



## An Unlikely Client

Hi. My name's Kathryn and last year I worked as a language assistant in Moufia, in the north of Reunion Island. It didn't take long to realize that the twelve-hour contract left me with a lot of **time to spare** and most of my friends quickly posted adverts online to get some extra cash. I resisted at first, but then **jumped on the bandwagon** and put an ad up offering my services as an English language tutor. I had **a fair bit** of response and was excited to meet new people and help them with their English.

One day, about three months ago, I received a really appealing request from someone called Michel. He said he urgently needed to improve his English for work reasons and **required** six hours of training each week. He was even **willing** to pay me a considerable sum **upfront** to show his commitment to the classes.

This probably should have triggered alarm bells in my head. Looking back, it was clearly too good to be true, but all I could see were images of myself throwing handfuls of cash into the warm Reunionese air with **glee**.

Michel, who was only contactable by text messaging, gave me the address of his workplace and told me to come along at **9am sharp** the next day to discuss his objectives. So the next morning, **bright and early**, I **set off** to find his office in Technopole. I hadn't really paid attention when tapping in the address so when the GPS told me 'you have **reached** your destination', I was surprised to find that I was not outside an office building like he had described, but **instead**, before me, was Domenjod Prison.

Somewhat **foolishly**, it didn't even **cross my mind** that this was a **prank**. I presumed I had misunderstood his directions or typed in the wrong address. It took me an hour of waiting and unanswered text messages to realize that Michel was either an **inmate** in Domenjod Prison or a bored kid.

I would like to think the former; that he is an inmate who, **despite** the mistakes of his past, is now looking to **change his ways**. And what better way to **get ahead in life**, than to learn English?





## Vocabulary

time to spare - du temps libre  
to jump on the bandwagon - suivre le mouvement  
a fair bit - pas mal de  
to require - avoir besoin  
willing - prêt

upfront - à l'avance  
glee - joie  
9am sharp - 9h pile  
bright and early - de bonne heure  
to set off - prendre la route

to reach - atteindre  
instead - au lieu de  
foolishly - bêtement  
to cross the mind- traverser l'esprit  
prank - farce

inmate - détenu  
despite - malgré  
to change one's ways - changer de voie  
to get ahead in life - avancer dans la vie