Advanced Level A Stick in the Mud

WARM-UPS

- 1. Can you remember the first time you went to school? Or the first day of work on your first job?
- 2. What about your schoolmates or your officemates, can you describe how you felt about them? Were you shy?
- 3. Did someone befriend you? Is he/she still your friend until today?
- 4. If you see someone new in your school/office what do you do? Do you talk to him/her? Or do you wait for him/her to talk to you first?
- 5. What's the best approach you know to become a friend to someone who's new in school or in the office?

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- A: I just hope it doesn't turn out to be <u>a stick in the mud</u>. I think we've got some pretty good office <u>camaraderie</u> going on here. I like getting out of bed and coming to work. And I don't want anything <u>to spoil</u> that.
- B: Well, perhaps you should <u>take the initiative</u> and <u>bring the new guy into the fold</u>. He just need a little bit of friendliness extended to him. What's his name, anyway?

A: I'm not sure, actually.

B: Well, there you have it! Why don't you talk to him and invite him out to the Friday evening get together at the pub? That way, we'll be sure to get a read on what he's about and he'll feel more comfortable.

A: Good idea. I'll do that right away.



VOCABULARY

Choose the correct meaning from the choices below:

1. stiff(adj.)	a bar
2. formal(adj.)	a group of people
3. block(n)	tight / rigid
4. spoil(v)	courtly
5. initiative(n)	destroy
6. fold(n)	a section of a city / town
7. extended(v)	drive / push
8. pub	given

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To spoil something	to ruin something
Bring someone into the fold	to introduce someone to other people
Take the initiative	do it yourself; be the first one to do
To get a read on something	to start understanding something

English Teachers On Call

