

Dear P. [redacted],

I rang my friend in Manchester bright and early this morning (P. [redacted] is an early riser) to ask him, if, as an economist, albeit hidden away in the groves of Academe, he could help me understand the clear difference between, on the one hand TECHNICAL OBSELETENESS and, on the other, Moral, virtual or.....? OBSELETENESS.

Your distinction foxed and bemused him. I offered him your example of the cash register manufacturer and he suggested that there might be a difference between a product being SUPPLY OBSELETE and DEMAND OBSELETE. Example: No way can the Czech company go on making cash registers in the face of competition from electronic calculators (supply obselete). I decide to set up a chain of oldie worldie grocers shops in the heart of tourist London. I need loads of ping-ping cash registers. This makes the cash register no longer " demand obselete".

Homework for you: please write a letter to P. [redacted], fully explaining your two concepts and asking how they fit into and English economist's understanding. Who knows, I may have misunderstood and betrayed your thought. Please give him my regards.

Professor P. [redacted] / Dept of Politics, University of Manchester, Oxford Rd, Manchester.

It was interesting to me that when you were explaining mathematical ideas yesterday afternoon you digressed much less than usual. K. [redacted] and I have been fascinated by the way your thought seems to move forward by digression! In written terms I think of you as the {[()]} man!

I won't be teaching you over the next three weeks but would very much to a) continue writing to you

b) invite you to my home town in either week 3 or 4 of your course (I'm off on holiday this next week)

The letter-writing work is very powerful as a language learning tool a) because you have reading material tailored to your interests and to your language level needs [I consciously write in such a way as to offer you new language] b) because when you write to me you naturally recycle some of my language and so integrate it into your own mental systems.

Please write to me at 26 London Rd, Faversham ME 13 8RX


(Tel: 01795- 537129)

Your first letter could usefully arrive here by Thursday next, when I get back from the camping and blading place.

You may decide not to write, which is fine, but I really would like to show you the little town I live in.

Yours,

Mario.



HLL: DIGITAL
Humanizing Language Teaching