

Starting a new school

Monologue 1 – Zainab

I know starting a new school is never easy, but for me it was really hard. I came to this country as a refugee, so things were already difficult. I didn't speak English very well, and everything was new and strange – the town, the buildings, the food. Everything was different. In the beginning, I felt completely alone. I couldn't understand what anyone was saying, and they couldn't even say my name right. The only subject I liked was maths, because it was the same. It was a relief to see that 4 times 7 is 28 in English too! Also, I met my friend Georgia. She started chatting to me at break and she made communicating in English like a fun game. She invited me to some social events with her friends, so that really helped. Having a friend has made a big difference. Now I speak English much better, and I don't feel so left out. I still miss my old home, but I like it more here now.

Monologue 2 – Femi

I've moved schools loads of times because of my dad's job. I'm quite confident, so it was always easy for me to fit in before. But this time it was really different. This school is much, much bigger than the last one, and it feels like everyone already has their friendship group. And they kind of stick together. No one really talks to me or tries to get to know me. It's like, when I try to join conversations, it all feels a bit weird because I don't know what they're talking about. They're always talking about things they've done together in the past or things that happened at school last year. I've tried sitting with different people at lunch and during break times, but I always get the same awkward feeling. I hope things will get better, but right now it just feels lonely, to be honest.

Monologue 3 – Hanna

I just started a new school and, I have to admit, I had a lot of nightmares before the first day! I guess the first day went better than expected though. The teachers were really welcoming, and they have this buddy system. It's for new kids starting school. The teachers match you with a 'buddy' who shows you where everything is. My buddy is Yumiko, and she showed me where the classrooms are, the library, the sports field, the canteen and the disabled toilets. And she introduced me to her friends, so now we sit together at lunch. So that's really nice. But, yeah, sometimes I feel out of place when everyone talks about things they did last year or inside jokes that I don't understand. But I try to remind myself that I'm still new, and these things take time.

Monologue 4 – Adam

I'm having a really tough time because I just moved to a new school. I really loved my old school. Everyone was more, sort of, open-minded there. But here it feels like everyone is always staring at me. Maybe it's because I look kind of different. I've got lots of piercings and I dye my hair different colours and sometimes I wear make-up. It's just my style, you know? At my old school, I had a close group of friends, and they totally accepted me for who I am and how I look. We did everything together. But here I feel like I can't be myself. I try to make conversation, but nothing

seems to work. The absolute worst part is during lunch breaks. I always end up sitting alone, pretending to be busy on my phone. I want to make friends, but I don't know where to start.