

# "The Girl on the Bench"

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

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## 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.

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### Comprehension Questions

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

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## 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

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## 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...**"