

Dear A [REDACTED],

I hope you have rested enough to make today a useful time linguistically.

Did you have nightmares about not turning up for your State exams?
I hope not!

One of your key words seems to be "amnesia". And yet, I have observed that you seem to have a bloody good memory. You remember dates, you remember details, you remember people with great exactness.

Why then do you often talk about forgetting, about things slipping out of your memory?

Your outline of the way the business and your family are meshed together was truly fascinating. I was also interested to learn that you first came to Pilgrims because your English language teaching sister had already been on a teacher training course.

Would you be willing to take a very recent book of mine to her as a small gift? The kind of books I write are only useful to teachers, not directly to students.

I wonder how you felt during our "role-play" in the travel agents. Once or twice you fell out of role and tried to talk to me in English!
Once or twice I also fell out of role and gave the girl eye contact that showed I understood, before you translated!

I guess we are both relatively bad actors. I liked the situation- it had a feeling of street theatre.

Listen, I want to hear a bit more about how you got in contact with the guys in Alexandria. From their website, they seem to be quite a big outfit.

How big are they?

Are they wholly Egyptian owned?

When did they set up in Egypt?

What were the particular difficulties of negotiating with them?

How do you know that you might not get a better deal from some other othe non-Italian supplier?

How much do you use the web in your search for new suppliers?

What a lot of questions!

Time for bed: Goodnight, Alessandro,