A Difficult First Week (B2 · English B2)

Tekst / Transcript

Daniel had waited three months for the job, and he had imagined his first day at the newly opened office a hundred times. In his imagination, everyone shook his hand and the coffee was excellent. Reality was less generous. He got off at the wrong station, arrived twenty minutes late and discovered that his desk had no chair.

His manager, a calm woman called Priya, told him not to worry. She explained that chaos was the norm during the first weeks in a new building, and that half the department was still working from cardboard boxes. Daniel tried to look relaxed. Inside, he was convinced that he had made an enormous mistake. That night he barely slept, and when he finally did, he had a nightmare about presenting a report to an empty room.

The rest of the week did not improve quickly. The printer refused to work, his login failed numerous times, and a colleague sent him a document in a format his computer could not open. He noticed that his own attitude was becoming increasingly negative, and he disliked that feeling. On Thursday he decided to change his approach and simply ask for help instead of pretending to understand everything.

That small decision made a surprising difference. Priya sat with him for an hour and explained how the team really worked, rather than how the handbook described it. She was careful to stay neutral when he complained about a difficult client, saying only that every story has two versions. Daniel appreciated her honesty. He began writing down what he learned each afternoon, and by Friday his notebook was already half full.

The first month remained hard; nevertheless, Daniel gradually stopped counting the days until the weekend. He found a bakery he liked, learned everyone's name and even fixed the printer himself. Looking back a year later, he could hardly remember why he had panicked so badly. What he remembered instead was the moment he decided to ask a question rather than hide behind his screen.

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