

A Typical Day at University

Transcript in Twi

Baaba (on right) Pennante (on left)

Baaba: Eyε a, during school... Normal school day what do you do? Wobetumi adscribe?

Pennante: Seisei ara diε meye 23 credits. Mennim sε omobεte so a. Nti usually meko lectures from 8 kosi 6. Na usually we have breaks in between them and so we get to rest.

Baaba: Ekosi anumre 6?

Pennante: Yeah.

Baaba: Every single day?

Pennante: Yeah. Sometimes eextende ko beyε 8.

Baaba: Eεε? Enneε wosore ntem paa. You have to get up early and...

Pennante: Mmmm.

Baaba: And eyεevery hectic nso?

Pennante: Mmmm. Because woko bathhouse a nkrɔfoɔ bebree wo ho nti gye sε wo sɔre ntem anaa wotwεn ma obiara edware a abɔ like 15 minutes to 8 na woadware. Then you prepare for school na woafa taxi anaa yefre no sεn? Cab. Anaa yefre no sεn mpo? Shuttle. Yeah, wobεfa na woatua na ene wo akosi baabi a woreko bia.

Baaba: Oo. Wo lectures no. Wo campus no εso pa ara?

Pennante: Mmm. Eso.

Baaba: Nti wonante diε a...?

Pennante: Mmmm. Wonante diε a wonnya nduee. Eεε. Wobeduru class na mfifre ate wo ne...bon bon bon bon.

Baaba: Ɖmose... Nkrɔfoɔ ka sɛ Tech girls ɔmo pɛ shadaring paa. Ɛye ampa?

Pennante: Mmmm. Ɖmo shada. Sɛ usually ɔmo kɔ Accra–London. Ɖmofrɛ no Accra–London.

Baaba: Ɛne den?

Pennante: Accra–London ɛne US ne Nigeria ne... Ɖmokɔtoto nnoɔma during the vacation na ɔmo aba na ɔmo ashada. So it's like you're schooling outside because you get to see all these things and it's normal. A sɛ environment no ye cool a.

Baaba: Do you think it's a good thing sɛ ɔmo spend so much time and energy in dressing up or do you think it's a waste of time?

Pennante: Most people don't think it's a waste of time because ɔreyɛ nyinaa na ɔresua adeɛ.

Baaba: Mmmm.

Pennante: Obalance ne time evenly.

Baaba: ...because most students a ɔmo wɔ other countries te sɛ US ne ade ɔmo n waste so much time sɛ masɔre, meredresse for lectures. Ɖbɛhyɛ any old clothes ne ade. Do you think ɛye saa no a, when you grow up, you don't really know how to dress or do you think that's the better way to go ahead with things? Se do you think sɛ... Is it better to concentrate on your studies? Se ebia...

Pennante: No, you have to consider all other areas.

Baaba: So you think it's important.

Pennante: Ɛho hia. Efiri sɛ wokɔ hyia obi a ɔbɛware wo a na woho basabasa a... Ɛɛɛ. Wo ara wonim. Ɖbɛgyae wo.

Baaba: Ghanaians in general ɔmo ye ayi. Ɖmo pɛ dressing paa anaa?

Pennante: Ɖmopɛ dressing. Sɛ ɛno na merɛka sɛ negative influence no a yɛnya firii outsidersfoɔ no hɔ no nti no, we overdo everything. Sɛ we're being exposed to... We overdo it. Yɛreyɛ ayɛ akɛn ɔmo koraa mpo na ɔmo ɔmonnim.

Baaba: Saa? Exposed to no na worepε akyerε sε TV?

Pennante: Yeah.

Baaba: Anaa obitu kwan anaa...?

Pennante: Yes, magazines, tele...

Baaba: I see.

Pennante: Musicals no a yetie no mpo no. Filthy words no a εnenam neman mu mpo no.

Baaba: No nyinaa firi outside?

Pennante: Mmmm.

Baaba: Em...

Pennante: ...because yεnim sε εno nka ye culture no ho.

Baaba: Nti eka wo nko a nka all those things yεnyi nfi hε anaa?

Pennante: Se yεyi fi hε nso a, we'll become... we'll become, meka no sεn mpo? Yebeye dolu-dolufoε.

Baaba: O ok. Nti εboa.

Pennante: Mmmm.

Baaba: But then you have to control it?

Pennante: Mmmmm.

