

OYKHON, UZBEKISTAN

TEACHING NOTES

This video is slightly long (2min, 33 sec). If you wish to break it into two sections, stopping at 1:04 and beginning a second lesson at 1:05 should work well.

A FEW WORDS

Left a mark on me: This idiom means that something made a permanent difference in my feelings or thinking.

Surreal: An adjective to describe things that seem like a dream and do not seem real.

Buzzing with language: This means that lots of people were talking together at the same time. The sound from the group was a little bit like the noise that a group of bees might make.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR WRITING

Section one

1. Have you taken part in an activity that left a positive mark on you? What was it? How did it affect you?
2. Have you ever done something that felt surreal while you were doing it? What was it?
3. Have you ever been in a place or situation where voices/languages were buzzing around you? What kind of place/ situation was it?

Section two

1. Oykhon felt terrified when she was asked to do simultaneous translation, but she did it and felt a lot of pride afterwards. Have you ever done something that at first frightened you but in the end was a good experience?
2. Have you ever done any volunteering? If yes, what did you do as a volunteer? How did you feel? If not, what would you like to do in the future as a volunteer?
3. This conference was the highlight of the year for Oykhon. What was the highlight of last year for you?

TRANSCRIPT NOTES, TEXTBOOK ENGLISH

No one anywhere in the world speaks “perfect textbook English” at all times. We certainly do not want to demand that our students use only “perfect textbook English.” These notes are provided to help you if your students ask questions about some small points of usage.

Hey everyone. So I want to share a story that honestly left a mark on me, the time I volunteered at **the** 150 IPU Summit right here in Tashkent.

First of all, all sessions were held at one of the most beautiful and prestigious places in the city, the Hilton Hotel Congress Hall. Just walking into that space felt surreal. The halls were buzzing with languages **s** from all over the world, and it felt like I had stepped into something truly global, and I remember standing there and thinking how beautiful it was, like I was **the a** part of it.

I was assigned to work with Greek delegation, and I can’t explain how kind, warm and genuine they were. From the very beginning, they treated me not just like a volunteer, but like a member of their group. They shared meals, conversation, laughs, and by the end of the week, it felt like they built a real bond.

One of the **most** biggest moments for me came unexpectedly. I was asked to do simultaneous translation during a meeting. I was nervous, honestly, terrified, but I started. I pushed through my fear and did it. After, and after it was over, I felt like this huge weight of pride, like I had grown in just a few minutes.

We also visited **the** Greek community in Tashkent. That was emotional, listening to their stories, hearing how their families ended up here, how their families preserved their identity. It made me appreciate cultural roots on a whole different level. And of course, there were incredible receptions, cultural evenings, and everything, but more than the fun, it was the feeling of being trusted, of **connected deeply being deeply connected**, and finally being confident in unexpected places. It wasn’t just volunteering, it was something that changed me, something I’ll carry for the rest of my life. It felt like a dream, like the highlight of the year, I would say, for sure.