

Hi (name),

Do you find that big changes in your life often originate from one single event?  
(Often an unhappy event.)

That has always been the case with me...

**In fact, I can trace the story of my eight languages back to one, fateful day...**

And it was painful at the time. But I wouldn't have it any other way. Let me explain...

### **Why Motivation and Passion Are Everything**

Back when I was 19, I'd just finished my first year of university, studying jazz piano at a fancy music school in London. I had decided to take a year off from formal study. (I had this crazy idea that I'd just practice piano for the whole year and become the best in the world!)

But my girlfriend of 2 years had other ideas...

She decided... that we should split up.

It killed me.

Heck, I was 19... I didn't know how to deal with things like that. It felt like my world was caving in.

My plan of practising piano for a year was suddenly finished... I couldn't face sitting in a room for hours on end, practising on my own...

So I started to look for things to take my mind off the pain.

I got a job in a café in central London, just making coffee all day long.

It wasn't the greatest job in the world. BUT...

The people I worked with were amazing: Italians, Swedes, Spanish, French...

I quickly started to realize that there was a big, wide world out there, very different from my middle-class English upbringing.

I learnt little things... like when a Spanish person orders a coffee, they want an espresso, not an americano.

But I also learnt bigger things... like the fact that the people I worked with in that café really missed home...

Beaches...

Mountains...

Great weather...

Even better food...

And so I started to think: "What must it be like to grow up in places with all those cool things - things that we don't have much of in the UK?"

Before long, that question had become... "What if I could pick up some Spanish words? Or study Spanish for free whilst I work?"

Now, can you see where this is going?

### **Motivation Starts With Passion**

This was my spark.

What started off as a terrible event, actually gave me the opportunity to meet all these amazing people, and develop an intense passion for discovering more about them and their countries.

(What happened after my job at the café was far more crazy...but more on that later)

And so I started learning languages.

But I had no idea how. I couldn't speak more than a couple of words of any!

And yet, now I speak eight foreign languages.

So what made the difference?

CONTINUE READING

And when you're done, I want you to leave me a comment and tell me what languages mean to you.

(I read every comment and would love to see yours!)

Talk soon,

Olly

**P.S.** This is only the beginning of the story, what I did next is something I still can't believe...