Baaba: Adεn, εmo taa yi saa musicals wε TV so anaa?

Pennante: εmonyi. Ghanaians no a εwε ha no εmosua most of...

Baaba: Ooo? How do they get assess to that? εmo nyinaa εmotu kwan na εmode ba anaa?

Pennante: Mmmm. Nkrófɔɔ betu kwan, ɔmo mane. Sɛ export ne import... na ɔmo de aba...

English Translation:

Baaba: So could you describe what you do on a normal school day?

Pennante: Well, I take 23 credits. I don't know if I'll have to do the same next semester. So I usually go for lectures from 8:00 until 6:00. Usually we have breaks between them, and so we get to rest.

Baaba: You have lectures until 6:00 in the evening?

Pennante: Yeah.

Baaba: Every single day?

Pennante: Yeah. Sometimes I go till 8:00 p.m.

Baaba: Yeah? I bet you have to get up really early and . . .

Pennante: Yeah.

Baaba: Is your schedule hectic?

Pennante: Yeah, because when you go to the bathhouse in the morning, there are usually a lot of people there, so you either have to get up earlier than everyone else or you wait until it's, like, 15 minutes to eight and then you bathe. Then you prepare for school and then take a taxi or a -- what do you call it? Cab. Or a -- what do you call it? Shuttle. Yeah, you take one of those and pay, and it takes you to where you want to go.

Baaba: Oh. To your lectures, right? Do you have a huge campus?

Pennante: Yeah, it's huge.

Baaba: So if you tried to walk . . . ?

Pennante: Yeah. You would never get there if you tried to walk. Yeah. You would get to class all sweaty and smelly.

Baaba: Well, a lot of people say that tech girls love to *shada*. Is this true?¹

Pennante: Yeah. They do *shada*. They usually do the Accra–London thing. It’s called Accra–London.

Baaba: What’s that?

Pennante: Accra–London is about the U.S. and Nigeria and They go there and shop a lot during the vacation. Then they return and *shada*. So it’s like, you’re educating yourself outside the country because you get to see all these things and it’s normal. It’s like the environment is cool.

Baaba: Do you think it’s a good thing that they spend so much time and energy dressing up, or do you think it’s a waste of time?

Pennante: Most people don’t think it’s a waste of time, because even while a girl dresses up a lot, she studies a lot too.

Baaba: I see.

Pennante: She balances her time evenly.

Baaba: . . . because most students in other countries like the U.S. and so on don’t waste so much time dressing up for lectures. Those girls just wear any old clothes. Do you think if you do that, when you grow up, you don’t really know how to dress? Or do you think that’s a better way to be? Do you think that . . . Is it better to concentrate on your studies? For example

Pennante: No, you have to consider all the other areas as well.

Baaba: So you think it’s important.

Pennante: It is, because let’s say you end up meeting someone who wants to marry you. If you dress terribly, you know he’ll just break up with you.

Baaba: Do Ghanaians in general like to dress up?

¹ *Shada* means to dress up, usually to dress up a lot.

Pennante: Yeah, they do. Remember I was talking about how, because of the negative influence we get from outsiders, we overdo everything. Because we're being exposed to . . . we overdo it. We're even beating them at it.

Baaba: Really? What do you mean "exposed to?" Are you talking about TV?

Pennante: Yeah.

Baaba: Or were you talking about people traveling or . . . ?

Pennante: Yes, magazines, tele²

Baaba: I see.

Pennante: Even the music we listen to. All those filthy words in them.

Baaba: They're all from outside?

Pennante: Yeah.

Baaba: Umm . . .

Pennante: ... because we know that it's not a part of our culture.

Baaba: So if you could, would you get rid of all those things?

Pennante: Well, if we do, we'll become . . . we'll become, how do I say this? We would be *dolu-dolu* people.³

Baaba: Oh, okay. So in a sense, we need them.

Pennante: Yeah.

Baaba: But then you have to control it?

² Tele = abbreviated form of television.

³ *Dolu-dolu* people = boring, often nerdy people. A term more commonly used by younger people.

Pennante: Yeah.

Baaba: Do they show a lot of these things on TV?

Pennante: No, they don't. The Ghanaians here just learn most of

Baaba: Oh? How do they get access to that? Is it when they travel or what?

Pennante: Yeah. People travel; some who are already outside Ghana send things to people here. You know about exports and imports They send it like that

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