

Dear Everybody,

In your letter, F [redacted], you say :
" I am afraid to speak in English- I have the problem of holding back in our lessons"

You wrote these lines two days ago but yesterday you really changed. You DID speak in the recording session and you offered to write on the board. Maybe you are just about ready to try and speak in English. The first steps are hard.

A [redacted], what an emotional person you are behind that very reserved mask! Yesterday , between 11.00 and 12.00, you seemed to be angry, angry with M [redacted], angry with me, angry with.....maybe with yourself. In three months you have gone from understanding very little to understanding a lot. I remember our first conversations at breaktime. Very slow....you took a long time to make a seven word sentence. Now you speak quite fast and you are sure enough to correct other students. You have made slow but very sure progress.

The classes in the first part of the term were often too hard for you- this is why I fought to get you and S [redacted] and M [redacted] special classes. Over the last few weeks the classes have been the right level for you- you are more or less in the middle of the group.

" I stayed in the smoking room- I didn't want to come to class ". I wonder why you felt this way?

A [redacted], I don't think you will find it easy to get classes during the vacation. To improve your English why don't you go hitch-hiking round UK? You can travel everywhere without paying a penny. You will be speaking and listening all day long. People stop and give lifts very easily. This is a friendly place. If you do this, do it alone- don't do it with your Turkish mates.

Marvellous, M [redacted]- thank you for the questions you have asked me in your letter:

Let me answer you:

- Yes, I went to discos and parties when I was a student. I met my wife at one!

- When I left university I wanted to be a journalist- I worked as a journalist for three years before changing to teaching.

- You ask if I like this school. In some ways yes and in some ways no. This term has not been a good term for me.

- On the 18th of March I start work for the other school I am with. I will work for them until August and then come back to CAE. I work half the year for one school and half the year for the other.

Your second letter, M [redacted], is really very eloquent. You write:

" I am very pleased to go back home because I love my baby very much and my wife and my family. My body is sick because I don't like eating in English families and restaurants. This is my first long time away from my family and my friends."

Your words are strong and deep. The grammar is mostly correct. The spelling is 100% better than when you arrived. Your spelling is still weak- but when you

arrived you spelled EVERY WORD wrong. Now you spell simple words correctly. I have given the class a lot of dictation work partly to help you with your writing.

A■, it is a pity that you never managed to write me many letters. Letter writing really helps you to learn loads of new words. It is as if you are afraid of opening your heart a little.

Hi, S■, I wonder where you are.

Hi, M■, maybe mentally you are back in

Izmir?

Yours

Mario.

HLLT • DIGITAL
Humanizing Language Teaching