

Dear Colleague,

Meeting one person is to meet a whole new world. Meeting a whole group of people is that much more complex, and this is our task today.

In my view language is relational and so it seems to me that our main task today is to get to know each other as well as we can and as fast as we can.

On this course I very much hope we will use the written as well as the oral channel, since some of us can probably express more on the page than when talking. Writing letters gives us the chance to be in special contact with one another.

Let me tell you something about myself: Last week I went to IATEFL, the biggest EFL conference to be held in UK in the year. I did a couple of workshops and a lot of business on Pilgrims' behalf. I also met a lot of old friends, colleagues and past trainees. I felt bad being away from my family as my eldest daughter is 34, at home and in a pretty bad mental state. My third child, B■■■■, spent last week on a typing course- he is learning to keyboard without looking at the keys. Going off on a course makes him feel pretty adult. He is just eleven.

S■■■■ and I have been married since 1963 and have lived in Greece and in Chile. All-in-all those two periods come to about 5 years. In the 80's I would be spending around 120 days travelling round Europe, mostly, doing teacher training, so in that decade I must have lived three of the ten years outside UK.

I wonder how all this being away has influenced me? My wife sometimes says it has influenced me for the worse!

The next two weeks are nice because I am firmly committed to working with you here in Canterbury- no gadding about!

I would love to get a letter from each person in the group tomorrow morning and thus start a correspondence. Some people in my groups respond to this invitation and some do not. Please write if you want to. The content of our letters is entirely up to each of us.

Yours warmly,



Mario.