

2nd Monday (Take 2)

Dear People from Greenland, Hungary, Italy, Greece, just over the water (Dominique), Portugal, Poland, Denmark, Friesland, Slovakia and I know there is one more place I can't dredge out of my memory,

G, I wonder how the pollution, noise, dirt and crowdedness of London compares to that of your native city, Palermo?

I wonder how many culture shocks/ learnings each person had over the week-end? This may be especially the case of people new to UK, like D., but it could even happen to Dominique with her English husband. I have a French wife and after 35 years she can still offer me food for cultural amazement.

This morning we are going to start with the musical intelligence - first an exercise I learnt from Herbert Puchta, one of Austria's best methodologists, and then some of E.'s ideas with help she may have enlisted from others. I know that G. does stuff with rap rhythms.

After coffee we will look at the three exercises each of you has chosen from the Teacher's Resource book you had over the week-end. I will photocopy one from each person for the whole group. In this session (working in 4's) you may want to talk about your exercises or you may want to get the others to do them.

This afternoon we will work on ideas for enlivening listening comprehension- this was not on your last Friday list but it is a vital area. Tomorrow will be largely around reading comp. You will have a mid-morning session with Glen on some of the reading difficulties that a surprising number of learners face.

(Do you notice how I use the letter technique to focus your attention forward)

The rules for that really nice Genie exercise last Friday need to be established by testing. This is my tentative list:

- Give the students (post-beginner up) a medium length sentence (for their level)
- Ask them to totally re-write it using as many of the same words as possible and no other words.
- Tell them the group will judge the best sentence as being the one with most change of meaning and humorous change of meaning. The group will give each sentence marks out of 20.
- Tell them they will lose one "mark" for every word of the original sentence not used and 2 marks from any grammar/syntax errors.

The winner gets extra homework!

Yours warmly,

Mario.

ps: On Wednesday evening, how about coming round to my place in Faversham for supper?
I live 3 mins for the rail station and the train trip from Canterbury East Station takes 13 mins.

You could take the 6.20 over and the 10.10 back.

Let me know about this tomorrow, maybe?