

I'm 5'8, with dark brown hair, brown eyes, and fair skin. I'm fairly slim, although roughly a decade ago [REDACTED] my belly started growing, which meant I had to cut down on my consumption of soft drinks (damn, that was traumatic). For some reason, whenever I grow a beard, it's mostly ginger...which is odd, because no-one else in my family seems to have any ginger genes whatsoever. [REDACTED] you may well be pleased to hear that my father (currently in his seventies) still has a full head of hair, and mine is looking similarly healthy.

My mother is of English and Scottish descent, and my father is Canadian, of southern Russian/Ukrainian descent. I was born and raised in south-west London, in a fairly typical middle class family – my father co-founded an engineering software company, and my mother used to work for the UN. I have a younger brother; we are alike in many ways, although we get on better now that we're not constantly around each other!

I was a generally happy (if somewhat hyperactive) boy who generally did well at school despite often finding it hard to focus. Around the age of 15, I started to suffer quite badly from depression, and although I have long since learned how to manage it, I probably still worry a bit too much. One of the most important lessons I can pass on to you is: try not to over-analyse things!

After finishing school, I studied Linguistics at university – a subject that I stumbled upon, and greatly enjoyed. I've long had an interest in language and word-play, and am proud to be regarded by many of my friends and colleagues as the go-to guy for groan-worthy puns. At the time of writing, I'm contemplating doing a stand-up comedy course, which should be fun and interesting if nothing else.

After a couple of years of doing dull office jobs, I decided to have a shot at teaching English as a foreign language, and found that I very much enjoyed it. It has enabled me to make friends from all over the globe, and – five years on – I still feel very satisfied when I'm able to help a student understand something that previously confused them.

I'm a big music fan, although my own musical ability is limited to basic guitar skills. Since I started university, I've been a music journalist, and have spent a remarkable amount of my life standing in darkened rooms (and occasionally fields) watching people play instruments. Although my main musical love is punk (both old and modern), I generally appreciate any band with something worthwhile to say, and a concise, memorable way of saying it.

I read mostly non-fiction books these days (particularly travel stories), although I have a couple of favourite fiction authors (including Irvine Welsh), and I try to limit my TV-watching to good comedy serials, documentaries and films.

Unsurprisingly, for a TEFL teacher, I'm extremely passionate about travel, and very much enjoy the backpacker lifestyle. Waking up in new places, meeting new people and having new experiences all excite me greatly [REDACTED]

Hello,

You'll probably be reading this (and my Pen Sketch) over two decades since I wrote it, but rest assured that I still stand by everything that I say here! When I decided to join the donor program at the LSB, I was (and still am) fully aware of and comfortable with the idea that someone whom I helped bring into this world may get in touch, wanting to know more about me. I'm sure that until that day comes, I will constantly be wondering if you are out there somewhere, and how you are doing.

I hope that your life to date has been a happy one, and should you ever want to get in touch – either to meet up or just to ask some questions, I would be more than happy to hear from you.

Regards,

