

Dear People in Room 5,

This morning I have had a long bath and done one or two things in the garden to achieve a feeling of calm leading to action.

The events of yesterday were unsatisfactory. With hindsight, given what has actually happened, P [redacted] and I maybe should have divided the large group into two in such a way as to guarantee the maximum nationality richness in each group. Each group could have had one Slovene and one Russian, for example. This would have meant forgetting about language level, which is, anyway, a very slippery concept since we have no instrument to test the real language level which includes:

- awareness of cultural references
- awareness of child language
- wide reading
- correct pitch
- correct volume
- good intonation
- good pronunciation
- wide knowledge of collocation
- a large vocabulary
- mastery of syntax and grammar
- a full feeling for the language.

What happened yesterday happened. I would be very glad to hear your views of what happened, maybe by letter.

But the marvellous result of Monday is that we have a small class in which we can work very intensively. I will certainly make sure that I bring in the maximum number of native speakers that I can so that you have this precious practice with mother tongue users.

None of what I say above will change your underlying mood, generated by yesterday's events.

I just hope that the three Japanese people in the other group feel comfortable and at ease with their colleagues.

I look forward to an intensive correspondence with each of you.

Yours warmly,



Mario.

ps: this Wednesday we are going to a pub together.

Could you please note that the following Wednesday I would very much like to invite you to my home in Faversham.