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A Hat, a Smile, and a Spark

In a busy place, a friendly comment about a handmade hat starts a fun and flirty talk between two strangers who quickly feel a spark.

Noah: Hey, I couldn't help but notice your hat, it's kind of stealing the spotlight.

Rachel: Haha, thank you! I made it myself... handmade glamour.

Noah: Seriously? That's impressive. Stylish and talented? Dangerous combo.

Rachel: Oh, smooth talker, huh? You've got a sharp eye.

Noah: Guilty. I'm Noah, by the way.

Rachel: Rachel. Nice to meet you, Noah.

Noah: The pleasure's definitely mine. Mind if I ask you something?

Rachel: Depends... is it a good question?

Noah: How about this: would you like to dance with me?

Rachel: Mmm... I'd love to. But only if you can keep up.

Expressions

I couldn't help but notice: I just had to say it. I couldn't stop myself from noticing.

Stealing the spotlight: Stealing the limelight, becoming the center of attention.

Handmade: Homemade; made by hand not mass-produced.

A combo: A combination or mixture of things; a blend.

Smooth talker: A charmer; someone who speaks in a flattering or persuasive way.

You've got a sharp eye: You're observant; perceptive; quick to notice details.

Mind if I ask you something?: Do you mind if I ask you a question? (polite question)

Would you like to...?: A polite way to offer or invite someone to do something.

How about this...?: Suggesting an option or idea for consideration.

Can you keep up? : Can you match the pace?

Questions & Answers

Question: Noah said Rachel's hat was stealing the spotlight. If you put a beautiful crown in a dark, empty closet, is it still beautiful, even though no one sees it?

Answer: Yes, it is. A beautiful thing, like a bright, colorful hat or a shiny crown, has its own special beauty built right into it. The beauty is inside the object itself like the colors and the sparkle. The spotlight is what happens when people see it and say, Wow! So, it's beautiful on its own, but it only steals the spotlight when you are there to see it shine.

Question: Rachel made the hat, which is a talent. She also wore it well, which is style. Is it easier to be stylish by making something amazing yourself, or by finding and choosing clothes that look great together?

Answer: Both can be great. Having the talent to make the hat means you are a creator (like an artist or a builder). Having style means you are a chooser (like a good shopper or an outfit planner). You can be super stylish by just choosing colors and clothes that match and make you feel happy. You don't need to be able to sew or draw to have great style.

Question: Rachel said, I'd love to dance, but only if you can keep up. If you invite a friend to play a game, is it more fun if they try really hard to keep up with you, or if you both just stand there and don't move much?

Answer: It's more fun when both people try! Rachel means that dancing is best when it's a shared energy. If Noah tries to keep up, it means he's paying attention and putting in effort. That makes the game more exciting and challenging for both of them. Fun is always better when everyone is fully playing and moving!

New Friends, Same Game

At recess, David strikes up a friendly conversation with the new kid he sees practicing ninja ball. What starts as small talk quickly turns into the beginning of a new friendship.

David: Yo! I'm David. Practicing your ninja ball skills?

New kid: Haha, yeah! I'm Saul. Trying not to drop it every 2 seconds.

David: Same struggle, but hey, I'm pretty decent. Wanna team up sometime?

Saul: Totally! I've been looking for a ball-buddy forever.

David: Sweet! Lemme just ask my mom first. What's your after-school vibe?

Saul: Usually free after homework if I survive it.

David: Haha, same! Let's swap numbers and make it happen.

They exchange numbers

David: Nice meeting you, Saul! Catch ya later.

Saul: You too, David! Game on soon!

Expressions

Practicing your ninja ball skills? : Playful way of asking if someone is practicing something hard (like ninja = skillful).

Same struggle: I have the same problem or I find it hard too.

Pretty decent: Fairly good; not perfect, but good enough.

Wanna team up sometime?: Do you want to play or work together sometime?

Totally! : Strong yes.

Ball-buddy: A fun term for a friend to play ball games with.

Sweet! : Slang for great or awesome.

Lemme: Short for let me.

After-school vibe: what do you usually do after school?

If I survive it: if I finish it without too much trouble.

Swap numbers: Exchange phone numbers.

Make it happen: Go through with a plan or idea; actually do it.

Catch ya later: see you later.

Game on soon! Let's play soon or I'm ready for our next game.

