

# Now That More Americans Can Work From Anywhere, Many Are Planning To Move Away



## Part1: warm up

**Ex1.** Look at the pictures below and answer the following questions and compare your ideas

with your partner:

- 1) Where are these houses?
- 2) What are the similarities and differences between the two pictures?
- 3) What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the country and living in the city?



**Ex2. Discuss the following questions with your partner:**

1. Where do you live? How is it different from your hometown?
2. Is your neighborhood a safe place?
3. What facilities are there in the place where you live?
4. Is there anything you would like to change?

**Part2: reading**

**Ex3. Read the article below about changing the place where you live and answer the questions:**

[https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/10/30/929667563/now-that-more-americans-can-work-anywhere-many-are-planning-to-move-away?utm\\_source=pocket&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pockethits&t=1630930977269](https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/10/30/929667563/now-that-more-americans-can-work-anywhere-many-are-planning-to-move-away?utm_source=pocket&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pockethits&t=1630930977269)

**Now That More Americans Can Work From Anywhere, Many Are Planning To Move Away**

As coronavirus cases continue to **spike** and working from home seems permanent, many Americans are planning to **set off** to live in new places.

An astonishing 14 million to 23 million Americans intend to **relocate** to a different city or region as a result of telework, according to a new study released by Upwork, a freelancing platform. The survey was conducted Oct. 1 to 15 among 20,490 Americans 18 and over.

The large migration is motivated by people no longer **confined to** the city where their job is located. The pandemic has shifted many companies' view on working from home. Facebook announced plans for half of its employees to work from home permanently. The company even hired a director of remote work in September to ease the transition.

"As our survey shows, many people see **remote** work as an opportunity to relocate to where they want and where they can afford to live," says Adam Ozimek, chief economist at Upwork. "This is an early indicator of the much larger impacts that remote work could have in increasing economic efficiency and spreading opportunity."

Big cities will see the largest outmigration, according to the survey. About 20% of respondents planning to move live in a major city. Because many expect remote work to continue long term, more than half aim to relocate over two hours away or even farther from their current home.

Another study conducted by United Van Lines, a major household moving company, found that people wanted to relocate out of New York state at a higher rate than the national average. And, by the

beginning of September, the requests to leave San Francisco had grown to more than double the U.S. average. The survey was conducted between March and August.

Nationally, there is a 32% increase in moving interest compared with this time last year, the United Van Lines survey found. The most common reasons associated with pandemic-influenced moves were: concerns for personal and family health and well-being, desires to be closer to family, changes in employment status or work arrangement (including the ability to work remotely), and desires for lifestyle change or improvement of quality of life.

Customers told the moving company that the pandemic made them **reevaluate** what was important to their family, which meant being closer to extended family and friends. Other customers said they had to widen their job search to out of state.

1. How many Americans are planning to relocate to a different city or region?
2. Why do people decide to relocate?
3. Which two cities have been affected the most?
4. What were the most common reasons associated with pandemic-influenced moves?

### Part3: vocabulary

**Ex4. Look at the expressions from the text below and try to match them with their definitions:**

<b>1. spike</b>	<b>a.</b> to start a journey
<b>2. set off</b>	<b>b.</b> far away
<b>3. relocate</b>	<b>c.</b> evaluate again or differently
<b>4. remote</b>	<b>d.</b> restricted to, limited to
<b>5. confined to</b>	<b>e.</b> to increase a lot quickly
<b>6. reevaluate</b>	<b>f.</b> to move to a new place

**Ex5. Now fill in the gaps with an appropriate expression from the previous task:**

1. They ..... to Florida last month.
2. If prices ..... again, people will not be able to afford to buy basic products.
3. They live a in ..... mountain village, miles from the nearest shop.
4. Please ..... your use of the phone ..... business calls.
5. What time do we ..... tomorrow?
6. The plan will be ..... annually to see what areas need attention.

**Ex6. Discuss the following questions with your partner. Make sure you use the key vocabulary from the previous activities.**

1. What is the most **remote** place you have ever been to?
2. Have you ever been **reevaluated**?
3. Do you know anyone who **relocated** from the city to the countryside?
4. When you are going on a long journey do you prefer to **set off** at night or early morning? Why?
5. When was the last time you were **confined to** bed? Why?

## **Part4: speaking**

**Ex7. After reading exchange the opinions on the following questions with your partner:**

1. How do you work (in the office/remotely/in the hybrid system)? Have you ever worked remotely?
2. Is there anything you would like to change in the organization of your work?
3. Have you thought about moving out of the city?
4. Would you prefer to live in a smaller city or in the country?

## **Part5: homework**

**Ex8. Make sure to practice your vocabulary with some flashcards:**

<https://quizlet.com/pl/613305132/now-that-more-americans-can-work-from-anywhere-many-are-planning-to-move-away-flash-cards/>

**If you enjoyed today's article here is a longer read as a follow up:**

[https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/sep/18/paradise-life-spanish-city-banned-cars-pontevedra?utm\\_source=pocket&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pockethits](https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/sep/18/paradise-life-spanish-city-banned-cars-pontevedra?utm_source=pocket&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pockethits)