

My new home

1 I came to the UK in 2004 - it was the first time for me. I was very sad because I had left my  
2 family. Even though I had come to join my husband, I was crying so much.

3 After the aeroplane took off, I felt that I should stop crying and think about the new life that I  
4 was going to have. I also felt excited because I was going to meet my husband.

5 I had Henna on my hands and legs because, in my country, if you are married, you must  
6 draw on yourself with Henna as a sign to everyone that sees it that you are married.

7 However, because no one knew about it here, everyone stared at me on the plane, and this  
8 made me feel scared and shy. An English man was sitting next to me and he asked me,

9 "What is this?" He was interested and listened carefully when I explained everything to him.

10 He liked it and we talked a lot. He told me about himself, too. The journey was really long -  
11 about seven hours' flying.

12 Finally I arrived in the UK. I couldn't believe it when the captain said the temperature was  
13 nine degrees. I was shocked because, when I left my country, it was 40 degrees. For me, it  
14 meant that it was freezing! I got off the plane and went into the airport, where I finally met my  
15 husband.

16 My first impression of England was not good. When I saw my house, which was a flat (a  
17 very, very, small flat compared with my house in my country), I felt so disappointed. I also  
18 had very bad flu. It took me a long time to get used to it.

19 After I had my first baby, everything changed. I found a good neighbour who spoke the same  
20 language as me, and I felt I could settle in and try to live a normal life with my husband.

Iyali

