**Exercises pag.177-178**

**COMPREHENSION:**

1. The speaker is Salman Rushdie, so the narrator is in 1st person .
2. He has the theory according to which migrants are connected to the discovering of the force of gravity.
3. He compares gravity to belonging: as everyone’s feet stay on the ground, any human being is attached to his own country.
4. He thinks of roots as a ‘conservative myth’, designed to keep up in determined places.
5. The two ways of looking for freedom are to fly and to flee, and that reminds of a flight from one place to another.
6. The supposition he makes is that while the concept of gravity remains uncomprehended, everybody seems to find easy to comprehend its opposite, the notion of anti-gravity.
7. The consequence is that while antigravity is possible to understand and to prove, anti-belonging concept could not be accepted or investigated by modern science.
8. An anti-gravity pill would be necessary to devise to unstuck people from the ground and after a while, to sink them down to the earth and make them find in a different place.
9. The connection between gravity and roots would be that the pill would make all us migrants and reach every household on the earth.
10. The best of migrants is their hopefulness, the worst thing is the emptiness of one’s luggage, containing a few meaning-drained mementoes.

**ANALYSIS:**

1. The speaker experiences a double condition: he is a migrant from one country (India) and a newcomer in *two* because he lives now in India while his parents moved to Pakistan against his will.
2. The metaphor upon the whole text is built is the one of trees: we pretend to be trees with our roots attaching us on the ground, but actually we have no roots and therefore we are free to flee and fly wherever we would go.
3. Gravity and belonging are two phenomena which observably exist but neither of them could be understood: while I don’t know gravity’s force’s cause, I cannot pretend to know how I feel so attached to my birthplace.
4. The speaker plays with the words ‘flight’, ‘flee’ and ‘fly’ which together not only seem to represent alliterations , but they belong to the same semantic field, they speak about moving from one place to another.
5. In the fourth paragraph, there is a fantastic description referring to the pills business, which could bring all the people in the world to a specific place at a specific latitude and the earth rotation would do the rest.
6. In my opinion, the narrator is against migration and I can prove it thanks to the following extracts from the text: “I have never been angrier than on the day my father told me had sold my childhood home in Bombay ”, “when individuals come unstuck from their native lands they are called migrants”, “a few meaning-drained mementoes” “we have floated from history to memory” which suggest a pessimistic view of the migrant as someone who has lost both his material objects and sentimental bonds and could not take them back again.