

Monday Oct 13th

Dear Folk brought together by F

Coming together to start a course is always full of the unexpected which induces some nervousness but also a certain kind of thrill and anticipation. I feel happy to be writing this letter to you.

I guess you have come directly from your classrooms and are looking forward to a week playing a different role from that of teacher and leader. I spent last week revising a book with my colleague, Judy Baker. This a book that will come out with DELTA next year, a book of language exercises inspired by NLP (Neuro-Linguistic-Programming) . So while you have come from outward-turned activity, I have come from introspective work.

In order to get to know you better I would like to have one-to-one meetings with each person, in the morning break, the lunch break and in the tea break. The idea of these sessions is that you talk to me about your thoughts and needs and wishes. I will simply come to the meeting with a really open mind.

In teaching your subject/s do you ever write letters to your classes? With me this is a regular practice and in the letter I will sometimes introduce new subject content, in my case very often a new grammatical structure. I also use my letter to help the students cast their minds back over previous lessons and do a bit of revision. I find it very useful to have a written channel of communication open to me.

Our task this morning is to get to know each other a bit and to achieve an adequate state of warm-up. I guess this is a prerequisite to the learning of any subject. I also need to get some sort of outline map of your needs, hopes and wishes for these five days.

To this end, can you each **now write me a short letter**, telling me which subjects you teach, in which language you teach them and your expectations for this course. What do you personally hope to have achieved by Friday afternoon? Please be as clear and definite about your goals as you can- this will help me structure the course sensibly.

When you have finished the letter to me please hand it across to me.

Then please **write your name large and clear on piece of paper and place it so that everybody can see it.**

We will then spend 15-20 minutes freely writing short letters to each other across the group. **You choose who you want to write to first, write a short letter and then immediately deliver it to the person.** The content of your letter is entirely up to you. Please write in English, though.

If some one sends you a letter, please answer it.

When you have written your first letter, don't go to sleep, write a second letter to some one else in the group.

We are going to have fun,

Warmly yours,

Mario

