

“Speaking Model 8 - Good Place to Live” @ <http://www.youtube.com/ESL4free>

*Is your country a good place to live
(why/why not)?*

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Sample 1: Yes, I would say it is, even if my country is not considered to be a wealthy one. People have good access to education and health care. Only forty years ago we had none of that. Generally, my countrymen are a cheerful and generous people, and are always laughing about something and having fun. Our economy is growing so jobs are not hard to get, although they don't pay as much as jobs in the developed countries do. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. On top of that, the climate is fantastic.

Note the personal view “I wouldn't want to live anywhere else” emphasises just how much he likes living in his country.

“On top of that” at the end is used as an afterthought, to add another good point about his country.

Sample 2: To be honest, no it isn't. It was a good place to live once, but not anymore. Prices have increased enormously over recent years, but wages haven't. Getting a job is now very difficult, unless you know someone who can help you find one. Some people are getting very rich though, and the country has many billionaires now - mainly because the government is so corrupt. It seems to me though that some people are getting very rich because others are getting much poorer. My country has become very unjust, that is why I am trying to leave it.

“To be honest” is used to prepare the listener for a negative response. The speaker clearly is unhappy about living in his country, and gives detailed reasons why.