



I am happy now

Five years ago Mark Watson lived in one of the busiest cities in the world, London. He worked as a sales man in a very demanding job, but now he lives in the middle of a forest. Instead of hearing the sound of cars, buses and trains, he listens to the sound of birds singing, leaves rustling and the rain dripping onto the trees. Five years ago Mark was sad and depressed. Today he is happy.

When he lived in London, he hated getting up early, but now he loves waking up at 5am so that he can watch the sunrise and listen to all the animals in the forest. He also disliked doing nothing, but now he enjoys sitting in the forest and doing nothing, as it relaxes him.

He has no job, he isn't married, he is just on his own, but for him that is peaceful. Being alone in the forest gives him time to think about life about what is important. When he was in the busy city he didn't have time to stop and think about what would make him happy. He worked long hours, earned a lot of money, spent a lot of money and went out almost every night. His life was like a train out of control with no brakes.

So one day he saw a man in the street smiling. He looked very relaxed and happy. Mark had never seen anybody smiling and contented in the street before, so he walked over to him and asked him why he was happy.

The man replied, 'I'm happy because I'm free. I have just lost my job and my wife has divorced me. Now I can go and live in another country, which I've always wanted to do 'he said.

Mark thought about the man for two years before he decided to go and live in the forest. For Mark the most important thing in life now is to be free.

Comprehension Questions

- 1) What was Mark's job like?
- 2) What 2 differences are there about Mark's life in the first paragraph?
- 3) Why does Mark like getting up at 5am?
- 4) Is Mark married?
- 5) What is good about being alone?
- 6) What made Mark decide to go and live in a forest?
- 7) Do you agree with Mark's decision to live in the forest?

Writing Task: Design a Poster called Happiness or Sadness and write sentences using like/dislike + ing