

My new home

1 I arrived in the UK in October 2011. I came to the UK to join my parents in Edinburgh, and to
2 look for a better future. Before this, I had never been to the UK and it was the first time I had
3 travelled by a plane.

4 At first, I was so excited to see a different country and so many beautiful places. I had heard
5 that Edinburgh was a historical place and there were many places to visit, such as the
6 gardens, the zoo, the hills and the castle. When I came, I saw lots of different people with
7 different backgrounds and cultures, but, despite their differences, they could communicate
8 with each other in one language: English. I also saw lots of greenery and natural beauty,
9 which was really calming. When I arrived at my home, I found that houses in the UK were
10 smaller than our houses in Pakistan.

11 A brand new life spread out in front of me, and this affected me deeply. When I went outside
12 I found I became deaf and dumb. I couldn't speak or understand what other people were
13 saying to me. It was a very strange time. With the improvement of my English, I gradually
14 made contact with people. I found people to be very friendly, and, when I walked down the
15 road, I was often met by strangers smiling at me or saying, "Hello". This was unusual to me
16 and different to what I had experienced in my country.

17 Now, I am more self-confident than before. I have learned not only how to speak English, but
18 also how to behave. The most important thing living in the UK has taught me is how to see
19 this colourful world without limitation - a vision full of equality, freedom and love.

Madiha

Pakistani lady living in Scotland