Questions & Answers

Question: David said they have the same struggle with the ninja ball. If something is easy to do right away, is it more fun than something you have to practice and struggle with a little bit?

Answer: Things that are easy can be fun, but they might not feel very special. When you struggle with something (like the ninja ball), it means you are learning and getting stronger. The fun part isn't just doing it, but the great feeling you get after all the practice, that feeling of finally being able to do something that was hard before. That's why the struggle is important.

Question: Saul was happy to find a ball-buddy. Does being a good friend mean you only play the same game together, or can you be a great friend even if you like different activities?

Answer: Being a ball-buddy means you have one fun thing in common: playing the ninja ball, but a great friend is someone who is fun to be around for many reasons, not just one. You can be a great friend to someone who loves to draw while you love to read, because friendship is really about sharing time, being honest, and cheering each other on, no matter what game you are playing.

Question: David said, "Lemme just ask my mom first". Why is it important to ask a grown-up for permission to do something fun, even if you really want to do it right now?

Answer: Grown-ups set rules to help keep us safe and organized. Asking permission shows that you respect your parents' rules and that you trust them to help you make good choices about your time. When you ask first, they are more likely to say yes next time, because they know you'll be honest with them. Asking permission is a small way to build trust.

A Quiet Start and a Shared Story

When Carolina notices Helena's shyness, a simple chat about books turns into the beginning of an unexpected friendship built on shared interests.

Carolina: Hey Helena, how are you doing?

Helena: I'm... good. Thanks.

Carolina: You seem a little quiet. Everything okay?

Helena: Yeah, I'm just not great at small talk with new people.

Carolina: Oh, I totally get that. I'm not a natural at it either, but I'm trying to get better.

Helena: Me too. It's a work in progress.

Carolina: So, what do you do for fun? Like, to unwind?

Helena: I read a lot and play video games.

Carolina: Nice. I love to read too. What kind of stuff are you into?

Helena: Mostly sci-fi and fantasy.

Carolina: No way, me too! Have you ever read anything by Brandon Sanderson?

Helena: I haven't, actually. Is he any good?

Carolina: He's amazing. I have a book by him, The Way of Kings, if you want to borrow it sometime. It's a great one to start with.

Helena: Oh, wow. Thanks! I might take you up on that.

Carolina: No problem. I'm always looking for people to talk to about books.

Expressions:

I'm not great at ...: I'm not very good at something; I find it difficult.

I get that : I understand; I see what you mean.

I'm not a natural at ...: It doesn't come easily to me

It's a work in progress : It's not finished yet, I'm still improving or learning.

What do you do for fun? : What activities do you enjoy in your free time?

What do you do to unwind? : How do you relax or rest after work or stress?

What kind of stuff are you into? : What are your interests or hobbies?

Have you ever read anything by?: Have you read any books by this writer?

I might take you up on that : I might accept your offer or invitation.

Questions and Answers:

Question: Why is Helena quiet at the beginning of the talk?

Answer: Because she is not great at small talk with people who are new.

Question: What does Carolina do that is similar to Ali?

Answer: Carolina also loves to read. They both like sci-fi and fantasy books.

Question: What does Carolina offer to Helena to help with their shared interest?

Answer: Carolina offers to let Helena borrow a book called The Way of Kings by Brandon Sanderson.

Numbers, Nerves, and New Confidence

Sammy brought his champion grandpa face-to-face with his encouraging math teacher, and what unfolded was a genuinely heartwarming moment.

Sammy: Grandpa, I want you to meet my math teacher, Ms. Lovelace.

Grandpa: Ah, the brave soul tackling Sammy's math homework! Nice to meet you.

Ms. Lovelace: Nice to meet you too, sir. Sammy's actually been doing great.

Sammy: See, Grandpa? I told you numbers aren't out to get me anymore.

Grandpa: Well, I'll be! I thought math had you running for the hills.

Ms. Lovelace: Not anymore, he's working hard and it's paying off.

Sammy: Yeah, I feel way more confident now.

Grandpa: That's music to my ears. Keep it up, Sammy. And Ms. Lovelace, thank you for not giving up on him.

Ms. Lovelace: My pleasure. He makes teaching fun.

Sammy: I'm lucky, one of you cheers me on, the other teaches me the stuff. Between the two of you, I can't lose.

