
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

English at University

2: Just landed



BBC
LEARNING
ENGLISH

This is not a word-for-word transcript

LANGUAGE FOCUS: Learn phrases about asking for directions. Plus synonyms for 'idiot'.

Narrator

Hello and welcome to English at University - the series that teaches some English phrases to help you through your first year at university. Mary's just landed in London and is heading off for the University of Studies – but there's a problem – she's already lost. Mary, what's happened?

Mary

I think I got off at the wrong station and now I don't know which way to go.

Narrator

It's time to ask for help. Don't be scared. You'll find Londoners helpful and friendly people. Just be polite and ask them the way and see what they say.

Mary

OK. Here goes. Err, help me will you. I don't know where to go.

Passer-by

What? Sorry, I'm in a rush.

Narrator

You need to be polite, smile and start with 'excuse me'...

Mary

OK then. **Excuse me... could you tell me the way to the University of Studies...** please?

Passer-by

No. Never heard of it.

Mary

Oh dear. How am I going to find my way there? Oh, I'll ask him... **I wonder if you could help me... please?**

Daniel

Are you lost?!

Mary

Yes, I am. **Please could you give me directions to the University of Studies?**

Daniel

Yeah. Of course. I'm going there myself. It's my first day...

Mary

Me too! **I don't suppose you could show me the way, could you?**

Daniel

... I don't know why I'm studying there though. I should have gone to Oxford or Cambridge... I did so well in my A levels... but I suppose I can share my 'wisdom' with the other undergraduates... anyway...

Mary

Erm, there's a sign...

Daniel

...my name's Daniel by the way. Are you just visiting?

Mary

No. I said I'm studying here too. My names Mary and look... there's a sign for the university.

Daniel

Nice to meet you Mabel. I think it's a left turn here then straight on.

Narrator

Oh dear Mary. Let's hope he's not doing the same course as you. He sounds like a complete **loser** – an idiot. Anyway, while Daniel's showing her where to go, let's look at the phrases she used to ask for directions...

Excuse me, could you tell me the way to...

I wonder if you could help me please?

Please could you give me directions to...

I don't suppose you could show me the way, could you?

You can practise these phrases, pick up a few more plus learn some top tips for travelling in the UK on our website at BBC Learning English dot com. Now, back to Mary... I've got a feeling she's has asked the wrong person for directions. This Daniel seems like **a bit of a numpty** – an idiot.

Daniel

Strange... I thought it was down here. Maybe it was right at the junction?

Narrator

Yep, he's a **muppet**. A total idiot.

Mary

Oh dear. Maybe we should ask that policeman over there?

Daniel

No, no, we'll be fine. Err... taxi! Taxi!