

How I got here:

I moved to Thailand in 2012, 2 years after graduating college. Graduating is enough of a reason to lose touch with college friends, let alone moving abroad. But whenever I've gotten in touch with old friends, NONE of them are surprised to find out Thailand is where I am today! It seems I'd been talking about moving to here for quite some time :)

I arrived in Surat one day around midnight, a little worried when I realized I probably should have looked up hotels by now. But no worries, I did a quick Google for hotels near the city center, and over paid for the taxi from the airport. When I got up the next day, I was ready to explore the town! I went for a walk and nothing. I was in the middle of nowhere! 2 years later, I still don't know quite where I ended up that night :p

After a small panic attack and some use of Google translate, one of the hotel employees personally drove me into town. Then to breakfast.....Then to a hotel to drop off my things.. Then to schools to inquire about jobs! I could not believe how nice and helpful this stranger was, especially coming from NJ :) But this was not the only time I would encounter the good nature of Thai people.

Super English:

Now settled in town, I emailed Super English, along with any other agency I could find. Peter & I arranged an interview at a local coffee shop and the next day it was official, I had found a job in less than a week in Thailand! A job with free housing, training, experienced coworkers, everything I could need.

I began working at Thida a couple weeks later. All in all, I have taught Anuban 3 MEP, P1 IEP, P2 IEP & Regular, P3 IEP, and P5 Regular.

The first semester was.....let me think.....oh yeah, terrifying. I had no idea what to do! Everyone else seemed to have gotten their first week jitters out of the way and were settling in fine. I was still feeling so out of place. I LOVED the kids, but I just didn't know if I was doing the "teaching" part correctly! Luckily, I was able to go to my coworkers and to Peter for ideas about everything. Once you start to seek tips and ideas, there really is no shortage of either! Everyone knows and does something a little different, and they are always willing to share their ideas. After all, many of their ideas come from ideas someone shared with them! Reuse & Recycle is the way to go! The days, weeks, semesters all got progressively easier and easier.

The best part about teaching at Thida is the children. They are cute, sweet, and excited everyday! If you bump into your kids in the hallway 10 minutes after your class with them, they will act as if they haven't seen you in years! Running, hugging, high five-ing. It's amazing. And you will never run out of the cuteness, with an average of 55 kids in each class :)

In addition to working at Thida, I have done some private classes through Super English. They provide a whole different type of experience. It is very interesting to work one-on-one or in small groups, after having such large classes at Thida. I'm glad that I've had both experiences.

Surat:

Beyond teaching, I've loved living in Surat. I just love feeling at home here. It's great to have your regular spots- food stalls at the market, restaurants, cafes, laundry ladies, bike shops. It's also really nice when complete strangers will call you "teacher" to get your attention. A lot of people make you feel like a recognized part of the town! And as scary as it can be sometimes, I love driving a motor bike here! Broken bones and all. Especially over the bridge outside of town, it's a gorgeous area to live and explore.

Thank you Surat and Super English :)