



Hello,

My name is Birgit (pronounced “Beer-get”). My journey began in Germany. This was our home until I turned five years old. My father was offered a job in the USA, so together with my 4 siblings, we packed our bags and left for this country. My first memory of the English language was learning simple terms during the flight over.

In Alabama we were able to adapt to the change of language and culture, continuing to speak German at home. After nine years we moved again. This time to Texas. Although the same country, a big change as well. But not as big as the one that faced us the following year.

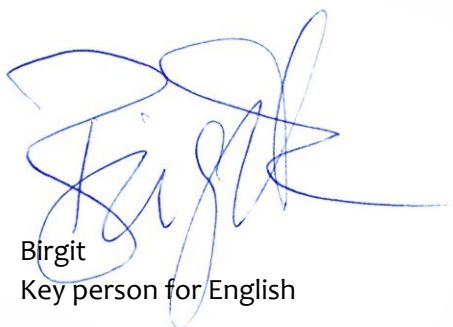
With fifteen years of age, my parents told us we would be moving to Switzerland. “They speak German there”, they remarked. So, once again we packed our bags and headed to the country of snow and chocolate. What a change! From the dry, hot and flat Texas to the mountainous, cold and often foggy Switzerland. And their “German” was not what we spoke at home!

We were put into the schooling system and changed languages. Now English was the language we spoke at home, German the one we spoke in school. It was a big step in my journey and often I wondered where “home” was. It was not until a long time later, that I realized I have to learn the Swiss language – I wanted to stay. Yes, Switzerland is a strange place, but it grows on you. My sister once said “it’s a nice place to visit, but I wouldn’t want to live there”. Now we all do. And we don’t intend on going anywhere else.

It was a long journey to get there. And we had to find out so many things on our own. But allow me to help you on your journey. As key person in Root I can point you in the right direction, give you tips and tricks and support you in starting your journey.

You will receive this letter along with information about the community of Root. If you have any questions, just text me/write an email and we can arrange for a talk. My support is free of charge and I am committed to secrecy.

Looking forward to meeting you,



Birgit
Key person for English

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