

A Year Abroad

Talking Points

Task: Talk about the **positive and negative aspects** of doing an exchange year abroad.

Positive Aspects

- **Experience a new culture**
- **Improve your language skills**
- **Become independent**
- **Make international friends**
- **Explore a different country**

Negative Aspects

- **Feel homesick**
- **Experience culture shock**
- **Language barriers**
- **Financial difficulties**
- **Fall behind at school**

Positive Aspects

- **Experience a new culture:** You have the chance to experience a new culture and learn about different customs, traditions, and ways of life, which will help you understand different cultures better and be more open-minded.
- **Improve your language skills:** It's a great opportunity to learn and practice a new language by communicating with native speakers, which can help you become fluent in the language.
- **Become independent:** Living abroad without family and friends means that you have to make your own decisions, be independent, and step out of your comfort zone by doing things you normally wouldn't do.
- **Make international friends:** Going to school in a foreign country, living with a host family, and doing activities with other exchange students from around the world will help you form international friendships.
- **Explore a different country:** Studying abroad allows you to explore and travel to different parts of the world, where you can visit historical and cultural landmarks and get to know the geography of another country.

Negative Aspects

- **Feel homesick:** Being away from friends and family for a longer time can be emotionally difficult, especially at the beginning. You might miss your friends and family and feel lonely.
- **Experience culture shock:** Getting used to a new culture can be difficult, and students may experience culture shock as people might behave differently from what you are used to in your home country.
- **Language barriers:** Especially at the beginning, it can be hard to have proper and deeper conversations with locals and get to know them better. Also, it might be difficult to understand and follow the teachers in class.
- **Financial difficulties:** Studying abroad can be expensive, and not every family can afford to send a child abroad. When you are abroad, you might not be able to do many fun activities there because you have a limited budget.
- **Fall behind at school:** Studying abroad in a different school system with different teaching styles may be a challenge and it may take some time to adapt. You might fall behind academically, and it might be difficult to catch up at school back home since you will have missed an entire school year.