

I came to England when I was 22 about 32 years now (in 1973). I found it hard when I just came to England because my family was still in Hong Kong. I had homesick at that time, but after I had my son things changed because I had to take care of my family. I have a life and I finally am used to the life here. I didn't know any English and had only a few friends at that time. Those friends who came here at the same time didn't keep in touch because we all had to work. We hardly called each other.

It was difficult in the beginning, the phone calls were expensive and not many people could afford for a phone, so I could only write to my family, and posting took a long time. Unlike now, phones are convenient. Everyone owns a phone and it's a lot more convenient. At that time, it's hard to get hold a person, but its easier now with phones. It is easy to arrange a meeting, but it wasn't like that before.

“It was difficult in the beginning, the phone calls were expensive and not many people could afford for a phone, so I could only write to my family, and posting took a long time.”

We came here by plane; people came here by ship in the 50s, but by plane in the 60s. It took almost a month by ship from Hong Kong to London, very tiring.

we had to stop at middle-east country for petrol, so it was difficult that we don't know any English. Unlike those people who could understand English, we didn't know how to read the time and don't know how to talk to others.

There is no choice; you follow whoever you got married. But I had difficult time adjusting into this place because I was separate from my family. At least when I lived in Hong Kong, I was with them (my family). We missed each other and I felt alone. But I came to accept it, and things got better (here in the UK).

I grew up in Sen-Gai, my family's runs farming business. I helped my parents when I was young, then came out to get a job on my own after that, I worked in a factory sewing handkerchiefs and cloths. There were a lot of job opportunities during period.

I have many siblings, I have 6. I am one of the older ones, so I had a harder life, we had to work.

I used to help my parents look after my younger sisters and brothers because they had to work and feed the chickens. I had to prepare food for them, and the food for the chickens. Also, I had to help clean

the house. We grew in a difficult life but life now is a lot better.

We didn't spend a lot time in school as the older ones because we had to look after the younger ones. No, we didn't study a lot.

Yes, we speak Cantonese in the family, but because we are from Si-Chuan, so we have an accent.

“We didn't spend a lot time in school as the older ones because we had to look after the younger ones.”

We didn't have that much to eat like now, only big festivals. People now can have meat every meat. Back then we used to have them only for festivals. We ate really simple foods, like soup and vegetables.

English is difficult; it's hard to learn without a basic knowledge of it. I had problems obtain the knowledge, but don't really have problems in listening. Now as my kids are all grown up and I don't work, so I have more time learning the language. You can get used to the language if you keep listening and having some interactions with the people here; you can learn gradually.

People are always learning until they get old, it's hard to explain. But I feel embarrassed because I didn't learn a lot English.

“People are always learning until they get old, it's hard to explain. But I feel

embarrassed because I didn't learn a lot English.”