Expressions:

He's been doing great: He's successful; things are going well for him.

To tackle something: To deal with something; to try to solve a problem.

They are out to get me: They want to harm me or do something bad to me.

Running for the hills: Escaping; running away from a difficult situation.

It's paying off: It's bringing good results; the effort is working.

Music to my ears: That sounds great; it's wonderful to hear.

Keep it up: Continue doing it; don't stop what you're doing well.

Give up on someone: Lose hope in someone; stop believing they can succeed.

Questions and Answers:

Question: Grandpa jokes that he thought Sammy was "running for the hills" because of math. What does this suggest about Sammy's feelings toward math before he met Ms. Lovelace?

Answer: It suggests that Sammy did not like math and found it very difficult, maybe even a little scary, because running for the hills means wanting to escape from something bad to scam.

Question: Ms. Lovelace says Sammy makes teaching fun. What specific actions or attitude from Sammy do you think makes her feel this way?

Answer: Ms. Lovelace likely feels this way because Sammy is working hard and is now more confident. When a student tries hard and their effort pays off, it makes the teacher happy and their job enjoyable.

Question: "Between the two of you, I can't lose" In what ways are Grandpa and Ms. Lovelace different, and how do both of their different roles help Sammy succeed?

Answer: They are different because Ms. Lovelace is the teacher who teaches him math, and Grandpa is the family member who cheers him on. Sammy needs both the knowledge (from the teacher) and the encouragement (from the grandpa) to be successful.

Stepping into Juliette's Shoes

When aspiring actress Angelina seeks advice from her drama teacher, Mr. Foreman, she learns that landing the role of Juliette takes more than memorizing lines.

Angelina: Hey, Mr. Foreman, I was hoping you could tell me a little more about the tryouts for Juliette in the school play.

Mr. Foreman: Absolutely, Angelina. We're holding open auditions next week, and honestly, we're really just looking for someone who's passionate, super expressive, and can genuinely bring the character to life.

Angelina: That sounds absolutely incredible! So, what should I do to get ready?

Mr. Foreman: Well, I'd suggest reading the whole play, not just your scenes. You need to get inside Juliette's head, figure out her motivations and what she's been through. Oh, and definitely practice those lines until they're second nature, and work on your projection so your performance really fills the auditorium and stands out.

Angelina: That is so helpful, Mr. Foreman! I'm going to start prepping right away.

Mr. Foreman: You're very welcome. Good luck, Angelina, I'm really looking forward to seeing your audition!

Expressions

Try out for a role in a play: to audition or try to get a part in a theatrical production.

To hold open auditions: to invite anyone interested to come and try out for roles.

To bring the character to life: to act in a way that makes the character seem real and believable to the audience.

Practice your lines: to rehearse the words you must say in the play until you know them well.

Work on vocal projection: to speak loudly and clearly enough so that everyone in the audience can hear you.

Your performance should stand out: your acting should be memorable and impressive.

Questions and Answers

Question: Mr. Foreman tells Angelina to read the play carefully to understand Juliette's feelings. Why is it important for an actor to understand what the character feels, not just say the lines?

Answer: If an actor only remembers the words, it can sound boring. When the actor understands how the character feels and why she speaks that way, the acting becomes more real and full of emotion. The audience can believe in the character.

Question: Mr. Foreman talks about vocal projection. If Angelina understands Juliette's feelings but speaks too softly, will her audition go well? What does this show about acting?

Answer: No, it won't go well. Even if she feels the emotion, people must hear her clearly. Good acting needs both: feeling and clear speaking. Both work together to tell the story.

Question: At the end, Angelina walks away with determination, already saying her lines in her head. What does this show about her?

Answer: It shows that she really cares about the role. A person who is just interested might wait to practice later, but a passionate person starts right away. It means she is serious and works hard for what she wants.

Bidding Farewell

As Lucas and his family prepare to leave Auntie Lucia's warm and welcoming home, their goodbye is filled with gratitude and love.

Lucas's Family: Thank you so much for your warm hospitality, Auntie Lucia. We've truly had a wonderful time here.

Auntie Lucia: You're very welcome, my dears. I'm so happy you enjoyed your stay.

Lucas's Father: The meals were delicious, and the company was even better.

Lucas's Mother: Yes, everything was perfect. We couldn't have asked for a more welcoming home.

