

Dear L■■■■,

Thank you for your letter. The fact you did not reply at once whetted my appetite for what you had to say.

From your letter I get the impression that you are finding it quite hard work to make full notes on all the things you are being exposed to. The point of our corresponding is, as you rightly suggest, to allow your written English to take wing and improve in parallel to your spoken language.

I suspect that this last month has seen you suddenly become dependent on the letter in communicating with your nearest and dearest. Is this what has happened? How often do you communicate with folk back home?

I know nothing of your relationship to Djakarta. Are you a Djakarta dweller born and bred or have you migrated into the city?

What kind of city is it? Is it built round a port? Is it surrounded by hills? Give me some feel of what the city looks like, what it feels like and sounds like. I have no awareness of it.

Actually, I realise I am assuming you do live in the capital which may, in fact, not be the truth.

What naturally happens when we write to each other is that you, often unconsciously, will find yourself picking up on language I use and recycling it in your own. This is such an easy and friendly way of learning more with relatively little effort.

The more frequently we manage to write the greater your language gain and the greater my Indonesia knowledge gain.

Good night,

Mario