

Dear Course Participant,

I warmly welcome you to your course. My name is Satish Patel. Although born in India, my family and I moved to Leicester, England when I was 3 years old. As a child, I grew up in two cultures: Indian and English. When I went to school, I was surrounded by a completely English environment. When I came home, I was in a completely Indian environment. Living and balancing two cultures was not always an easy task, but now, as an adult, I can see and experience the benefits. Nowadays, I see that many young people in modern Sweden are experiencing the same thing.

At the age of 21, after graduating from Newcastle University with a degree in Economics/Engineering, I came to Piteå, in Sweden, in January of 1984, to work as a language instructor. Most of my teaching was 'in-company' with clients such as MODO, ASSI, SCA, Telia, Ericksson, ABB, but I also taught in local schools. After a short return to The UK, I lived in Spain for 4 months before returning to Sweden. This time to Umeå (1987-89), and then to Sundsvall (1989-91)

Between 1991-1994, I lived in the former republic of Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic and Slovakia) working on a British educational aid project. Being there just after the fall of the communist regime was a unique and interesting experience. Alexander (now 24) was 'created' there but was born in Piteå in July of 1993. I moved back to Umeå in 1994 and my next 6 years consisted of a combination of university studies, part-time teaching and extended parental leave with Mikaela (now 20). During the period 1994-99, I managed to combine work, study and parental leave in Sweden, New Zealand and in Tanzania. I received my second university degree from Umeå University, majoring in English. In 2000, I moved to 'mörkaste Småland' (i.e. Växjö). I began my studies as a research student at Växjö University and also taught on the A, B, and C level university English courses at Högskolan in Kalmar (nowadays Linnaeus University. In April of 2004, I happily moved (for the last time!) back to Umeå, and have lived here ever since. I have become a father all over again in recent years. Elisabeth (Lizzie) was born in October of 2013, and within the next few days ... one more daughter is about to be born!!

Together with my family and friends, I spend my winters on ice, water and snow. I am a keen (some would say fanatical) 'långfärdskridskoåkare' (Nordic skating) and skier (alpine, telemark, snowboard & cross country). Another passion is kayak paddling. When I am not playing with my friends on snow and ice or working at Umeå University, I spend my time running my company: Nordic Interactive Solutions AB. It is a company based around language services and educational technology.

You (the participants on the course) are all from various backgrounds and experiences. Consequently, your usage, confidence and motivation in English may vary. To accommodate your different backgrounds, I will be varying the format and methods used for learning English on your course. Importantly, I consistently use English and you are expected to do the same in all communication instances. Different people study at different speeds: that is a fact of life. The course has been planned for 20 hours of study per week. I urge you to maintain a consistent level of study - and to study a little bit each day given your life situation. The online seminars are recommended but NOT obligatory. Attend them if you wish.

Please reply to my letter and tell me a little about yourself, your course ambitions and your previous studies, as well as your language learning adventures: both positive and negative. Importantly !! I will read your letter but not correct it or return it.

I wish you an enjoyable term of study and I look forward to being your course tutor during the coming weeks

Best Regards,

*Satish Patel*