

Self-presentation

Hello,

My name is Joanna and I study Industrial Design at the Koszalin University of Technology. I live here in Koszalin with my parents and my younger sister and I really enjoy living here. I have been interested in arts and how it can be used in everyday life for a couple of years now and that's why I chose to study this course. I am keen on painting and drawing in my free time. There, I use my imagination and creativity to add new dimensions to different objects like cars, machines or buildings. They might look abstract and out of this world in my works, but I believe this is how you finally achieve your goal by stepping into the unknown. My dream for the future is to completely change the form of things we are used to looking at in our lives and add a new dimension to them. However, my life is not only about industrial design. I am into sports and what I am especially passionate about is cycling. Once it is warm outside, I spend hours cycling as we have beautiful cycling paths here in Koszalin and around the town. So, I can say that I really enjoy my life.

Talking to Strangers

Student A: Have you ever thought about whether talking to strangers is a good or bad thing?

Student B: Well, some people say it's risky, but I think it can also be really beneficial. What do you think about it?

Student A: I personally believe in making connections with people. Sometimes a conversation with a stranger turns out to be an amazing experience. But I know some people just ignore strangers because they are afraid or don't want to deal with awkward situations.

Student B: That's true. I suffer from shyness, so I don't usually start conversations with strangers. But when I do, I usually feel better afterward. It can be quite an awesome experience!

Student A: I get that. I used to rely on my friends to start conversations, but now I try to be more open. I once smiled at a stranger in a café, and we ended up having a really interesting chat about travel.

Student B: That's nice! I think it depends on the situation. For example, if someone is concentrating on their work, maybe it's better not to disturb them. But if you're waiting for a bus or sitting in a park, why not have a little chat?

Student A: Exactly! And you never know who you'll meet. A stranger might belong to the same community as you or share the same interests. It can even help build self-respect because you step out of your comfort zone.

Student B: That's a good point. But I guess there are risks, too. Some people might try to take advantage of your kindness. That's why I think we should be careful and ask ourselves whether the situation feels safe.

Student A: Yeah, I agree. It's important to trust your instincts. But overall, I think talking to strangers is more of a benefit than a risk. It helps us grow and learn new things.

Student B: Absolutely! Have you ever had a situation where talking to a stranger really helped you?

Student A: Actually, yes! Once, when I was lost in a new city, I had to ask a stranger for directions. It turned out to be a great conversation, and he even recommended some awesome local spots to visit. If I had ignored him, I would have missed out on a great experience.

Student B: That's a great example! I had a similar experience when I was at the airport. I was waiting for my flight and ended up talking to an elderly woman sitting next to me. She told me fascinating stories about her travels, and I realized how much wisdom we can gain from strangers.

Student A: That's really inspiring. I think sometimes we forget that everyone has a story to tell. If we always stay in our comfort zone, we miss out on so much knowledge and perspective.

Student B: Exactly!

Follow-up questions

Student A:

1. Do you usually talk to strangers or do you ignore them?
2. What strategies can you think of to start a conversation?
3. When was the last time you talked to a stranger?

Student B:

1. What can stop you from starting a conversation with a stranger?
2. What did you talk about the last time you talked to a stranger?
3. How do you feel when you talk to a stranger?