

Some points on the short story "The Landlady"

Swindon is a town in the west of England

Starry is the adjective of star.

A starry sky has many stars.

The *Bell & Dragon* is an inn, which that there is a bar to drink, and also rooms to stay in.

Lodging > accommodation, a place to stay

Bath is a beautiful, old English town.

Splendid > beautiful, impressive.

In the Duolingo Test writing section, the question was:

Write about the topic below for 5 minutes

Tell the story of a day when everything worked out perfectly for you. What did you accomplish, and what made the day so satisfying?

And the sample answer was:

One day, everything went just right for me. I woke up feeling really rested and ready to start my day, which was already a good sign. Then at work, I finished a very tough project before the deadline, and that made both me and my team very happy. Around lunchtime, I met up with an old friend at a café, and we had a great time catching up and talking about everything. Later that day, I went for a run in the park by my house, which made me feel really good. In the evening, I cooked a new recipe from my favorite cookbook. Everything went smoothly that day, and it honestly felt kind of perfect.

The second sample text was:

A particularly memorable moment was when I met up with my old friend at the café. We hadn't seen each other in a long time, so as soon as we sat down, we started sharing stories and updates. It felt great to reconnect and remember all the fun times we had together. That moment really stood out to me. That's what I remember most about that day.

Quick recap by Zoom AI (I have not checked it, so there may be errors.)

This English language class session focused on reading practice and test preparation, with students reading a short story called "The Landlady" and discussing vocabulary. The

professor guided students through interactive writing exercises on Duolingo, where they practiced describing perfect days in their lives. The group discussed scheduling changes, agreeing to move Monday classes to 5pm and keeping Friday classes at 3pm, and students suggested watching videos before class and presenting on topics. The session included updates about one student's conditional offer from Goldsmiths university and another student's temporary medical license status.

Next steps

- aseel: Practice Duolingo test for unconditional offer
- aseel: Watch "Starry Starry Night" exercise after class
- aseel: Read "The Landlady" short story
- Nicholas: Send video links before classes for discussion
- Nicholas: Send summary of today's class this evening or tomorrow
- Nicholas: Confirm availability for class on Monday, May 27th and May 1st
- Nicholas: Change Monday class time to 5pm (keeping Friday at 3pm)
- Nader: Prepare a 5-minute presentation for next Friday (not this Friday)
- Nicholas: Coordinate with Amy about presentation format

Summary

Academic Planning Discussion with Students

The meeting involved a conversation between Professor Nicholas and students Aseel and Yomna about their academic situations. Aseel discussed the university semester length in Gaza, which is typically 3-4 months, and mentioned upcoming holidays in August. The conversation revealed that Aseel had participated in sessions with Amy, who works in computer science, though no details about summer plans were discussed. The conversation ended with Nicholas inquiring about Aseel's progress in applying to study outside Gaza.

University Admission and Language Goals

Aseel discussed her conditional offer from Goldsmiths University for a first-year program, pending scholarship acceptance and an upcoming Duolingo test for an unconditional offer. Yomna, aged 25, shared her goal of improving her English to work as a freelancer with international clients, though there are challenges with payment due to fees associated with receiving money from abroad. The conversation also touched on the current situation in Gaza, with Aseel noting that the border closure hasn't improved.

Medical Licensing and Career Discussion

The meeting began with Nader and Nicholas discussing Yumna, a Computer Science Engineering graduate seeking employment. Nader mentioned having a temporary medical license with restrictions, including an inability to apply for specialty exams, but expressed hope to find a solution next month. The conversation then shifted to Nader's upcoming specialty exam in September and his plans to become a urologist, with Nicholas inquiring about Mahmoud's current work situation and potential availability for classes. The

conversation ended with Nicholas preparing to share his screen for a discussion about a short story.

Train Journey Discussion Group

The group read and discussed a passage about Billy Weaver traveling from London to Bath with a train change in Swindon. Nicholas explained vocabulary and geographical details, sharing personal experience about taking the same train route during his university days in Bristol. The discussion included clarifying words like "starry sky" and "starry night," with Nicholas mentioning a related Van Gogh painting and song by Don McLean.

English Language Class Activity

Nicholas led a language class where students practiced reading and discussing English text about a pub called the Bell and Dragon, which offers both drinks and accommodations. He explained that such names are typical for inns and pubs in Britain, and provided additional context about Bath as a beautiful historic town with Roman baths. The class involved reading exercises with Nader and Loay, with Nicholas providing guidance and explanations throughout the session.

Discussion on Bath and Splendid

The transcript appears to be a fragmented conversation where Nicholas discussed Bath as a beautiful old English town and explained the meaning of "splendid." Loay asked about the meaning of splendid, which Nicholas defined as beautiful and impressive. The conversation then became disjointed with mentions of Afghanistan, the Comores, and the American president, though the context was unclear due to fragmented audio and text.

English Learning and Personal Stories

The group discussed using movies to practice English, with Aseel expressing interest in watching English films but noting difficulty understanding fast speech. They then practiced interactive writing exercises in Duolingo, with Aseel sharing a personal story about a perfect day three years ago when they completed important high school exams and celebrated with friends at a restaurant in Gaza. The conversation ended with Aseel mentioning they lost their phone during the war and no longer have the photos from that celebration.

Memorable Day and Language Test

The group discussed a memorable day, with Aseel sharing that they celebrated with family who surprised them with an iPhone gift. Nicholas and Aseel reflected on keeping positive memories during challenging times. The conversation then shifted to preparing for what appears to be a language test, with Nicholas instructing Loay to read a question about describing a memorable moment from the day.

Personal Exam Celebration Memory Sharing

In this meeting, Aseel shared a personal memory of a significant moment after completing exams, describing how friends celebrated together at the sea. The discussion included details about the weather and atmosphere of that summer day. Later, Nicholas and Loay discussed locating Nader and Yumna to rejoin the conversation.

Class Schedule and Activities Update

The group discussed changing the class schedule, agreeing to keep Friday classes at 3pm and move Monday classes to 5pm to accommodate better internet connectivity and electricity in the evening. They decided to implement two new activities: watching videos before class to discuss, and presenting on a specific topic for 5 minutes during class. Nader suggested doing presentations every class, and Nicholas agreed to have Nader present on the Friday after next (May 1st) about his experience learning German. Nicholas also assigned reading the short story "The Landlady" and mentioned he would share video links when appropriate content is found.