



## May 2011 – Home

What is HOME?

When you hear the word 'home' what comes to mind for you?

What images do you associate with 'home'?

This question of what is 'home' arose among a group of foreigners living in London. An American was referring to an upcoming trip to the USA as a trip home and then, in the same sentence, saying she'd be home in London in time for the Royal Wedding\*. Which was it? Where was home – where you were born or where you had lived or where you currently live?

A new arrival to London was living in temporary housing, albeit a nice flat in Kensington, and lamenting about the difficulty in finding a permanent place that felt like home. Both places were rentals so how is one just a place to live until finding another rental place that's home?

Another couple who had just moved into their new, permanent home was impatiently waiting for the arrival of their furniture and pictures so it would feel like home. So it's not necessarily the structure that is home but what is on and within the walls?

An empty nester (a parent whose older children no longer lived at home) commented that she felt torn about home – her kids were in school overseas yet she and her husband lived here? She could identify with both as she travelled between the two often. Was it where her kids lived or where her husband lived?

I moved every five years as a kid until I graduated from University. My parents are both dead so there is no family home to go back to. So far I have lived in three countries as an adult. I have even been known to refer to a hotel room as home. For me, home is wherever I am. It feels homier with photos of family and friends. It's made more comfortable with my kitchen utensils and appliances!

So, home can be some many things: where you were born, where you live, where your family is, where your stuff is, or where you are. It can be the language, the culture, the familiarity. Home is all these things and it is your own unique definition. And most importantly it's the place where you *feel at home*.

What's 'home' for you? What can you do to make where you are more homey?

\* The Royal Wedding was fun - lots of great energy down at Buckingham Palace! People from many different home countries united and rejoicing together. And I must admit, maybe because I'm Canadian, it was fun seeing all the Royals in person from 20-30 feet away.

## Live your potential

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