

Emma Thompson and her adopted Rwandan son

Tindy left Rwanda when he was just a teenager and moved to the UK as a refugee. There, he met the famous actress Emma Thompson and was adopted by her. In this video, they describe Tindy's incredible journey.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. a refugee
2. dreadful
3. to happen in a snap
4. your background
5. to integrate
6. to move away
7. a downside
8. undisputed

Definition

- a. to occur almost immediately
- b. to begin living in a different area
- c. to change in order to become part of a bigger group
- d. terrible; very bad
- e. the experiences in your past
- f. without a doubt
- g. a disadvantage
- h. a person who has to leave their own country because it is too dangerous to live there

Task 1

Put the sentences in the order the topics are mentioned in the video.

..... The best way for refugees to adapt to their new country/region.

..... The things which people must abandon when they become refugees.

..... A funny joke about a drink which both Emma and Tindy like.

..... A funny joke about the difference in age between Emma and Tindy.

..... The reason why some people must become refugees.

Task 2

Circle the best answer to complete the sentences.

1. Emma says that everybody
 - a. has refugees in their family.
 - b. should learn more about refugees.
 - c. should send products to refugees.
2. Tindy says that people become refugees
 - a. after many years of problems.
 - b. because of changes in the weather.
 - c. very quickly.
3. Tindy says that to have a successful new life, refugees should
 - a. learn to speak good English.
 - b. remember their history but adapt to their new home.
 - c. try to forget their history in order to adapt to their new home.
4. Tindy says that when things are very difficult in your own country, it is best to
 - a. leave for a period of time.
 - b. talk to other people in the same situation.
 - c. wait to see if the situation gets better.
5. The disadvantage of Emma and Tindy's love for wine is that
 - a. it costs a lot.
 - b. it is bad for their health.
 - c. it is difficult to find good wine in the UK.
6. When Emma tells Tindy that he is young and handsome, Tindy
 - a. agrees with her.
 - b. disagrees with her.
 - c. says that he is embarrassed.

Discussion

How would you describe Emma and Tindy's relationship? Do you know any famous refugees who have found success in their new country?

Transcript

Emma: For World Refugee Day, from my point of view, and you must say what you feel, but from my point of view it seems to me that, I mean, in many ways we're all a product of refugees. You know? We're all ... if you go back far enough, you'll find a refugee in your family.

Tindy: Oh, yeah.

Emma: People have had to go because human beings commit dreadful wrongs upon one another and people have to leave their homes sometimes and they don't ever want to leave their homes.

Tindy: Yeah.

Emma: You're talking about people who are leaving their homes!

Tindy: Their homes, for ... you know ...

Emma: ... And their friends and their families and their ... the people that they know and the country that they know, the weather that they know, the food that they know, all the things that gives life its flavour and its ...

Tindy: Oh, then when you're leaving home: or the smells, or the excitement of friends and ... it just happens in a snap really, it happens involuntarily. And to me, my take on it is that ... it's a ... it's a forced situation and you have to quickly adapt to it but also accept that you have to learn new things, to incorporate your background at the same time (in) the new environment. That's how you would survive, really.

Emma: Yeah. I think you've discovered over the years that the refugees that make the best ... kind of fix of their lives and are happiest are those who ...

Tindy: ... who have tried to integrate and ... they've not left ... they've not completely left their background.

Emma: No, there's no need for that.

Tindy: Yeah, but they've accepted that, yeah, life has to go on.

Emma: And you're ... you know, you're speaking a new language. Your language ... your English is fantastic now.

Tindy: Yeah, it has been a long journey.

Emma: Long journey.

Tindy: Home is always best but at the same time, you know, when things are difficult you might as well slightly move away but home is where ... (it) will always be important.

Emma: Yeah.

Tindy: Yeah, so ... yes. It's always a constantly ... learning experience.

Emma: Well, as life should be!

Tindy: Oh! Yes! Yeah.

Emma: What is life without that? It'd be an empty husk!

Tindy: *(laughs)* Yeah! But it has been phenomenal, you know? An amazing journey.

Emma: I think the real downside is that you've got very expensive taste in wines now.

Tindy: *(laughs)*

Emma: That's living with me!

Tindy: I was ... I had never tasted wine. And then I tasted it and then it became nice!

(both laugh)

Tindy: There are lots of amazing moments that have happened and continue to happen and ...

Emma: God willing, will continue.

Tindy: Yes.

Emma: If I'm spared, because I'm a very old lady and you're still young and lovely.

Tindy: Oh, yes. Yeah. That's undisputed.

(both laugh)

Answers

Preparation task

1. h
2. d
3. a
4. e
5. c
6. b
7. g
8. f

Task 1

- 3 The best way for refugees to adapt to their new country/region.
- 2 The things which people must abandon when they become refugees.
- 4 A funny joke about a drink which both Emma and Tindy like.
- 5 A funny joke about the difference in age between Emma and Tindy.
- 1 The reason why some people must become refugees.

Task 2

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. a
6. a