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Starting a New Chapter: My First Month in Tralee, Ireland

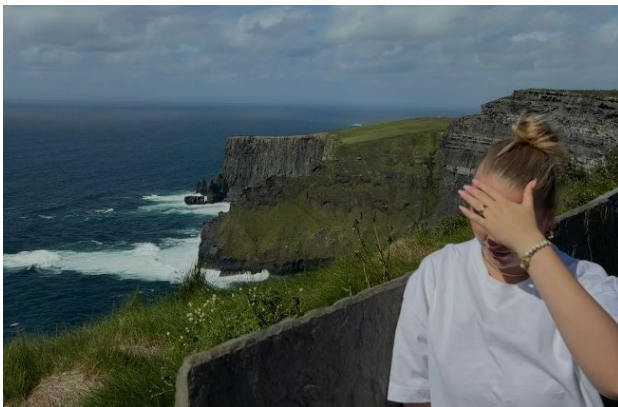
My name is Cindy Kupferschmid, and I'm 19 years old. I'm excited to take you on a journey through my first month here in Tralee, Ireland. I arrived on the 27th of July, and since then, it's been a month filled with more experiences than I ever expected — from meeting new people to creating unforgettable memories. With five more months ahead of me, I can only imagine what other incredible adventures await.



I still remember the sadness I felt when I said goodbye at the airport with my parents and sister. Holding my suitcase in one hand and my boarding pass in the other, I wiped away my tears as I boarded the plane. Despite the sadness, a sense of excitement gradually took over — I was about to start a whole new chapter of my life. I knew the first few weeks would be challenging, but staying distracted turned out to be easier than I thought.

The moment my host mother picked me up, a wave of relief washed over me. Her warm welcome reassured me that I was in good hands. After unpacking my luggage and settling into my new room, I began to adjust to my new life. Though everything felt new and unfamiliar at first, I quickly started to feel more comfortable, and every day felt like a small step towards truly embracing this chapter of my life.

School started the very next Monday at the Celtic School of English. The first two weeks were intense, with full days of classes, but we had a lot of fun along the way. By the end of the second week, I'd already made a lot of friends, and the classroom felt like a safe, encouraging space to practice and improve my English.



In addition to school, I've had the chance to experience some of Ireland's stunning landscapes. I visited the Cliffs of Moher and was blown away by the breathtaking views. We also made a trip to the Ring of Kerry, where, despite the weather, we had an amazing time exploring the area and learning about the culture. I also got the chance to try surfing — it was challenging but so much fun! And, of course, I've been hitting the gym a couple of times a week to stay active and meet new people.

After the intense start at school, I began working at a local company called Deanta Doors. From the very first day, I felt welcomed and supported by the team. They took the time to explain the processes in detail and allowed me to dive right into various projects. It's been such a great opportunity to gain insight into the operations of a business, and I've already learned so much. I'm excited to continue growing in this role and am looking forward to new challenges ahead.

Twice a week, I also attend exam preparation classes for language certification exams. These sessions have already made a significant difference in my confidence and skills. I feel more comfortable engaging in conversations, and my speaking ability has improved noticeably. It's exciting to see myself making tangible progress, and I'm eager to continue developing my English further.

Looking back on my first month in Tralee, I'm amazed at how much I've grown. Not only have I adjusted to living in a new country and embraced the culture, but I've also become much more independent. Managing my own schedule, navigating day-to-day challenges, and learning to take care of myself in a new environment have all been empowering experiences. I now feel more confident and self-sufficient, and I'm proud of how far I've come in such a short time.

With five more months to go, I'm eager to see what's next — and I'm certain that this journey is only just beginning.