Lucas: Thank you for making us feel so comfortable, Auntie.

Auntie Lucia: The pleasure was all mine. I loved having you here. Please come back and visit again soon.

Lucas: We'd love that—we'll definitely be back.

Lucas's Family: Goodbye, Auntie Lucia. We love you.

Auntie Lucia: Goodbye, my dear family. I love you all too.

Expressions

We've truly had a wonderful time: saying that the experience was very enjoyable and pleasant.

You're very welcome: polite answer to thank you.

We couldn't have asked for a more welcoming home: expressing that the home was extremely friendly and inviting; nothing could have been better.

The pleasure was all mine: polite way of saying I'm happy I could do it or I enjoyed having you.

Questions and Answers

Question: Lucas and his family said things like, warm hospitality and welcoming home. What do these words tell us about how Auntie Lucia treats her family when they visit?

Answer: They tell us Auntie Lucia is very kind and makes her family feel happy, safe, and comfortable in her house. She takes good care of them, like making sure they have delicious food and good company.

Question: Lucas's parents mentioned both the delicious meals and the company. Which one do you think Auntie Lucia was happiest to hear they enjoyed the most, and why?

Answer: Auntie Lucia was probably happiest they enjoyed the company (being together). While good food is nice, what she really loves is spending time with her dear family. It shows they enjoyed her presence, not just her cooking.

Question: When Auntie Lucia says, "The pleasure was all mine" what is she telling Lucas and his family about their visit?

Answer: She is saying that she got just as much joy and happiness from their visit as they did. It wasn't a chore for her; she genuinely loved having them there.

When Trumpet Players Meet...

When Paul brings his neighbor Amira over to meet Mary, they quickly start chatting about their love for music and playing the trumpet.

Paul: Hey Mary, I want you to meet my neighbor, Amira. She plays the trumpet too, just like us!

Amira: Hi Mary! It's so great to meet a fellow trumpet player.

Mary: Hi Amira! That's awesome. How long have you been playing?

Amira: About five years now. How about you?

Mary: I've been at it for three years. Do you have any favorite pieces to play?

Amira: I love jazz—so lively and expressive! What about you?

Mary: I enjoy jazz too, but classical pieces are my favorite. They're challenging, but so rewarding.

Paul: I think you two will get along great! Maybe you can even practice together sometime.

Mary: That sounds amazing! Practicing with someone else is way more motivating. What do you think, Amira?

Amira: Absolutely! Practicing together is way more fun and helpful. Let's plan a session soon.

Expressions

A fellow trumpet player: someone who also plays the trumpet

I have been at it for ...: I have been doing it for... years

What about you?: what's your take? / what's your opinion?

Get along great with someone: hit it off with someone / click / be on the same wavelength as someone else / **get on like a house on fire:** be compatible.

Questions and Answers:

Question: Paul introduces Amira to Mary because they both play the trumpet. How does this shared hobby immediately help Amira and Mary feel more comfortable talking to each other, and what do they decide to do because of their common interest?

Answer: Because they both play the trumpet, they have a topic to talk about right away (like how long they've played and their favorite music). This shared interest makes the start of the conversation easy and friendly. Because they enjoy talking about the trumpet, they decide to practice together soon.

Question: Mary and Amira have different favorite kinds of music (Mary likes Classical, and Amira likes Jazz). Why is practicing together, even with different preferences, something they both think will be more motivating and helpful?

Answer: Even though their favorite styles are different, they can learn from each other. Amira might teach Mary about lively jazz rhythms, and Mary might help Amira with challenging classical techniques. Practicing together is more motivating because they can support each other and make it more fun than playing alone.

Question: Paul is the person who brings Mary and Amira together. Why is Paul's role in this conversation important? What might not have happened if Paul hadn't introduced them?

Answer: Paul's role is important because he recognized their common interest (the trumpet) and created the opportunity for them to meet. If Paul hadn't introduced them, Mary and Amira would not have known about their shared hobby. As a result, they wouldn't have planned to practice music together and wouldn't have become friends.

After the Presentation

After giving her talk on global consumption changes after COVID, Sara chats with Bob, who shares his thoughts and compliments her clear, engaging presentation.

Bob: Sara, your talk this afternoon was really good. It was clear and well organized.

