

Case Study 1



It was a sunny Saturday morning, and Omar was getting ready to go out. He left home and walked down the road towards the bus stop. Surprisingly after 5 minutes or so, the bus arrived and Omar hopped in. He sat down next to the window and stared at the sky during the whole half an hour that it took him to arrive to Valletta.

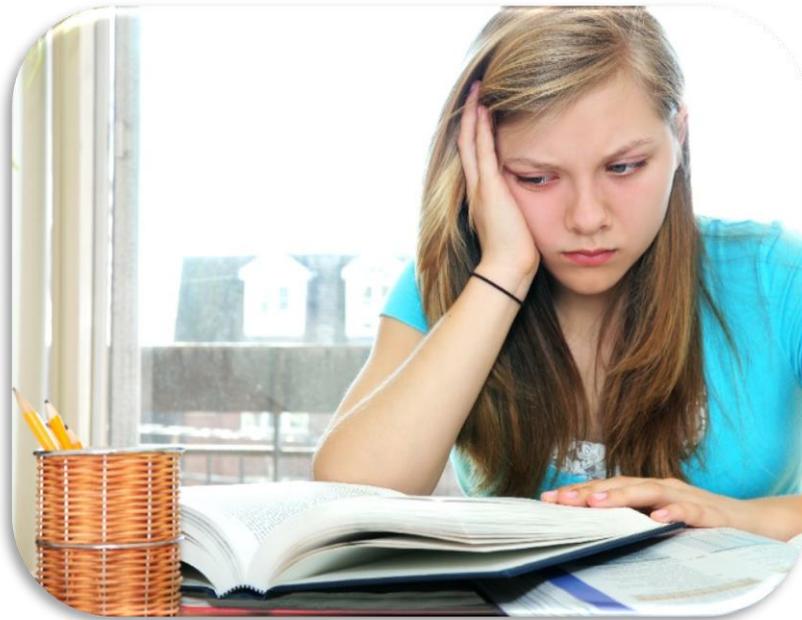
As he walked off the bus, he was greeted by Lara, his girlfriend. She grabbed Omar's hand and cheerfully dragged him along the way in excitement. The couple headed towards Hastings Gardens. Upon their arrival, they found a remote spot in the shade and sat down on the floor. Lara looked Omar in the eyes as she hugged him tight – clearly she had missed him a lot!

Time flew by swiftly and it was a few minutes after noon, thus the couple had to go back home. Lara had to spend some time preparing for her O' levels whilst Omar had to get ready to head for his part-time job as a dishwasher. Before parting, Lara reminded Omar to do his best at work, as they needed to save money for their summer cruise. Omar nodded back at her and boarded his bus.

Later in the evening, Omar walked out of home carrying his satchel. He walked down the road and spotted people boarding the bus – his timing was perfect, it must have been a lucky day! After a brief trip, Omar got off the bus and walked towards the bar & restaurant where he worked. He immediately got down to business, yet as usual his shift seemed to be never ending.

As the clock struck 11:00 pm, Omar grasped his satchel and walked towards the back door of the establishment. A man was waiting outside the entrance – he seemed pretty nervous. Omar opened his bag and took out 5 small sachets which seemed to contain a suspicious white powder. The man snatched the sachets and quickly handed Omar an abundant roll of money. As the man left the scene, Omar zipped his satchel and walked back inside.

Case Study 2



The end of April was steadily approaching, and like every Wednesday afternoon, Jessica and Clare walked into the library's silent room. They sat down at a desk in the corner of the room, close to a window. Jessica took out the notes from her bag, and Clare helped looking for her bookmark.

As the girls were settling down to start their revision, Clare had a look around the room and spotted Francesca, one of their classmates, who as usual was sitting at the opposite side of the room. She would always be sitting alone at the same place during break-time, and each and every time she had a free hour.

At a second glance, Clare noticed that Francesca's eyes were full of tears. Clare nudged Jessica and pointed in Francesca's direction. The girls whispered to each other, got up and walked towards Francesca. As the girls approached her, Francesca rubbed her eyes with her hands. Jessica and Clare inquired if there was anything wrong. Francesca smiled at the girls and promptly replied that she had something in her eye.

Jessica and Clare smiled back at Francesca and rushed back to their desk to gather their stuff. Then they walked back towards Francesca and sat down with her. After a few hours of studying the trio bid their farewells and left.

Later on in the evening, Francesca arrived home. As she approached her front-door, she could hear distant shouting, which became clearer with every step she took. Upon opening the door, she witnessed her mother hurling a saucepan towards her father, who was actively yelling and swearing at her. Upon spotting Francesca, her mother yelped at her and told her to go to her room and commit herself to her studies. Her father also joined in, and told her that she was grounded for the weekend for having arrived so late. As Francesca headed to her room, the fighting resumed. The shouting could still be heard even though she closed the door behind her.

