

Writing home Episode 7

In episode 7, Robert tells his sister about his first meeting with Milton. How do you think it went?

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a-h) with the vocabulary (1-8).

Definition
a. the way to say a word
b. calm; not hurrying
c. a phrase to use when you offer to pay for something for
somebody
d. a place where you can go to have food and alcoholic drinks
e. a bad dream or a bad experience
f. a place where shows are performed
g. a measure of liquid (e.g. beer), about 568ml
h. the words of a song

Tasks

Task 1

Choose the best answer.

1.	Milton offers to take Robert's		
	a. coat	b. bag	c. hat
2.	Robert hopes to soon.		
	a. learn some Brazilian song lyrics	b. teach Portuguese	c. go to Brazil
3.	Robert a boy from Brazil.		
	a. once knew	b. knows	c. has never met



4.	Robert thought the lesson wa	s very		
	a. easy	b. interesting	c. hard	
5.	Robert had difficulty with in Portuguese.			
	a. numbers	b. pronunciation	c. writing	
6.				
	a. early	b. on time	c. late	
7 pays for the drinks in the pub.				
	a. Mei	b. Robert	c. Milton	
8.	Robert Milton.			
	a. liked	b. didn't like	c. wasn't sure if he liked	

Task 2Match the sentences (a–j) with the person who said them (1 or 2).

Person	Sentences
1. Robert	a. It's on me.
	b. It's a long story.
	c. It's a great place to live.
	d. We've still got half an hour.
2. Milton	e. Perhaps we could do the numbers one to ten now.
	f. My brain is full. Can we stop now?
	g. Shall I make a cup of tea?
	h. You can tell me the story in Portuguese soon.
	i. We've got a lot in common.
	j. And then the nightmare began.

Discussion

Have you ever had private lessons?



Transcript

Robert: Hello again, Jessie. Well, I've finally got it together to start Portuguese lessons – amazing! If I'm ever going to get to Brazil, live the dream, you know, then I have to learn the language. Learning the lyrics of a few Brazilian songs just isn't going to be enough. My teacher is called Milton and we had our first class yesterday ...

Milton: Oi!

Robert: Oi. Um, hello.

Milton: Dá-me o seu casaco. Your coat – o seu casaco. Let me take your coat.

Robert: Oh, thanks, yes, of course! This is a nice flat. A good area too.

Milton: Yes, it's a great place to live. Did you find it OK?

Robert: Yes, the journey was easy.

Milton: You said you work in a hotel?

Robert: Yes, that's right. I'm training to be a manager at the moment, and I really want

to go to work in Brazil in a few months' time.

Milton: Good choice. Do you know Brazil?

Robert: No, no, I've never been. I used to know a Brazilian boy a long time ago. He

talked about it a lot.

Milton: Where was he from?

Robert: Not from anywhere, really ... It's a long story.

Milton: Well, shall we get started? You can tell me the story in Portuguese soon.

Robert: Ha ha.

Milton: Let's go and sit at the dining table.

Robert: And then the nightmare began. Aw, Jessie, it's really difficult. I can't get any of the pronunciation right at all. Milton said phrases and I had to repeat them again and again because I couldn't get them right.

Milton: So 'How are you?' is 'Como vai você?' You say it.

Robert: Como vai você?

Milton: No. Listen. Como vai você?

Robert: Como vai você? Milton: Como vai você?

Robert: Como vai você? It's not easy, is it?

Milton: Well ...

Robert: And so on, for what seemed like forever. Hours and hours. Days. Trying to say 'How are you?' and 'I'm fine, thanks' and 'See you later'. And then remember them! Aaargh.



Milton: So, if I say 'Como vai você?', what do you say?

Robert: 'Muito bem e você?' Is that right?

Milton: Very good, Robert. Perhaps we could do the numbers one to ten now.

Robert: Nooo! No more new things. My brain is full. Can we stop now?

Milton: It's only seven o'clock. We've still got half an hour.

Robert: Really, Milton. I can't do any more. Let's have a drink or something.

Milton: Well, OK, it's your lesson. Shall I make a cup of tea?

Robert: I think I need something stronger. I saw a pub on the corner. Have you got

time for a quick beer before you have to go to your next lesson?

Milton: Next lesson?

Robert: You've got another lesson at half past seven, haven't you?

Milton: Oh, yes, of course. Um, OK. Yes, just a small beer. Can't go to my next lesson

smelling of alcohol, ha ha.

Robert: Come on then. It's on me.

Robert: So, we had half a pint in the local pub and chatted a bit. He's really very nice, very friendly and extremely patient with me. And he's very interesting – he did theatre studies at Newcastle University, so we talked about the theatre a lot. And films. He's a big science fiction fan too, so we've got a lot in common. Anyway, how are the boys? I hope Callum's not going to



Answers

Preparation task

- 1. h
- 2. e
- 3. a
- 4. d
- 5. c
- 6. g
- 7. b
- 8. f

Task 1

- 1. a
- 2. c
- 3. a
- 4. c
- 5. b
- 6. a
- 7. b
- 8. a

Task 2

- 1. a, b, f, i, j
- 2. c, d, e, g, h