

By Ryan Viguerie

③ MISTAKES STUDENTS MAKE WHEN LOOKING FOR A TEACHER

PLUS 3 email templates you
can use to write teachers

Teacher-Creature.com

INTRODUCTION

I started Teacher Creature in 2008, and whenever I meet someone who found a teacher on the site, I always ask, “How was your teacher?”

I’m always interested in how some students are able to find that teacher who’s a perfect match for them; someone who they look forward to seeing every week, and who really helps them improve their speaking and confidence.

This short guide is about the answers to that question.

Read them, learn from other’s mistakes, and good luck finding the perfect teacher for you!

Cheers,

-Ryan

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P.S. Write me if you have any feedback or suggestions for the site.

MISTAKE 1: THEY DON'T INTERVIEW



You probably work in an office.

And you probably had an interview before you got your job.

That's normal.

People interview to get jobs.

Yet, for some reason, when I meet students from Teacher Creature, they usually tell me they only met one teacher on the site.

Big mistake.

You're going to be spending a lot of time together, so you should make sure it's the right person, not the first person.

Here's what you should do instead:

1. Write five teachers (two will probably be unavailable)
2. Schedule them all for the same afternoon and the same cafe
3. Meet with each one for twenty five minutes

At the end of the interview say: "It was to meet you. I'm meeting some other teachers today, so I'll let you know my decision tomorrow."

And if you really want to be nice, when they offer to pay for their coffee, say: "It's on me." (translation: I'll pay for it.)

MISTAKE 2: THEY DON'T ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

2

So now you're sitting in a café with a teacher... what do you say?

Here are three questions which will tell you if this is the right teacher for you.

QUESTION 1: "How long will you stay in Prague?"

A lot of teachers only stay for a few months.

Maybe this isn't important for you, but if you'd like to keep the same teacher for a year or more, then you should ask.

QUESTION 2: "Can I see your CV/resume?"

Actually, I don't think what's written on a CV (UK) or resume (US) is important.

What is important is if the teacher followed your instructions.

Some people listen well and follow instructions, others don't.

And if you know what you want – for example, 40% conversation and 20% business English -- then ask them to bring their CV/resume to the meeting and you'll see how good they are at following your wishes.

QUESTION 3: "What did you do last weekend?"

You're going to be spending a lot of time together so it would be great if you had some things in common.

But rather than asking directly, "Do you watch hockey?" Ask open-ended questions like:

- What did you do last weekend?
- What are you reading at the moment?
- What did you do before you came to Prague?
- What did you study in school?

If he likes hockey, you should find out from his answers.

MISTAKE 3: THEY'RE NOT GOOD STUDENTS



What's the secret of having a great teacher?

Be a great student!

Let me explain with a story about two students:

Student 1: Slavomir

I have a lesson with Slavomir at 9 am. I'm sitting in his office waiting for him when I get a text at 9:05 saying he'll be a few minutes late.

He arrives and sits down. He's not in a good mood and starts complaining about his boss.

I change the subject and suggest we talk about the article I sent him.

He tells me he didn't read it.

So we go back to discussing his problems with his boss.

At the end of the lesson I take out my diary to schedule the next lesson and he tells me he's busy next week. (The morning is the most popular time for lessons. He also cancelled the previous two lessons)

Student 2: Lenka

My next lesson is at 11 am with Lenka.

What's the secret of having a great teacher?

Be a great student!

Lenka walks into her office's meeting room right on time.

She smiles, shakes my hand, and offers me a coffee.

We start talking. It's pleasant. We talk about the article which I sent her and which she read.

At the end of the hour she thanks me and says that she's looking forward to our lesson next week.

In future lessons, it will be the same teacher, teaching the same language, getting paid the same price....

But which student do you think will get the better lesson?

③ EMAIL TEMPLATES

TEMPLATE ONE:

1

Arranging The First Meeting

Hello,

I found your profile on Teacher Creature.

I'm interested in finding an English teacher because I want to (your goal, reason for improving).

I would like to have lessons ___ times a week for ___ minutes, at ___ (location)

If you're interested and have some available time, could you please write me three possible days and times when we could have an interview.

I'm usually free after/before _____

Thank you,

TEMPLATE TWO:

2

How To Politely Tell A Teacher You've Chosen Another Teacher

Hello _____,

Thank you for the meeting/sample lesson. I enjoyed____ (mention something specific about them or the lesson).

However, I have decided to choose another teacher who I feel fits my needs better.

Best of luck,

TEMPLATE THREE:

3

Offering the Job To The Best Teacher

Hello _____,

It was nice meeting you last week.

I have finished interviewing the other teachers and have decided that I would like to work with you.

If you're available, we can begin lessons on _____.

Thank you,
