Marek Finds a Job (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Marek left his secondary school at eighteen and started looking for a job. For eight months he found nothing, and he hated being unemployed. He sent letters to shops, garages and offices in his town. Most of them never answered. The waiting was unpleasant, and some mornings he did not want to get out of bed.

His sister worked at the town's job centre, and she asked him to come in. She showed him a chart on the wall with a small percentage next to each industry. Only two percent of the local jobs were in tourism, but almost thirty percent were in technology. She explained that unemployment in their region had fallen a little that year. That was good news, but it did not feel like good news to Marek. She told him that his letters were probably not suitable for the companies he wrote to. Marek was angry at first and said the whole system was unfair. Then he sat down and read one of his old letters again. He had to admit that it said almost nothing about him.

They rewrote everything together that afternoon. His sister cut out long sentences that were unnecessary and added real examples of his work. She reminded him that employers typically spend less than a minute on each letter. Marek also signed up for an advanced computer course at the local college. The classes were hard, and the first week nearly broke him. But he stayed, and by March he could build simple websites on his own.

In April a small company invited him to an interview. The manager asked why he had left his last course, and Marek answered honestly. He said that he had been bored, and that he preferred practical work. It seemed unlikely that they would choose him, because six other people wanted the same job. Two days later, the manager phoned and offered him a place. Marek shouted so loudly that his neighbour knocked on the wall. He started work on the first Monday of May, and he still keeps that old letter in a drawer.

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