3 course meal and then a siesta. That would have taken four hours! Leaving work on time was also **frowned upon**, so at about half-six, I would get the train, then the bus or **tube**, then another bus or **tube**, and finally walk the last 10 minutes home, arriving just in time to make dinner and to watch the 9 o'clock news.

Eventually, after changing jobs many times, and mostly not by choice, I realised that the work may have been different but the routine was always very similar. So, I re-trained as an English teacher, and despite the wonderful teaching job I was offered there for €8/hour, I decided to look elsewhere to earn my living.

Written by ECP coach *Darren "Kez" Kurien*

[Watch the video here :-\)](#)

Flesch Reading Ease: 70 (Fairly easy to read. See explanation on page 2)

Let's chat about that!

Write your opinions in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

- Would you ever leave your hometown permanently? Why/Why not?
- Would you like to live in London (or England)? Why/Why not?
- Is your English good enough to work in another country?
- Would you consider living in any other English-speaking countries?
- What problems would you face if you moved to another country?



Above: A typical London street with pub and phone box
Below: A typical view of Parliament from the London Eye



Social Events In English

Real-Life English in Vitoria-Gasteiz



iLook, iThink, iSpeak

Real Language to Express Yourself Better

Friday October 26th - 19.30 at ECP

CINEMA NIGHTS!

Come and socialise in English!

A space-opera spanning the dawn of man to humanity reaching the stars, 2001: A Space Odyssey tells the story of the Black Monolith, humanity's evolution and the rise of A.I.'s ultimate supercomputer HAL 9000.

Director: Stanley Kubrick

Writers: Stanley Kubrick & Arthur C. Clarke

The last Friday of every* month from October to June, come to ECP to watch a film in English (with English subtitles) and talk about it afterwards.

October 26th - November 30th - January 25th

February 22nd - March 29th - May 31st - June 28th

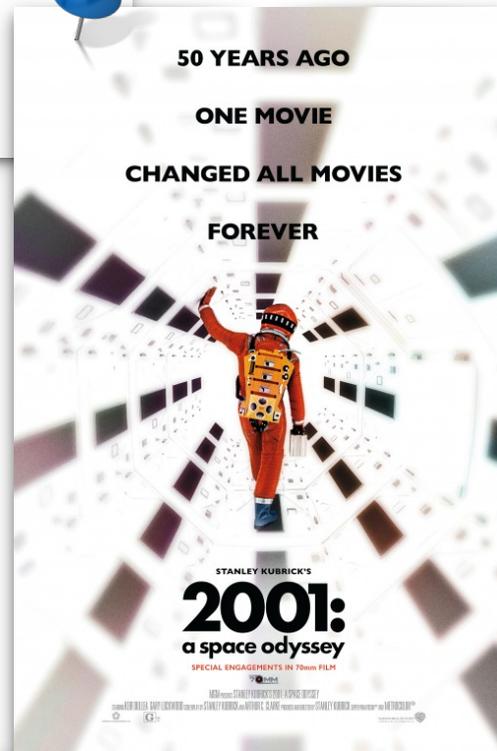
WhatsApp John for more details on:
657 73 13 54

Time: 19:30 to 21:30

Place: ECP Hub (C/San Ignacio de Loyola 15)

Price: Free! And friends are welcome :-)

Watch classic movies
in English with
English subtitles!



LIVE!English presents:

COFFEE SATURDAYS!

Come and socialise in English!

While enjoying a lovely breakfast in a cafeteria in the centre of London a few years ago, ECP coach Rob saw this sign...

Could you have done a better job at translating it? And if you translated the Spanish back into English, would it say the same as the original text?

PROFESSIONAL BAG THIEVES
OPERATE IN THIS AREA. PLEASE
KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON YOUR
BELONGINGS.



LOS LADRONES
PROFESIONALES DE LA
BOLSA OPERAN EN
ESTA ÁREA. MANTENGA
POR FAVOR UN OJO CERCANO EN
SUS PERTENENCIAS.

How would you
translate the following
sentences?

- "¡Somos una piña!"
- "¡Me está molestando!"
- "Estoy embarazada."
- "Te invito a un café."
- "Fuimos al monte."

Our next **Coffee Saturday**
will be on 10th November.

For more info: **WhatsApp**
Alison: 608 42 64 92

Flesch Reading Ease Formula

This formula is used to
assess the difficulty of
reading a text written in
English.

- 90-100: Very Easy
- 80-89: Easy
- 70-79: Fairly Easy
- 60-69: Standard
- 50-59: Fairly Difficult
- 30-49: Difficult
- 0-29: Very Confusing