

3rd Monday

Dear People up the steep Stairs,

This morning we start the second half of your month stay here. My job with you now is language and I am delighted with this for two reasons: - I think teaching language is harder than sharing teaching techniques - the area of methodology is relatively finite....there is a central bibliography of less than 200 books- this is field that has only defined itself as a field in the past 25 years. It is a fledgling field.

- I think that teaching language is massively mysterious and after 35 years at it I do not yet believe I have mastered its rudiments. Therefore it is immensely challenging. I also sense that all of you are strong linguists and really like language which means that I can enjoy myself and teach direct to ^{your} the linguistic intelligence. I do not need to think in Howard Gardner terms as I would with a less specialised class; as I would with a business student here in the centre.

This morning in the first period we will be working on culture + language in the first exercise and then in the second exercise I will show you a way of doing listening comprehension that I hope will become a sort of infection with you over the next ten days.

At 10.45 we will leave for an Old People's Day Centre to a) listen to the organiser tell us about her work and b) for us to chat with some of the old folk themselves.

As the ageing population swells and as health care delays death longer, the problems of this part of the population loom larger and larger. The Day Centre alleviates the Loneliness of people stranded in houses that used to family homes.

I would love to hear from you in writing about how you relate to English and to other "foreign" tongues you use....as well as your double relationship to Spanish and Galician. I have seen nothing in writing from you since we did that handful of writing exercises in Week 1.

Mario.