Sara: Thank you, Bob. That means a lot to me.

Bob: I liked how easy it was to follow. Your ideas were strong, and the topic: Changes in Global Consumption After COVID, is very interesting right now.

Sara: I worked hard to make the information clear and simple, so I'm happy you think it worked.

Bob: You explained a lot without talking too fast. I especially liked the part about the three studies on hybrid work and remote work.

Sara: Which study did you like the most?

Bob: The one comparing workers in Singapore's public sector and Sweden's tech industry. You explained the cultural and policy differences in a very simple way.

Sara: Yes, that comparison shows my main point: that there isn't one perfect solution for everyone. I'm glad you found it interesting.

Expressions:

Clear and well organized: easy to understand and arranged in a good way.

That means a lot to me: I really appreciate what you said

Easy to follow: simple to understand

Strong ideas: good and well-supported opinions

Worked hard: made a big effort

It worked: it was successful, it went well

Explained a lot: gave a lot of information

Hybrid work: working partly at home and partly at the office

Remote work: working from home or outside the office

What did you like the most? : asking which thing was someone's favorite.

Public sector: jobs or organizations run by the government

Tech industry: companies that make or use technology

Cultural and policy differences: differences in traditions, behavior, and government rules.

Main point: the most important idea

There isn't one perfect solution: no single answer works for everyone

I found it interesting: thought it was good or enjoyable

Questions and Answers:

Question: Bob said Sara's talk was organized. When you build a LEGO tower or draw a picture, why is it better to plan out what you are doing first, instead of just starting immediately?

Answer: If I don't plan, I might run out of the right bricks, or my drawing might look messy and go off the page. Planning helps me know what I need and makes sure my tower doesn't fall down!

Question: Sara compared two groups of people to see how they worked. Why is it helpful to look at two different answers (like two different ways to clean your room) instead of just deciding one way is best right away?

Answer: If I only look at my way, I think it's the best. But if I look at my friend's way, they might have a faster trick for putting the toys away. I can learn a new, better way!

Question: Bob said Sara's topic was so relevant right now. If you have to tell a story, why is it more important to tell one about something that is happening today instead of a story about something that happened a long time ago?

Answer: If it's a very old story, some people might not listen or think it's boring.

Science Fair Sparks

At the school science fair, Corey and Dan admire each other's cutting-edge projects: a self-driving car and a voice-controlled lamp. Their friendly exchange shows not just their technical skills, but also their shared passion for innovation and creativity.

Corey Ander: Hey Dan, nice job on your science project! I love the way you built the self-driving car.

Dan Druff: Oh, thanks! I put a lot of hard work into it.

Corey: I can tell. It's really impressive.

Dan: You know what? I really like your voice-controlled lamp, too. You nailed the voice recognition technology.

Corey: Thanks! It was a pain to get it to work, but it was worth it.

Dan: I can use it to control all of the lights in my room with my phone. It's so cool!

Corey: I know, right? I'm glad you like it.

Dan: Well, I better get going. I have to finish up my project for tomorrow.

Corey: Okay, see you later!

Expressions:

Nice job on your [something]: good work on your project or task

I love the way you [did something]: I really like how you did it

I put a lot of hard work into it: I worked very hard on it

I can tell: I can see / I can notice that it's true

It's really impressive: it looks very good or amazing

You nailed it: you did it perfectly / you were very successful

It was a pain to [do something]: it was difficult or annoying to do

It was worth it: even though it was hard, the result was good

I can use it to [do something]: I am able to use it for a purpose

It's so cool! : It's very good or impressive

I'm glad you like it: I'm happy that you like it

I better get going: I need to leave now

Finish up: complete something that is almost done

See you later! : Goodbye for now

Questions and Answers

Question: Corey said the voice-controlled lamp was a pain to get to work, but then said it was worth it. If the lamp had been very easy to build, would Corey and Dan still think it was so cool and impressive?

Answer: Maybe not as much. If it was easy, then everyone could do it, so it wouldn't be as special or impressive to Dan. Because it was a pain (hard work), it makes the final result feel more valuable, like a bigger success for Corey.

Question: Corey started by giving Dan a compliment (nice job!). Then Dan complimented Corey's lamp. Why is it important, when someone gives you praise, to often look for a way to give them praise back in return?

