

"The Girl on the Bench"

"Have you ever noticed a stranger — someone you never spoke to — who somehow stayed in your memory?"

The Girl on the Bench

I saw her every afternoon — always sitting on the same bench near the corner café, sketchbook open, pencil in hand. She looked calm, but not absent. Observing people. Listening without headphones. Present.

One day, I sat nearby. I didn't say anything. She didn't either. But she smiled. A quiet, knowing kind of smile, as if she understood that sometimes company doesn't need conversation.

After a few weeks, I noticed she wasn't there. Then again. And again.

Days passed. The bench remained empty.

I didn't know her name. I never asked what she was drawing. But somehow, I missed her.

Having become a fixture in my routine, her absence made the afternoons feel off.

Strange, how people we never speak to can still leave echoes.

Comprehension Questions

1. What made the girl stand out?
2. Why does the narrator remember her?
3. How do you interpret the ending?

Vocabulary Exercise

Expression	Meaning
1. become a fixture	a. be fully engaged and aware
2. sketchbook	b. a person who becomes a regular, familiar part of a place
3. present (emotionally)	c. a book used for drawing
4. echoes of presence	d. lingering emotional memory of someone who's gone
5. knowing smile	e. a smile that suggests understanding without words

Grammar – Participle Clauses

Explanation:

Quick Speaking Practice:

Complete or rephrase these aloud using a participle clause:

1. Because he was confused, he didn't choose anything.
→ _____
2. After he had read the email, he called her.
→ _____

Speaking Task – “Echoes of Strangers”

Think of a stranger who stood out to you — someone you used to see regularly but never spoke to.

- Describe the person
- Say where/when he used to see them
- Reflect on why that person stayed in his mind

⚠ Please include:

- 1 expression from the vocabulary list
 - 1 participle clause
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🌙 Cool Down & Exit

"Has anyone ever noticed **you** like that — quietly, from a distance?"

Finish the sentence:

"**Having remembered this today...**" or "**Being present in moments like that...**"