

Episode 2: Julian's school life in England (2)

- Kitty:** I'm interested to hear your school life in England. What did you do when you arrived?
- Julian:** Well, I arrived at my school a few days before the new school year started coz my parents and I had to attend the **orientation day**.
- Kitty:** Right. It's **crucial** to know more about your school in the orientation day, especially when you were going to live there as well.
- Julian:** Yeah, exactly.
- Kitty:** What else did you do before the new school year started?
- Julian:** Well, my parents helped me order school uniforms, bedding and some basic necessities. They wanted to make sure that I had the things that I needed.
- Kitty:** Right. You must be very **grateful** for your parents' help.
- Julian:** Definitely. I couldn't have done those things all on my own.
- Kitty:** Was it complicated to order school uniforms?
- Julian:** A bit. I mean there was a small shop in my school, but you couldn't just **walk in** and order the school uniforms. We had to make an appointment **in advance** and arrive there **on time** as each student was only given an hour in the shop.
- So, during that time, the shop workers helped to find uniforms that fitted me and so I could **try** them **on one by one**.
- Kitty:** Could you get all you need in the shop?
- Julian:** Yeah, it was very convenient. Apart from ordering my school uniforms, I also got bedding and other basic things. Once we placed the order, they would send the goods to my room in a few days. The shop workers were very helpful and polite.
- Kitty:** Right. How did you pay them then? I mean did you pre-pay them **on the spot**?
- Julian:** No, we didn't have to. Everything I bought there would be charged to my account in the school which would send the bill to my parents to **settle up**.
- Kitty:** I see. So, your parents would know what you bought from the shop.
- Julian:** Correct. Um... I remember just when we finished in the shop, we saw the next student with his parents **coming in**. It was exactly an hour after we arrived there.
- Kitty:** It means you had to be **punctual**.
- Julian:** Yeah. The British are very punctual and polite. If you want to **get along well with them**, you have to **bear that in mind** and behave alike.
- Kitty:** Right. **When in Rome (do as the Romans do)**. It's good that you **picked that up**. Sometimes we just learn things without knowing it. Any other experiences you found unforgettable?
- Julian:** I think living in a boarding school has undoubtedly **opened my eyes**. I couldn't believe I would be **under the same roof** with people from different countries. Although we had very different lifestyles, we did chat and **hang out** all the time.
- Kitty:** You seem to have enjoyed it very much. What did you usually chat with your

schoolmates?

Julian: Well, everything, but nothing serious. We just **cracked jokes** and **made fun with** each other. Even when we talked about politics, it didn't really mean anything. Just to share our thoughts. Nobody ever had any intention of **offending** anyone.

Kitty: You certainly **have the knack of** making friends with people from different countries. When we chat with them, we don't always have the same view. If we disagree, we just have to respect other people and **agree to disagree**.

Julian: Yeah, exactly. You can tell them your thoughts **in a friendly, casual fashion** or **in a funny way**. You know, jokes always work. Because **at the end of the day**, you are just having a chat, there is nothing serious at all. It's like someone telling you the earth is flat, even if you argue with them, nothing will change. The world is still the way it is.

Kitty: That's true, but we don't have to **be set in our ways**. We could be **receptive**. So, you're quite free in your school, right?

Julian: Yeah, similar to living in a university, but some schools are stricter than the others. They might need you to go to school on Saturdays or even go to church on Sundays, or basically **check up on you** from time to time. If you prefer more freedom, you'd better **check out the school** you want to go.

Kitty: OK. You've said a lot of good things about studying in the U.K. How about things we should pay attention to?

Julian: Um ..., perhaps don't **leave** your food **lying around** your room because Some people would consider them as **treats**. So, they might come to you for them, and help themselves, I mean who doesn't like treats, right?

Kitty: True. It's our culture, isn't it? We don't want to say 'no' directly.

Julian: Haha... I think I've learned how to say 'no'. Some schoolmates kind of **by hook or by crook** tried to convince you to give them something, but they almost never returned the favour when you asked them back. So, don't be afraid to say 'no' to them.

Kitty: It's not very nice to dismiss **reciprocation**. Don't you think **one good turn deserves another**. Right? Maybe your schoolmates were too young or people in their countries are like this.

Julian: Well, I have no idea. However, there are some people who might **butter you up** when they want something from you, but never **think twice** to decline you. **That said**, not everyone is like that. Just beware of their **shenanigans** especially if they are not your friends.

Kitty: It's good to know who is your friend and who is not. I bet you enjoyed the time you were with your friends, didn't you?

Julian: Certainly. We usually chatted at breaks, sharing a few snacks, er... had lunch and dinner together. After school, we would play sport, video games, board games, watch TV or YouTube.

Kitty: Oh, I'm **jealous**. Actually, I'm happy for you you **got on well with your friends**.

Julian: Thanks. We used to **hang out** in town at weekends or simply did whatever **came to mind**. It was a lot of fun.

Kitty: I suppose you also **made a monkey out of each other!**

Julian: Yeah. Kind of.

Kitty: I bet you've learned many things from each other, haven't you!?

Julian: Yeah, quite a lot. They made me understand different people have different personalities and preferences. The ways we express ourselves are not identical and therefore we should **embrace diversities**.

Kitty: Right!

Julian: Their various **unique** visions have surely changed my **perspective**.

Kitty: Yeah, **good for you!**

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