Answer: If Dan just said Thanks and didn't mention Corey's lamp, Corey might feel a little awkward, like Dan didn't care about his work. Giving praise back shows that you are listening, that you appreciate them, and that you respect their effort too. It keeps the conversation friendly.

Question: Corey was impressed by how Dan built the self-driving car (I love the way you built..). Dan was impressed by what Corey's lamp can do (I can use it to control...). What is more important for a project to be successful: being built in a clever way or being useful?

Answer: It needs both! The car has to be built cleverly so it works, but if it doesn't do anything useful, people won't care. Corey's lamp is only cool because it's built cleverly and it's useful for controlling the lights. If it was just clever but broke easily, it wouldn't be a success.

A Perfect Blend of Styles

When Tess and Jerry clash over how to decorate their kitchen their differing tastes lead to a creative compromise.

Tess: Jerry, I really think we should hang up this beautiful floral poster in the kitchen. It has these soothing lavender fields and will brighten up the space.

Jerry: Hmm. I don't think a painting of flowers is really my style. How about we put up this vintage sci-fi movie poster instead? It's cooler and adds character to the room.

Tess: But the lavender brings a sense of serenity, and I think it will create a calming atmosphere while we cook, which we both need!

Jerry: I prefer something more dynamic, like this action-packed poster with the spaceships and aliens. It will make the kitchen feel more lively and interesting.

Tess: How about we compromise? We can hang up the floral poster on the short wall by the window, but also put up the sci-fi movie poster on the opposite wall.

Jerry: That sounds like a fair deal. We can have the best of both worlds—calmness on one side and action on the other. Alright, let's do it.

Expressions:

Hang up : to attach or place something (like a picture or poster) on a wall.

Brighten up : to make a place look more cheerful or lively.

Not my style : not something that suits a person's taste or preference.

Adds character: gives something (like a room) a unique or interesting quality.

Brings a sense of serenity: creates a feeling of peace and calmness.

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Action-packed : full of exciting or energetic activity.

How about we compromise? : suggesting a middle-ground solution where both sides give up something to agree.

The best of both worlds: an expression meaning to enjoy the advantages of two different things at the same time.

Alright, let's do it: an informal way to express agreement or readiness to proceed.

Questions and Answers

Question: Jerry didn't just dislike the floral poster; he said he preferred something dynamic and lively. Tess wanted the lavender for a calming atmosphere. If you and a friend disagree on a project, why is it more helpful to ask them why they want something, instead of just saying I don't like that?

Answer: If I just say I don't like your idea, we get stuck. But if I ask why they chose it, I understand their goal. Jerry's goal was excitement, and Tess's goal was peace. Once they knew the feelings they wanted (excitement and peace), they could look for a solution that fit both feelings.

Question: Tess suggested hanging the posters on opposite walls. How did using a different space for each poster make the solution better than trying to put both ideas together on the same wall?

Answer: If they put the dynamic sci-fi poster next to the calm lavender poster, they would both just look weird and fight each other. By using opposite walls, they got the best of both worlds because the room has a calm area and a lively area. They didn't have to water down either idea.

Question: Jerry agreed that the final solution was a fair deal. Is a deal fair just because both people got what they originally wanted, or is it fair because both people had to give up something small to reach the agreement?

Answer: It's fair because they both had to give up something small. Tess gave up having the whole kitchen be calm, and Jerry gave up having the whole kitchen be lively. But they both got a prominent wall for their style. A fair deal means both sides feel they were heard and both gained something valuable —even if it's not exactly what they imagined at the start.

A Taste for Life: Jack's Culinary Journey

Ivan is having dinner with some marketing executives. As part of the small talk he tells them that he has passion for food and so took a few months off in the past to take some courses in French cooking in Le Cordon Bleu Culinary School in London.

Ivan: You know, I've always been kind of obsessed with food: cooking it, eating it, reading about it. I actually took a few months off work a while back to go to culinary school in London.

Executive 1: Seriously? That's awesome! Which school did you go to?

Ivan: Le Cordon Bleu.

Executive 2: No way! That's one of the top culinary schools in the world.

Ivan: Yeah, it was honestly incredible. I learned so much — not just about cooking, but about how to really appreciate food.

Executive 1: I can imagine. I've always thought about going to culinary school myself.

Ivan: You should! Honestly, it's one of the best things I've ever done.

