

Why I came to live and work in Vitoria-Gasteiz

Following on from a previous Weekly English Practice, ECP coach Kez tells us what made him come to live and work in this "glorious city".

Before you read the complete article, look at this vocabulary and find it in the text:

CV: curriculum vitae = review of a person's employment history & education
far and wide: over a large area

to brush up on s.t.: to improve your existing knowledge of something
to head (abroad): to move in a specified direction (to another country)

disheartened: having lost your determination or confidence

eager/keen: strongly wanting to do or have something; enthusiastic

traumatised: shocked as a result of a bad experience or physical injury

woe: great sorrow or distress (often used hyperbolically)

As in my previous Weekly English Practice article, lots of people ask me why I chose to come and live and work in Vitoria. After I received my qualification for Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), I had to decide which location was going to benefit from my newly-acquired skills.

I sent my **CV far and wide** in search of employment, to places such as Florida in the United States of America to schools offering summer camp jobs on the beaches of Thailand. Most employers were based in Europe though, and this is where my English teaching adventure started.

I had been receiving sporadic replies and interest from prospective new bosses, but the first company to offer me a contract was the British Institutes Centro Linguistico in Gioia Tauro in the south of Italy. I had been **brushing up on** my Italian, so I was very excited **to head abroad** and put my energy into a new job.

When I arrived there, I was happy to see that it was a pretty little village, in Calabria, and the crystal blue sea was only a few minutes away. I noticed a sign for new-build apartments with a price of €15,000. I asked a friend if this was the price of the deposit, and was told that this was the price for a completely new flat! I slowly realised that this probably had something to do with the Mafia.

Due to a few complicating factors, I decided that Italy wasn't right for me at that moment, and I returned to England; a little **disheartened**; to renew my search.

It wasn't long until I was contacted by an English school in Spain, which had always been another of my preferred destinations. The academy was in a little town called Miranda de Ebro. I looked it up on the internet. It seemed like a very nice place.

I had a telephone interview with the directors, and they were very **eager** to give me employment. In fact, they were so **keen**, they wanted me to come that very day! I booked the flight and flew into Loiu, arriving at about 10pm. And by about 1am, my new bosses had decided that I wasn't the person they were looking for!

Traumatised, after having had such a difficult start to my teaching career, being in a country whose language I didn't know, not having a job, not wanting to return home again and generally not knowing what to do, I asked them what they would suggest I do. They recommended going by coach to a nearby city called Vitoria-Gasteiz with my CV and knocking on doors.

This I did, and teary-eyed, explaining to anyone who would listen my story of hardship and **woe**, I started once again to look for a job. After ringing many bells and talking to many secretaries in many academies, I finally came to an office in Calle Postas, called Inlingua, and met a very nice guy, Rob (you might know him!) Twelve years later, I'm still here in this glorious city, working with Rob (John, Ali and Darren), and despite the difficult start, it's all been pretty good ever since!

Written by ECP coach Darren "Kez" Kurien [Watch the video here :-\)](#)

Let's chat about that!

Write your opinions in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

- Can you think of a time when someone did you a favour?
- Can you think of a time when you did someone a favour?
- Can you think of a situation that was bad for you at the time but finally worked out well?
- Have you ever worked in another town or country? (i) If so, was it a positive experience? (ii) If not, would you like to?



We all know about Vitoria-Gasteiz (top),
but what do you know about
Miranda de Ebro (above) and
Gioia Tauro? (below)



Social Events In English

Real-Life English in Vitoria-Gasteiz



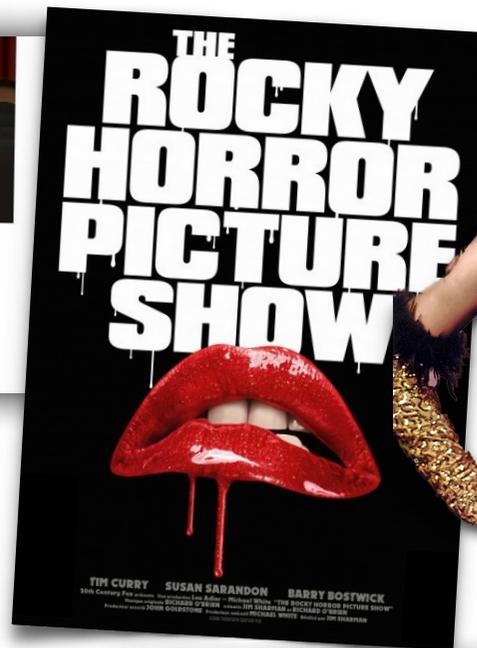
iLook, iThink, iSpeak

Real Language to Express Yourself Better



CINEMA NIGHTS!

Come and socialise in English!



Friday 30th November

Come to see the legendary

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW!

A young couple's car breaks down in the rain near a castle and they walk up to it to ask for help. What could possibly go wrong..?

First released in 1975, this cult classic is still shown in cinemas over 40 years on and its songs are sung by fans all over the world - especially the unforgettable 'Time Warp'.

Starting at 19.30 at the ECP Hub in Calle San Ignacio de Loyola 15 (opposite Molinuevo).

**WhatsApp John for more details on:
657 73 13 54**

LIVE!English presents:

COFFEE SATURDAYS!

Come and socialise in English!

The first Saturday of every month from October to June, come to Panadería Bertiz, C/Francia for a coffee and a chat in English between 11.00 and 12.30.

*December 1st - January 12th - February 2nd
March 2nd - April 6th - May 4th - June 1st*

WhatsApp Alison for more details: 608 426492

Connecting sentences

You can use the following words to connect two sentences when you are talking about anecdotes and stories.

Check the meaning of them with your ECP coach.

Can you use these words at the start of the sentence too? Which ones?

despite

*I'm still here, **despite** the difficult start.*

as soon as

*I jumped into the shower **as soon as** I got home.*

so

*I didn't know what to do, **so** I asked them for their advice.*

even though

*I didn't stay there **even though** it was nice.*

even

*She used to swim in the sea every day, **even** when it was freezing cold.*

however

*They worked hard for the test, **however**, they failed.*

by the time

*We had been waiting for over twenty minutes **by the time** the waiter came to our table.*