***ABOUT MOVERS***

*EXERCISE 1*

1. The speaker is an emigrant from India, his native country. His family moved to Pakistan and, afterwards, he moved to England, where he lives nowadays.
2. He has the theory that the resentment emigrants raise is connected to their conquest of the force of gravity, since they are able to fly from one country to another.
3. He compares the gravity with belonging because of their similarities. They both exist but neither is understood. People know gravity is the force which makes them stay on the ground but they do not know its origins. Likewise the emigrant is aware that he is leaving his country but many times he does not know the motivation.
4. He thinks that roots are just conservative myths, meant to keep people in their birth countries. He supports his statement with an example that explains it. People talk about roots when they leave their countries alluding to the metaphor of the cut tree to show their resentment, but they never remember their origins when they are still living in their countries.
5. The two ways of looking for freedom are to fly (the act of moving from one place to another) and to flee (the desire to escape from a disadvantaged situation).
6. The speaker’s supposition is that anti-belonging is not accepted by modern science and its representatives: ICI, Ciba-Geigy, Pfizer, Roche and NASA, which just believe in anti-gravity, the second counter-force of the comparison. He imagines that they could invented an anti-gravity pill sold by companies.
7. The consequences of the existence of the anti-gravity pill are the broke of the world’s airlines and the ability of people to fly for a specific period of time but then fall back to the earth.
8. It would be necessary to devise special water-proof flying garments and a pill of a new strength in order to change the length of the flight. The direction of the landing would be controlled by means of a directional booster-engine constructed in back-pack form.
9. The connection between gravity and roots is the common ability to make all human beings migrants because they both would float upwards and fall back to the ground being influenced from the rotation of the planet.
10. The best thing about migrant people is their hopefulness while the worst thing of them is the emptiness of their mementoes.

*EXERCISE 2*

The speaker has lived his life in betweenness. He has experienced both the emigration and the immigration, facing to all the problems and the prejudices it involves. One day, he understood he had to move from India to Pakistan and to England, without knowing the reason why. Like other migrants, he pretended he was a tree that could not be cut and moved in order to hide his sense of emptiness and displacement from history, memory and time.

*EXERCISE 3*

The whole text is built upon the metaphor of the flight. The speaker states, talking about his experience as a migrant, “we have flown”. The reader but-notices he is comparing movers to birds, since they both move from one place to another. It allows the speaker to make a comparison between gravity and people’s sense of belonging to their birth countries. Finally, the narrator voice starts from the theoretical counter-forces to the aforementioned ones, to find the connection between gravity and roots which makes all people migrants: human beings will fly thanks to an anti-gravity’s pill.

*EXERCISE 4*

The speaker compares gravity with belonging for their obvious similarities. Both phenomena exist but neither is truly understood. Starting from the first comparison term, all creatures on earth stay on the ground thanks to gravity, but no one knows its origins. Moving to the sense of belonging, we see migrant’s imagines everyday on television and it is evident that they are also aware of their condition. Yet, no one of them really understands the reasons why they move. More in details, migrants pretend to have conservative myths, as the one of roots, in order to stay in their countries. Finally, both gravity and belonging have a counter-force, despite they are not accepted by modern science in the same way.

*EXERCISE 5*

Within the third paragraph, the speaker explains the metaphor of the flight, trough the word “migration” which both refers to birds and to human beings because they move from one place to another. The ability to fly is closely connected to the will to flee since they are two ways of seeking freedom. In order to perform people’s ancient dream of floating in the air, people have to win the force of gravity with the scientific discoveries of NASA, ICI, Ciba-Geigy, Pfizer and Roche. The speaker supposes the creation of an anti-gravity pill which will provoke the broke of airlines companies. Fundamental devices as a water-proof flying garment, stronger pills and directional booster-engine will be invented to make the flight more comfortable and to control the landing. The speaker is obviously making an extended metaphor meant to avoid the differences between migrants, whose are able to “fly”, and other people, who are not yet able to do it so cannot deeply understand the movers.

*EXERCISE 6*

Reason, imagination and travel are three common themes in the narration of both Salman Rushdie and Jonathan Swift. If according to Swift, reason is an instrument that must not be abused, Salman Rushdie juxtaposes imagination and reason. While he is analyzing the best and the worst thing about migrants and seceded nations, he talks about hopefulness and emptiness of their abstract luggage. It is like they had flown above history, memory and time, hide from the others’ view. The privation not only of their houses, but also of all their affections, their projects and their culture left behind, made them empty. They have to start from scratch, without any reference. The type of description used conveys an effect of loneliness and nostalgia experienced by migrants as well as their inability to fully understand the reasons that led them to move to the unknown. Being forced to use his imagination, the reader has a greater empathy with migrants and he cancels out the differences between him and them.

*EXERCISE 7*

The reader gets the impression the narrator is in favor of the migration since he exalts migrants from the real beginning. According to the speaker’s opinion, they reached the dream of all human beings: to fly. The reader clearly but-noticed it is not just a metaphor of moving from one place to another like birds, but it highlights the impossibility for movers of being understood for real. Only when an anti-gravity pill will be invented, people will feel empathy towards migrants and migrations will become easier and faster. Under people’s soils there are not roots that keep them in their places, so they can fly or flee, seeking the hoped freedom.

