
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

English at University

1: Leaving home

The logo for BBC Learning English, featuring the letters 'BBC' in a white box above the words 'LEARNING ENGLISH' in white text on a teal background.

This is not a word-for-word transcript

LANGUAGE FOCUS: Learn phrases you might use when people are leaving home. Plus words and phrases for describing someone who gets emotional easily.

Narrator

Hello and welcome to English at University - the series that brings you the English words and phrases you need to help you through your first year at university.

We're going to follow new student Mary, who's about to begin *her* first year of study abroad - at The University of Studies – that's the UK's thirty-second best university. She's been offered a place to study for a degree in Business. It's a great opportunity for her but her mum and dad are sad to see her go...

Mum

... and she's flying to London today... London in the UK... yes, she's done very well. **I'm so proud of her** but... but I'm worried she's not going to eat properly and she might get in with the wrong crowd and...

Dad

Your mother is so emotional. It's **the opportunity of a lifetime** for you Mary. **Make the most of it** – forget about us, we'll be fine.

Mary

Forget about who?!

Dad

Ha ha. Now have you packed everything? Clothes, books, toothbrush...

Mum

Sorry about that. That was your Grandma on the phone – she says good luck and send her a postcard from Paris. I think she meant London. She also said '**Don't do anything I wouldn't do!**'

Mary

What?

Mum

It's a joke. She learnt it from her English friends. It means '**have a good time and don't get into trouble**'. Now have you packed everything? Passport, student visa, your acceptance letter from the university and your new laptop – you can use that to video-time us.

Dad

Good idea – very sensible. Have you got your credit card and cash?

Mary

Yes Dad!

Mum

Ah, that sounds like your taxi. Well... bye bye darling. **Safe journey! Have a good trip and keep in touch.**

Mary

I'll call as soon as I land in Paris... I mean London!

Narrator

It can be scary leaving home for the first time, but Mary seems quite cool and calm about it, even though her mum's getting a bit **mushy** – she's getting quite sad and emotional. While Mary says her final goodbyes, let's go over the words of encouragement you can give to someone who's leaving home for the first time...

I'm proud of you.

It's the opportunity of a lifetime.

Don't do anything I wouldn't do!

Make the most of it.

Safe journey!

Keep in touch!

To practise these phrases – and to learn some more like this, visit us at BBC Learning English dot com. Now, back to Mary, and her dad's looking a bit tearful... He's a **big softy** really – that means he gets emotional very easily.

Mary

Err Dad, are you ok?

Dad

Bye Mary... I love you!

Mum

Bye Mary. Bye. Oh no, look, she's left her 'good luck' teddy bear behind.

Narrator

Come on Dad, you'll be fine! So Mary is off to the UK to study. In the coming weeks you can hear how she gets on dealing with university life, studying and eventually taking her exams. And I'll be here with some English words and phrases to help her on her way. So join me again soon for English at University. Bye!