Case Study 3



It was a cloudy Monday morning and Ben was sitting on a bench watching a group of pigeons awkwardly walking all over the nearby pavement. He had booked the day off but clearly he didn't seem to be really enthusiastic about being up so early in the morning, especially because a few hours before he had been partying hard with his friends.

As he was drooping on his bench, Ben spotted a man walking along the seaside promenade. He was wearing a dark coat, accompanied by a fedora hat and thick black glasses. Ben smirked as he watched the man stroll by. Suddenly the man changed direction and he seemed to be walking towards Ben's bench. On seeing the man approaching, Ben got confused and quickly looked away. The situation became even more awkward when the man sat right beside Ben, and quietly said, "Hello Ben."

Ben turned his head around and stared towards the stranger. The man lowered his sunglasses and whispered, "It's me Justin." Ben kept staring with his mouth wide open and curiously asked what his attire was all about.

Justin explained that he did not wish to be recognised by anyone, as the information might possibly find its way to Stacey, his girlfriend. As Ben remained silent, not really knowing what to make of all this, Justin elaborated the situation.

Justin had been going out with Stacey for the past 3 months. During the first few weeks, things seemed to be going well, yet as time progressed, the story seemed to take a more complicated twist. Initially Stacey had asked Justin to delete his Facebook account. Later on she also forbid him from spending time on his computer with his pc gaming friends. Apparently now she was also instructing him to cut ties with Ben and his other childhood friends.

Ben remained speechless as Justin explained that he still feels deeply in love as she's a great girl.

Case Study 4



Another Friday afternoon had finally drifted by and Tristan rushed out of school. He hurried on down the road and waited patiently at the bus stop. After boarding the bus, he sat down, switched on his 3G and swiftly scanned through his Whatsapp messages. Tristan smiled and kept fiddling through his phone as the bus made its way towards his hometown.

As usual, there was no one yet at home and Tristan switched on his gaming pc. He quickly logged on League of Legends, his favourite online game. He carefully browsed through his friends-list, which was populated with active players. Tristan found the username he was eagerly looking for and enthusiastically clicked it.

Tristan got to know Sharon around two years ago, through this very game, which he took extremely seriously and dedicated so much time and passion. Similarly to Tristan, Sharon was also really into League of Legends and fate seemed to play a part in leading them in encountering each other.

Her popularity with the gaming community seemed to stem from her outgoing and energetic nature. They also shared similar interests, such as their gaming tastes and their common family struggles. Things seemed to get increasingly tender between the two, thus a few months back, they decided to start an online relationship.

One fine day, Tristan was contacted through his game chat. This particular user briefly explained to Tristan that he knows Sharon in real life, as they frequent the same school. The player asked Tristan if he ever handed any free virtual items or game coins to Sharon. As Tristan replied with a "Yes of course, she's my girlfriend", the other player warned Tristan to be careful and not to be deceived.

In reality, Sharon is a guy.

Case Study 5



As he was grappling with carrying a number of heavy shopping bags, Chris struggled to keep up with his mother, who was rushing back home. Earlier, at 6:00 am, Chris had woken up and assisted his mother with the laundry. Afterwards he went downstairs and spent the next half an hour peeling potatoes and chopping vegetables in preparation of their mid-day lunch. He realised they were running out of food, thus he agreed with his mother in doing the weekly shopping chores two days earlier.

Chris lived in a small apartment with his mother and his 3 younger brothers. After his father had suddenly deserted them, his mother had to take on the burden of providing some form of income. Being the eldest son, Chris felt that due to his mother's energy and time consuming responsibilities, he ought to give his contribution to facilitate the problematic situation. This led towards the development of his current commitments.

On a fine Saturday evening, Chris got texted by his friends. They asked if he would like to go out with them and meet up as it had been a very long while since their last encounter. The group of teens were heading to Paceville later on at night. Chris enthusiastically informed his mother about the invitation, yet she glared at him and forbid him to go. She told him that recently the news had been constantly reporting deadly fights, drugs, and other problematic situations involving the Paceville area. Chris disappointedly looked down and made his way to his room.

As the clock struck 11:00pm, Chris peeked out of his room. No lights were on, clearly everyone was asleep. Chris slipped out of his room and silently made his way towards the front door. He carefully removed the door latch and unlocked the door. Before walking out, Chris glimpsed back behind his shoulder – the lights were still out, everyone was definitely asleep.

Chris walked out and carefully closed the front door. His peers were waiting in a parked car at the side of the road. Chris got in the car and drove off with his peers.