*EXERCISE 8*

Travel to new places is a fundamental experience which can enrich someone’s cultural baggage. Nevertheless, there are some fundamental rules to follow slavishly in order to become a responsible tourist or traveller. First of all the traveller has to contact tourist agencies that take care of the host community, asking and gathering information on culture, rules, history, economy, language and local cuisine. During the stay in the chosen place, the traveller has to respect the locals, asking for permission to take photos and neither flaunting wealth nor wearing clothes in contrast with the locals tradition. The responsible tourist must take care of the local environment and architectures, too, respecting the imposed prohibitions and without polluting. Landscapes can be amazing, but taking part of them could damage the environment itself (just think of the coral reef). He has to be flexible to adapt himself to different situations and he should try new types of food and participate to local events. Supporting the local craftsmanship is also essential. The good traveller or tourist should pay items at the established price, without making excessive chaffers. Finally, it is suggested to have relationships with local people, which should be maintained even after returning home. In the evening or at the end of the travel, it is recommend to reflect and write about what was seen and learned to keep memories alive.

*EXERCISE 9*

Bruce Chatwin examines human beings restlessness, studying its origins in order to avoid it. The possible mainspring of it is people’s brain, made to work with continuous stimuli from the external environment. For this reason, travelling is vital for Chatwin. As the title of his book suggests, he focuses his attention on a specific way of travelling and living: the nomadic one. He strongly believes in the degeneration of people’s own brains in condition of long-term permanence in a place. Not to feel the impossibility to follow their primate instinct, people will take drugs, hallucinatory mushrooms and drink wine. Nevertheless they are vehicle for “people who have forgotten how to walk”. They must follow the previous examples of poets, who have a greater culture and have travelled probably in order to write their poems. Poetry is the only way to survive instead of travelling because it is “not of the world of the men”, so it will not cause restlessness.

***OVERVIEW***

*EXERCISE 1*

1. **DUTY:** Taxes levied by a government on imported goods.
2. **RAW MATERIALS:** Basic material from which a product is made.
3. **SMUGGLING:** To move goods illegally into or out of a country.
4. **BRIBERY:** A form of corruption, an act implying money or gift-giving that alters the behavior of the recipient.
5. **IRONY:** A way of criticizing a person, an idea or an institution through humor.
6. **SALON/PARTY:** A meeting place which was popular in the Augustan age.
7. **COMMON SENSE:** The ability to think about things in a practical way and make sensible decisions.
8. **CODE OF CONDUCT:** Standards or principles of good behavior.
9. **WRONG BEHAVIOR:** Evil or immoral behavior.
10. **CORRECT BEHAVIOR:** Behavior or attitude that shows high moral standards.

*EXERCISE 2*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NOUN** | **ADJECTIVE** |
| Stability | *Stable* |
| *Tradition/ traditionalism* | Traditionalist |
| Elegance | *Elegant* |
| Wit | *Witty* |
| Materialist/material | *Materialistic* |
| Response | *Responsive* |
| *Hierarchy* | Hierarchical |
| *Heredity* | Hereditary |
| Privilege | *Privileged* |
| Individualism | *Individualistic* |
| *Pessimism* | Pessimistic |
| Optimism | *Optimistic* |

*EXERCISE 3*

* The Whigs were formed in *1678.*

They are descendants of *the Parliamentarians.*

They are supported by *the wealth and commercial classes.*

They fought for *industrial and commercial development, a vigorous foreign policy and religious toleration.*

They became *the Liberal Party in the 1860s.*

* The Tories emerged in *1679-1680.*

They are descendants of *the Royalists.*

They are supported by *the Church of England and the landowners.*

They fought for *the divine right of the monarch and the religious intolerance.*

They became *the Conservative Party in 1832.*

*EXERCISE 4*

The prime minister is a title given by the Queen to the leader of the political party who reached the highest number of MPs in the House of Commons, after the general election. He was asked to form a government that will manage the country and to appoint the ministers, who head individual government departments. The meetings of Whigs secretaries of state gave origin to the Cabinet.

*EXERCISE 5*

1. Walpole was a Tory landowner. **F** He was the first prime minister and was a Whig.
2. During Walpole’s government taxes were kept down. **T**
3. Walpole was accused of corruption by the opposition. **T**
4. Walpole’s government ended when George II came to the throne. **F**

He had survived a change of monarch when George I was succeeded by his son George II.

1. Walpole went to live at 10 Downing Street. **T**
2. William Pitt was a Tory. **F** William Pitt was a Whig.
3. England expanded during Pitt’s government. **T**

*EXERCISE 6*

1. It was a *materialistic* society.
2. Its political institutions were *hierarchical, heredity and privileged*.
3. Elections were largely controlled by *the local landowners*.
4. Politicians often practiced *bribery* either with money or with the promise of jobs.
5. Eighteenth-century society championed *individualism*.