
ANSWER KEY

Unit 15**A**

Between Latvia and Russia.

It's not a bad place to live in. The quality of life is better than it used to be.

The schools are better than they used to be. The teachers are more liberal and open and kids enjoy studying more as a result. English is becoming increasingly important. They start learning it at the age of 5 or 6!

The economy is doing badly – and has been since the last election. The cost of living is rising, inflation is going up. It's really bad at the moment.

Charlotte is thinking of maybe moving to Russia, where her boyfriend has family and where unemployment is lower, so maybe she can find work there.

They have big problems with politics and the economy. There's a lot of corruption in the government, in business, in the law, everywhere. The cost of living is going up. Food and rent is much more expensive than it was last year. They have an economic crisis. The banks lost lots of money. There's no money to spend on anything! It's very hard at the moment.

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- 1 Do you know it
- 2 what's life like
- 3 the quality of life
- 4 more liberal and open
- 5 how's the economy doing
- 6 The cost of living
- 7 unemployment is lower
- 8 to be honest
- 9 much more expensive than
- 10 lost a lot of money

VIDEO SCRIPT

Jack So ... how's life in your country? No. Actually, first, which country are you from?

Charlotte I'm from Lidland. Do you know it?

Jack No, sorry. Where is it exactly?

Charlotte Um ... it's very, very small. Between Latvia and Russia.

Jack Smaller than Latvia! So ... small! And what's life like there? Is it a good place to live?

Charlotte Well, the quality of life is better than it used to be. We joined the European Union a few years ago, and that helped. We received some money to help build roads and bridges and so on.

Jack Well, that's good.

Charlotte Yes, and our schools are better too. The teachers are more liberal and open, so children enjoy studying more. English is also very important. We learn from the age of five or six.

Jack That's great!

Charlotte Except me. I am the older generation.

Jack And how's the economy doing?

Charlotte Well, since the last election, everything is getting worse. The cost of living has gone up, inflation is going up. It's terrible. I don't know why!

Jack That's awful. I'm sorry.

Charlotte Yes. Actually, I'm thinking of moving.

Jack Really? Where to?

Charlotte Maybe to Russia. My boyfriend has family there. And unemployment is lower, so maybe I can find a better job.

Jack Well, good luck.

Charlotte So how about in your country? How is life?

Jack Ah! This is a very bad question for me, to be honest.

Charlotte Yes? Why?

Jack Well, we have big problems with politics and with the economy. There's a lot of corruption and nobody can stop it. It's everywhere. Government, business, the law, everywhere. It's killing us. And the cost of living is going up and up and up. Food and rent is much more expensive than it was last year. I mean, now rent in my city is maybe €800 a month for one apartment, but last year it was maybe €600.

Charlotte That's terrible.

Jack We have an economic crisis. The banks lost a lot of money, the people have no way to pay for it and now there's no money to spend on anything! It's really very hard. That's why I came here to learn better English. To help me escape, to survive.

Charlotte Oh! So ... shall we change roles? You tell me about your imaginary country.

Jack Yes! Before I start to cry. Or kill someone.