

Meeting New People / Social Skills

“Let’s Go Bowling!”

Reading

I moved here about six months ago. Two months ago, I started to work. Now I work for the University of Iowa. I am not a professor. I work in the bakery on campus. I like my job for many reasons. I like cookies, cakes, and bread. I like that I can walk to my job. I like my coworkers.



My coworkers are very friendly. They talk a lot. When they talk to me, I can practice my English and the time goes by fast. Eight hours feels like only four hours. I like to talk to my coworkers at work, but outside of work we do not talk. This was true, but yesterday my coworkers asked me: “Do you want to go bowling with us?”

I told my coworkers, “Yes! I want to go, but I have never gone bowling before. Is this okay?”

“Yes,” said my coworker named Lauren, “Bowling is easy to learn and is very fun! Daniel can teach you. He is very good at bowling! There are two different places to go bowling in Iowa City.”

“One place is called SpareMe. It is inside the Chauncey Hotel. You can walk there in about fifteen minutes because the building is downtown,” explained Daniel. “The other option is called Colonial Lanes. It is not downtown. We need to drive there.”

“Oh,” I said, “I know one option is closer, but what else makes the two options different?”

Lauren said, “SpareMe is fancy. Inside the building is dark with colorful lights. Also, you can buy alcoholic drinks there. So, you can drink and play at the same time.”

“On the other hand, Colonial Lanes is older. You can buy sodas and lemonade, but no alcohol. Also, Colonial Lanes is cheaper than SpareMe” said Daniel.

“Hmm... Ok, I think Colonial Lanes is better, but I do not have a car. How can I get to Colonial Lanes?” I asked.

“Let’s carpool!” yelled Lauren, “I will drive. First, I will go to Daniel’s house, then I will go to your house. Lastly, we will drive to Colonial Lanes together. How does this sound?”



“Perfect! Thank you so much!” I said. “Sounds good - I will pick both of you up at one o’clock in the afternoon on Saturday.”

I am excited to go bowling with my coworkers. This is a very fun activity to do together. I will try a new sport and spend time with my coworkers outside of work. Then, we will be coworkers and friends.



Image: *Colonial Lanes Bowling Alley*. 2233 Old Highway 218 S, Iowa City.



Image: *SpareMe Bowl & Arcade*. 404 E College St. #101, Iowa City.

Questions

True or False? If False, correct the statement.

1. The narrator of the story got a job 6 months ago. True / False
2. The narrator is a baker. True / False
3. The narrator and their coworkers want to play tennis together. True / False
4. The coworkers are named Lauren and Daniel. True / False
5. Colonial Lanes is more expensive than SpareMe. True / False
6. The coworkers can walk to Colonial Lanes. True / False
7. You can go bowling and get an alcoholic drink at SpareMe. True / False
8. The narrator does not know how to bowl. True / False
9. The coworkers will drive to the bowling alley together. True / False

Free Response Questions

1. Where do you want to go bowling - Colonial Lanes or SpareMe? Why?
2. Where does the narrator work? Where do you work? Is your job similar to the narrator's job? How so?
3. Does the narrator like their job? Why or why not? Give three reasons.
4. What kind of drinks can you buy at SpareMe but you can't buy at Colonial Lanes? What drinks can you buy at Colonial Lanes?
5. How will the narrator get to the bowling alley? Do they have a car? Do you have a car? If so, is it helpful? If not, is it difficult to not have a car in Iowa?

Share a story

1. In the past, have you gone bowling? Was it fun? Who did you go with? If you have not gone bowling, write about an activity or sport you like. What sport do you like to play? Who do you play with? Do you play individually or on a team?
2. In your home country, is it common to spend time with your coworkers outside of work? Are your coworkers your friends or not? If yes, what do you do together - go to bars, go to parties, go to the park, watch sports, etc.? Do you think this is similar to the U.S. or different?