



Moving As A Child Part 2 Conversation

Michigan: a state in America

Midwestern states: states in the middle of America

accent: the way it sounds when someone speaks

pop: a drink

soda: a drink; same as pop

ridiculed: made a mean joke about someone

affluent: rich

old clunkers: old cars that have a lot of problems and look bad

neighborhood: the area where you live

brand new: completely new

pretty obvious: really easy to understand

turn a lot of heads: get a lot of attention; make people look

blue collar: the people have jobs that do not make a lot of money

Gremlin: the name of an of American car that is no longer made

designer clothes: expensive clothes

keep up with the Joneses: to try to own all the same things as people you know in order to seem as good as them

stressful: makes you worry

couldn't afford it: did not have enough money

Kristin: That makes me think, um, when we moved, I was, we were living in **Michigan**. At the time we always considered it "the North". But actually it's the north of the **Midwestern states**. But then moving to a southern state, I definitely had a northern **accent**. And some of the words I used were different, too, like "pop" for, for...

Joe: Soda.

Kristin: ...soda. So I was, I was **ridiculed** by kids for my accent, for sure.

Joe: Yeah, you know another difficult thing for me was that the area that we moved to was **affluent**. And, I mean, we certainly were not rich. So, y'know, uh, and you could see it from the clothes we wore to the cars that my parents drove. I mean...

Kristin: [laugh]

Joe: ...y'know, we had these **old clunkers** and everyone else in the **neighborhood** has these **brand new** cars, y'know. So it was **pretty obvious**, like, we would **turn a lot of heads** driving past people.

Kristin: Oh my god, that sounds so much like, like my situation. We moved from a very **blue collar** area - my, my parents being teachers, were very blue collar as well - to a very affluent area, a lot of doctors and lawyers. And I can remember moving. We [laugh]... My mom drove this yellow and black **Gremlin** [laugh]...

Joe: [laugh] Yeah, they don't make those anymore...

Kristin: [laugh] No. I....

Joe: ...and there's a reason for it.

Kristin: [laugh] I would get dropped off at school from... come in the Gremlin. I would be so embarrassed. And then, y'know, we didn't have the **designer clothes** that all the kids we went to school with wore. So, we w-, it just was very stressful trying to **keep up with the Joneses** and buying these designer clothes. It was, uh, very **stressful** for me and my brothers. But also we put a lot of pressure on our parents to buy these. And they just **couldn't afford it**.

Joe: Yeah, that sounds familiar.



Moving As A Child Part 2 Conversation

knickers: a type of girls pants that do not go below the knees

back in style: to be fashionable again

horrible: very bad

playground: a place where children play

standing in the corner: standing away from the other children

cruel: mean

I'll tell you what: this is what I think

Pennsylvania: a state in America

tackled: thrown to the ground

cryin' wolf: to try to get attention by saying something that is not true

screamin' at the top of my lungs: yelling very loud

wimp: someone who is weak

Kristin: I c-, I gotta tell you one story I can remember. My mom actually, she can't sew. And she had sewn me this pair of **knickers**... Knickers at one point were **back in style**. Do you know what those are?

Joe: Yes, yeah.

Kristin: And they were **horrible** looking. And I wore 'em to school and all the kids were makin' fun of me on the **playground**.

Joe: Oh, my gosh.

Kristin: I was just **standing in the corner** by myself about to cry. And then I went home and I was like "Mom, I want real knickers. I want you to buy 'em in the store for me."

Joe: Yeah, kids can be **cruel**.

Kristin: [laugh]

Joe: I know kids can be cruel because, **I'll tell you what**, I had to, uh... I had a really bad experience right before I started school the summer that I moved to **Pennsylvania**. I'm playin' football with the kids in the neighborhood...

Kristin: Uh-huh.

Joe: ...and, of course, what happens is, I get **tackled** and someone falls on my leg and it breaks my ankle.

Kristin: [laugh] Oh no.

Joe: I couldn't believe it. So I'm sittin' there, tryin' to, y'know, act as, uh, if, like, it doesn't hurt that much. But, I mean, it hurt a lot. And then, y'know, the kids thought I was **cryin' wolf**. They didn't really think I was hurt at all.

Kristin: [laugh]

Joe: So I have to walk away and, uh, walk home on a broken ankle. And, I mean, I just felt like **screamin' at the top of my lungs**. I was in so much pain. But I couldn't. I couldn't do it because I didn't want the kids to think I was, like, some **wimp**.



Moving As A Child Part 2 Conversation

Kristin: [laugh] Oh, oh...

cast: something that is put on you're arm or leg when it is broken

Joe: So, it gets worse [laugh]. I have to go to school with a **cast** on my leg to start the school year.

Kristin: [laugh]

look out of place: to look like you do not belong or fit in

Joe: So I'm the new kid with the thick accent, the clothes that **look out of place**, y'know. Nobody knows me and I have a cast on my foot. And my, y'know, I can't take a shower, y'know. I can't shower the leg so my toes are a little dirty...

Kristin: [laugh]

Joe: ...I mean I wanted nothin' more than to move back to New York that very moment, the first day of school.

stuck out like a sore thumb: look out of place; to look like you do not belong or fit in; same as look out of place

Kristin: God, I bet you **stuck out like a sore thumb**.

hop on a bus: get on a bus

Joe: Oh ma-, you can't imagine. It was the worst. I, I mean I think for the first two years I lived in Pennsylvania I just wanted to **hop on a bus** and get back to New York as fast as I could.

getting familiar with: getting to know

Kristin: Yep, that was me... wanting to move back to Michigan, too.

combined: to put together

Joe: Wh- [laugh]...

elementary schools: primary school; school for children between ages 5 and 10

Kristin: [laugh]

middle school: school after primary school; for children between ages 11 and 13

Joe: But, uh, y'know, I, at least you moved at an earlier age. It's a lot easier because, y'know, when you're younger it's just, uh... Y'know, all the kids are **getting familiar with** each other. But when you move, and you're a little older, the kids already know each other. Y'know, they've already **combined** the **elementary schools** into the **middle school**, uh, for when I had moved there.

ironically: something you would not think is true but it is

Kristin: Yeah, but you know, **ironically** enough, um, my older brother, I think, had an easier time **adapting**. And he was starting seventh grade. I was starting third grade. My younger brother was starting second grade. And my younger brother and I had a really **rough** time.

adapting: getting used to
rough: difficult



Learn
Real English

AUTHENTIC CONVERSATIONS

Moving As A Child Part 2 Conversation

looking back: *to think of a time in the past*

a blessing in disguise: *something that is good that you do not think is good at first*

Joe: Yeah, well, y'know, as much as I hated it when I first, uh, had moved to Pennsylvania, now in **looking back**, I think it was really **a blessing in disguise**. I mean there were so many other opportunities that came available to us from living in Pennsylvania and going to a school district that, y'know, was, uh, had a lot more money. And the education that we got was better. And it just provided me, uh, with a much better starting point for, uh, college.

Kristin: Right.