Executive 2: So what kinds of food do you like cooking the most?

Ivan: I'll cook pretty much anything, but I've got a soft spot for French cuisine. The flavors are so elegant, and the presentation — it's like art.

Executive 1: Totally! French food is my favorite too.

Ivan: Have you ever been to France?

Executive 2: Yeah, I went to Paris last year. It was incredible — every meal felt like an experience.

Ivan: I'm dying to go! Everyone says the food there is unreal.

Executive 1: You have to go. Paris is one of the most beautiful cities I've ever seen.

Ivan: I'm planning to make it happen next year. Can't wait.

Expressions:

Kind of obsessed with: really passionate or deeply interested in something.

Took a few months off work: temporarily stopped working for a period of time.

No way! : an expression of surprise or disbelief.

Soft spot for: having a special liking or affection for something.

Like art: used metaphorically to describe something that's beautiful or carefully crafted.

Dying to go: very eager or excited to go somewhere or do something.

Every meal felt like an experience: each meal was memorable or special.

Make it happen: take action to achieve or realize a goal.

You should! / You have to go! : strong encouragement or recommendation.

Honestly / Seriously / Totally: conversational fillers that show sincerity, agreement, or emphasis.

Questions and Answers:

Question: Jack said he learned about how to really appreciate food at culinary school. What do you think it means to appreciate food, and why is that different from just eating it when you're hungry?

Answer: Appreciating food means thinking about its taste, how it smells, where it came from, and how it was cooked. It's like appreciating a piece of art or a beautiful flower—you take your time and notice the details. When you're just hungry, you eat fast; when you appreciate food, you enjoy the experience and effort.

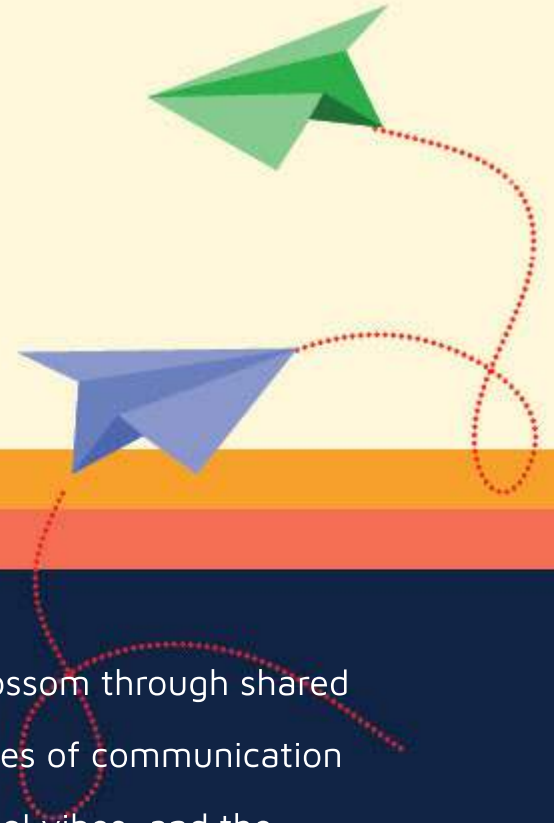
Question: The friends talked about French cuisine and how the presentation is like art. How is preparing and presenting a meal like an artist painting a picture or building a sculpture?

Answer: Just like an artist chooses colors and shapes carefully, a chef chooses ingredients and arranges them neatly on the plate which is like the 'canvas'. They both use creativity and skill to make something beautiful and interesting! It makes the food fun to look at before you even take a bite.

Question: Jack went to school for cooking, but he also talked about loving to read about food. Why might reading about food (like recipes or food history) be important for someone who loves to cook, instead of just staying in the kitchen all day?

Answer: Reading helps Jack discover new ideas, learn old traditions, and understand why different ingredients work together. It gives him more knowledge and inspiration to try new things, making him an even better and more creative chef! It's like reading stories to get ideas for your own games.

dangling converastion no. 1



In "dangling conversation part 1" friendships blossom through shared passions, as characters navigate the complexities of communication and self-expression. Amid auditions, after-school vibes, and the pursuit of dreams, they discover the importance of connection and genuine support. With every interaction, they learn that the true art of conversation lies in the blend of honesty, creativity, and the courage to take center stage.