

*Read what one of the teachers thinks of the school. Are the statements below true (T), false (F) or not given (NG)?*

- 1 British schools begin earlier than schools in Al Gharbia.
- 2 This is the first time Josh has worked in a school without any girls.
- 3 Josh is finding Arabic difficult to learn.
- 4 Josh lives in the city.

I'm Josh Hardy and I'm an English teacher here in Al Gharbia. I arrived three months ago and I have to admit it's been quite a culture shock for many reasons. In Britain we start school at 9 o'clock and usually finish around 3.30 but here everything starts much earlier – mainly because of the heat. I usually get to school at 7.15 and finish at 2 o'clock. I teach for about four hours every day, and then I have to do a lot of preparation and marking but I try and do that at home. I've never worked in a school just for boys, and I have to admit that I'm finding some of the behaviour of the boys quite challenging.

Not only am I the only non-Arabic speaker but I'm also the only foreigner, so it can be quite lonely at times. My boss is very understanding and my colleagues are very friendly, but most of them don't speak English, although I try and practise my Arabic with them in our coffee breaks.

Rarely do I stay in Al Gharbia at the weekends but I head for the city and other expats.

