Section 3

PAUL: Hello, Kira, how are you?

KIRA: Fine thanks, Paul, how are you?

PAUL: Well, thanks. It's good to see you. It must be twelve months since you did our course?

KIRA: That's right. It's nice to come back and say hello.

PAUL: What course did you enrol in?

KIRA: Actually, I went (1) ……. They credited me with two years, which probably made it more difficult for me.

PAUL: On the other hand, you were lucky to be granted credits. Is that why you chose the course?

KIRA: Yes. And, as l'd already (2) ……., I thought it would be easier if I studied something I already knew.

PAUL: I didn't realise you went into third year. I thought you started in first year. No wonder it was so hard! And what do you think is (3)…… ……. between studying at a university here and studying in your country?

KIRA: Well, I've found it very (4) ……., because I wasn't familiar with that aspect of the system here. The main problem is that the lecturers (5) ……. That made me feel really terrible. I thought "How can I possibly do it? How can I comment on someone else's research when they probably spent five years doing it?" | think a lot of people who (6) ……. have similar problems. But after a while it became easier for me. People expect you to have problems with the (7)……. ……. but, in fact, it is more a question of altering your viewpoint towards academic study.

PAUL: How was the (8) …….? Was it easy for you?

KIRA: I didn't really have many problems understanding lectures. The content was very similar to what l'd studied before.

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PAUL: And (9) ……..……? Are they essentially the same as lecturers in your country?

KIRA: Well actually, no. Here, they're much easier to approach. After every lecture you can go and ask them (10) ……..…… Or you can make an appointment and talk to them about anything in the course.

PAUL: Maybe you found them different because you're a more mature student now, whereas when you were studying in your country you were younger and not so assertive.

KIRA: No, I don't think that's the difference. Most of the students here do it. In my faculty, they all seem to make appointments - usually to talk about something in the course that's worrying them, but sometimes just about something that (11)…… ……., something they might want to specialise in. The lecturers must set aside certain times every week (12)…….…… …….

PAUL: That's good to hear. And how was your timetable? Was it a very busy year?

KIRA: Very, very busy. They (13) ……..…… Apart from lectures, we had practical sessions in a lot of subjects. We did these in small groups. I had to go and work four hours every week in a community pharmacy. Actually, I enjoyed this very much – meeting new people all the time. Then in second semester, we had to get experience in hospital dispensaries, so every second day we went to one of the big hospitals and worked there. And (14)…….…… ……. we had our assignments, which took me a lot of time. Oh, I nearly forgot, between first and second semesters, we had to work full-time for two weeks in a hospital.

PAUL: That does sound a very heavy year. So are you pleased now that you did it? Do you feel (15)……?

KIRA: Yeah, I do feel much more confident, which I suppose is the most important thing.

PAUL: And have you got (16) ……..…… who are studying from overseas?

KIRA: Well, I suppose they need very good English. It would be much better they spent more time learning English before they enter the university, because you can be in big

trouble if you don't understand what people saying and you haven't (17)…….

PAUL: Anything else?

KIRA: Well, as I said before, the biggest problem for me was (18)…….. ……. with the education system here.

PAUL: It sounds as if it was a real challenge. Congratulations, Kira.

KIRA: Thanks, Paul.

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