

**My first impressions of life in the UK**

1	My name is Xiaoli. I come from China and I first arrived in the UK on 15th August 1997. I
2	remember when I first got off the aeroplane. I saw that the people were tall, and had very
3	different colour hair and eyes. I came out of the airport and, while I was waiting for my friend,
4	I lifted my head and looked up at the sky. The moon was very round and it reminded me that
5	it was a celebration day for families in China. My heart was saying, "UK, I am coming; I am
6	ready to start my new life."
7	When my friend arrived, we travelled on The Underground - that was the first time I had
8	used it. To start with, I was confused by The Tube map and it was difficult to find out how to
9	go anywhere. "If only I understood how to use it!" I thought. The thought of this is amazing,
10	because now I know that The Underground is a very quick and easy way to get around
11	London.
12	My friend's house was in <i>Elephant and Castle</i> , which is an area in London. Before my friend
13	told me where he lived, however, I had thought that most British people lived in castles. So,
14	when I came out of the station, I was surprised to see that his house was old and wasn't a
15	castle at all! My friend was laughing at his joke!
16	When I first came to the UK I couldn't speak English very well, so my first job was in a
17	Chinese restaurant. My friend recommended more friends for me - my husband was one of
18	them.

Xiaoli

Chinese lady living in England

