

Dear Everybody,

This is an odd sensation, writing out into the blue to a group you do not yet know. But it is also pretty exciting as anything could happen.

For me writing to you also serves the purpose of trying to fully get rid of the group I worked with over the last fortnight, who are still quite strong in my mind. We worked very hard together.

Your programme:

Today my aim is to get us together as a group so that the things we say to each other have depth and interest and go beyond airport lounge chit-chat. At advanced level it is vital to be talking to folk it feels worth talking to.

Tomorrow we will start on certain strands of this course which, in the first week will include:

- Correction of your oral English
- Exercises that deepen our knowing of each other
- Work with Native speakers
- a look at Corpus linguistics and the new Oral Grammar of English.
- Some work on understanding cultural differences.

In this group we will stay together until 3.30 so that I can offer you a 45 hour course. You then face the huge choice of the evening programme.

However, I would ask you to look carefully at the 2.00 to 3.30 options programme that starts on Tuesday and if there is something that an individual desperately wants to go to then they should go. The 2.00-3.30 options programme is very tempting but by week 2 some people get stomach-ache from flipping from one group to another too much.

On Friday you will have an executive meeting with me absent to decide on the shape of the second week. So the course is teacher-led in week 1 and group-led in week 2.

On Wednesday evening we all eat together down in town.

I would propose the Beckett Pub where the food is English, not bad, and reasonably priced but above all where we will be well received by a landlord who knows Pilgrims and me well. Of course, I am very open to other suggestions.

56/ 3 children/ 1 wife over 30+ years in country with a 35% divorce rate / My parents gave me Italian, German and

English blood / my father-in-law is French and my mother-in-law is English. I am a founder member of Pilgrims and am partly proud of it.

I really want to hear from each of you and so am looking forward to letter from you tomorrow or the day after. I know you will have many other things to do that will distract you from writing.

Yours

Mario

ps: a word of advice: the programme on offer is a very rich one and you need to pick and choose- if you try to go to everything you will exhaust yourselves. I beg you to pace yourselves sensibly. I do not want to be working with a group of boiled cabbages in week 2!