

# Pilgrims™

English Language Courses

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Dear Chichester, Saturday-sacrificing Folk,

To halve your week-end is quite a decision and to know, in some cases, that you will pay for it next Thursday afternoon in tiredness is also quite decision. Thanks for being here.

My job to offer you ways of interacting that make the hours together valid in themselves and valid in terms of things you can usefully use in the future.

Central to this workshop is the idea that **a writer must have an addressee.....**and that for most people writing is an activity that draws on the inter-personal intelligence. My most difficult professional writing has been stuff for the now defunct BBC ENGLISH BY RADIO: here I was writing for the circa 6 million EFL teachers across the world. Who the hell are they? I was unable to begin to have a sense of my audience and thus finding an appropriate voice was extremely hard. Writing this letter to you in infinitely easier as I can hazard a few sensible guesses about you guys.

So in the writing class, especially the exam writing class, a sense of reader is vital.

I wonder how you see yourself as a writer? I wonder what you have written in your time: applied linguistics essays, love poems, phone messages, texting messages, diary entries that pretended to be private but that wanted to be found, really secret diary entries, notes under the table in lectures, cooking recipes, emails in a language you are bad at, letters to family, letters written but not sent, letters to the editor, letters of complaint, school reports on students, TV scripts, short stories, shopping lists, lists of sins prior to going to confession, lesson plans, notes taken while listening to a lecture etc.....All of these and many more, eg pastiches you have written, invitations etc...

Yes, you are a writer.. if you were not, how would you be setting out to teach writing skills to your students?

**When you get to this point in your reading, please write me a one page letter giving me a clear idea of how you see yourself as a writer. When you have finished the letter, please let me have it.**

**Now put a folded bit of paper on the desk/floor in front of you with your name on. Please write a short letter to anyone you feel like in the group, about whatever you want. Please write in English. Please deliver your letter to the person. Start a second letter to another person and deliver that. If you get a letter from some one it would be good to reply. ( This " letter-round - the-class" exercise will run for 15-20 minutes.**

Do you normally write letters to your writing classes? It is one way of trying to establish a writing climate in your class, a quite a good one. Give it a try.

Warmly yours,

Mario



Things that are long and should be short

lectures to sermons

suffering - Univ, <sup>stuff</sup> lectures

grammar explanations

painting a water colour

sleep (it depends)

winter (not really)

some books, eg Dickens

cooling down after anger

old fashioned Skills ~~today~~

some therapies especially Freudian ones

certain processes in cooking, eg dropping things up

periods of vacillation and hesitation

New Labour's tenure of office