



*The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.*

— William Arthur Ward

## **An essay about good times and inspiration**

What defines a good time? In this hustle and bustle world, more and more people are caught in a hurry every day, hence they are forgetting the actual meaning of a good time.

In the others' opinion, the period that started from March 2020 was an awful time for mankind. On the opposite, from my point of view, the COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge from which everybody has to learn something. It was not easy, but at least for me, the fact that we had to stay at home was a priceless gift. My typical summer would look like this: trips and travel, events that I had to organize or present, long evenings spent outside, and so on. Since the pandemic started, all of them stopped or got cancelled. Suddenly, I realized I had a lot of free time, and I did not know what to do with it. Then it comes the good part. Considering the fact that I decided to study abroad, times like this were a good opportunity to work on my dreams. Soon after, it inevitably appeared the desire to find new things about myself by taking part in as many experiences as I could, and at the same time to improve my skills. We all have, deep inside our souls, a desire to become better humans, but some of us cannot figure out how to do this yet.

One of the things I have wanted to work on was my English skills, so since last summer, I am trying to surround myself with the language as much as I could. My high school experience taught me a very important thing: how to be an autodidact. This is a very powerful life skill because throughout life you won't have a teacher with you all the time. By being an autodidact, you can be your own teacher, researching the world around you and learning things as you go. That was my motivation for improving my English skills by myself. But here is the problem. A language is used for communication between people, so for improving your skills in a language, you should communicate with others. You have to actively use that language, and when you are alone it is almost impossible to do that. Therefore, I started looking for solutions, and one of them was to sign up for your course at the Foundation. After a few nice meetings in the summer, I was extremely happy to find that I can sign up again for your course in October.

My main reason for signing up for the course was my wish to find a way to speak English, but here I have found more than that. There were days when I was tired or sad, and others when I was happy or relaxed, but whatever mood I have had at that moment, every time after your class I became full of energy. Sometimes it was the discussion that had given me good vibes, other times simply the atmosphere was the one that made me have a great time. To be honest, even though the gatherings were not "face to face", I was part of the best group ever. You, as a teacher, and my colleagues, were the ones that inspired me a lot in my daily life. The course was an opportunity to find new perspectives on the world, others' ways of seeing life. What I love the most about

people is the fact that we are all different, and we see the world in different ways. Every human being is unique and has unique ideas and thoughts. Being in an environment that encourages us to express ourselves and listen to others' opinions was perfect for my personal development.

Probably I am supposed to write about my favourite topic of discussion from this year, but I cannot decide which is "the one". As I am writing this, I lovingly remember the first meetings, in which we got to know each other in the group, then the magical talks near Christmas and New Year, full of meaningful topics. Stopping at the New Year, I remember the first meeting from 2021, in which you told us to make a bucket list right then. I wanted to make such a list for months, but I had never got to do one. Sometimes, we need this kind of people in our lives, who challenge us to do things on-spot, without letting us think over and over about what we have to do. At that moment, you were that person. Moreover, your opinions and little lessons about life and "making a better world" helped me change and define my mindset. I want to thank you for that.

Since I mentioned *challenges* above, I owe you one, as you asked. My challenge for you would be to do something you are afraid of doing. I do not know if you ever looked at somebody who has been doing something and said to yourself "I could never do that thing", but I, myself, and many people around me, have been in that posture. In my opinion, this is wrong, because I do not see a reason for that way of thinking. We are just as capable of doing anything as every person on this planet. From my experience, the delight you have when you achieve something you previously thought you could not do is one of the best feelings we can have. So, do something you are afraid of doing. Travel in a place you are scared to visit, learn something you thought you could not learn, say something you are afraid to say, or any other thing. Just do it. The things we are afraid to do are often the ones from which we learn the most.

In the end, I would like to thank you for having the idea of that type of course at first, then offering us every week a different topic of discussion (I don't know if I can ever have such inspiration), and letting ourselves say our opinions out loud. You are one of the few people who are a source of inspiration for me. Thank you very much for everything!

Gratefully,  
Your student,

*Răzvan Politic*

Răzvan Politic

