Organising the Street Festival (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Nadia had never organised anything bigger than a birthday party. Then her neighbours asked her to plan the summer street festival. She said yes before she understood how much work it was. Suddenly she was responsible for the music, the food and the safety of two hundred guests. Her friend Peter offered to help, and she accepted immediately.

The first problem was the paperwork. The city office told her that a public event requires a written permit. She sent a polite request to the council and waited nine long days. Meanwhile she made a list of everything the street needed: tables, lights, bins and a small stage. Peter borrowed chairs from the church hall and painted the old signs. He was slow, but he was reliable, and he finished everything he promised. Nadia was grateful, because most volunteers disappeared after the first meeting.

Some questions were harder than tables and chairs. Two families on the street followed a different religion from everyone else, and their religious holiday fell on the same weekend. Nadia visited them with a plate of biscuits and asked what they wanted. They suggested moving the festival to Sunday afternoon, and everyone agreed. That small conversation improved the relations between the neighbours enormously. Peter said it was the best decision of the whole summer.

On the day itself, Nadia woke up at five o'clock. An old relative of hers, her mother's cousin, arrived early with three enormous cakes. Children painted flags, and an elderly man played the accordion for two hours. Nadia had asked Peter to represent the street at the council's afternoon visit, because she was busy in the kitchen. He shook hands with the officials and showed them the stage.

The result was better than anyone expected. Nearly three hundred people came, and the noise complaints were zero. A local newspaper printed a photo with a short article related to community life in the city. Nadia read it twice and then put it in a drawer. She admitted that the responsibility had been heavy, but she felt proud. Next year, she said, someone else could organise everything.

Woordenlijst

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