

Waiting to Start University

Transcript in Twi:

Interviewer: Nti wo sukuu no a wokɔɔ wɔ Nkran no na yɛfrɛ no sen?

Girl: Aaa ooo... me mekɔɔ Accra High.

Interviewer: Nɛ ɛte sɛn?

Girl: Nɛ ɛye day school. Oooo nɛ ɛye really nice. Accra High diɛ nɛ ɛye really really nice. Kyerɛ sɛ biribia...

Interviewer: Mmm..? Nti... Em.. Woawie sukuu sesei a woreyɛdɛn?

Girl: Me? Hhmm. Sɛ sesei kyere sɛ mewɔ holiday nti meregye m'ani. Mene menanfofoɔ. Nti...

Interviewer: Wowiaɛɛ nkyɛɛɛ anaa?

Girl: Mewiaɛɛ bɛye four months ni.

Interviewer: O ok.

Girl: Aane. Nti kyere sɛ medie meregye m'ani ansaa na mako University.

Interviewer: Mmm. Wopɛsɛ wokɔ university wɔ hefa?

Girl: University. Me Uncle bi se anka ɔbɛtrye ama mako University wɔ abrokyir because ɔno watena ho sa ara nti na ɔse ɔbɛboa me but sɛ ɔno antumi ammoa me diɛ a eno die mɛko Legon because Tech ha diɛ ɔmo ye ayi dodo.

Interviewer: ɔmo ye den?

Girl: Aa! ɔmo ngye ɔmo ani koraa. Dabi ara na ɔmo ti hy ɛ books mu.

Interviewer: Saa?

Girl: Aane. Eyε biribi basaa. Aane.

Interviewer: Aden Legon die enti saa?

Girl: Eh! Legon die Funfare ene die eka ho. Wo ara wohwe Volta hall ladies aa se wo ara wotumi hu omo lines.

Interviewer: Mmm. Nti eho a na woreko.

Girl: Aane. Eho a na mereko. By all means. Die meye bi ara.. Kyere se Dondolgy na meye o se den o mereko Legon ho se eno a nie.

Interviewer: Nti den ne Dondology no a wokaee no?

Girl: (laughs) Dondology--these small small courses aa omo sa ne ade na omo fre no Dondology.

Interviewer: Eno nkrofo o mpe anaa?

Girl: Ei! Me, mepε. Kyere se biribi ara a meye a meko Legon no eyε fine with me.

Interviewer: Nti wobeye emu bi ara?

Girl: Aane. Die meye bi ara.

Interviewer: Saa. Nti wowo SS woyee Science anaa Arts anaa Business anaa den?

Girl: Ne meye Arts student.

Interviewer: O ok. Nti wope se woye den wo University?

Girl: University die me, biribi ara o efirise me, seisei no yen results no baee no me, menyaa aggregate 13. Nti course bi a metumi aye bi ara no me, mepε. So far as metumi ako University no...

Interviewer: Aggregate 13 no na ekyere sen? Eyε anaa?

Girl: Aggregate 13? Ooo. Me die me, εγέκγερε σε me, σε mewɔ sukuu no na menyε meho sharks these sharks yi a da ara na ɔmo ti hyε books mu sane σε ενγε books ne birebi ara nti aggregate 13 no a menyaeε no me, mehwe a εγε cool ara.

Interviewer: Εγεaa?

Girl: Aane. εγε εγε.

Interviewer: Nti woyini a dien na wopese woye?

Girl: Me? oo. anka mehye saa wohuse saa FC. wahu saa beauticians aa omo ye really really nice nti se bi anka metumi ye biribi saa anka mekoye no wo abi abrokyir baabi Amsterdam anaa US anaa UK na anka mekotena ho ne meye saa anka ebeye gye paa

Interviewer: Mmm? nti saa na anka wonya a anka wobeye.

Girl: Aane. Mepεσε meγε saa beauticians because m'adamfo bi a na ɔwɔ school sei ne Maame γε ɔγε adwuma wɔ these places yi bi na wo ara wotumi hu se ayi ɔγε fine pa ara.

Interviewer: Mmm. Ennee sister, meda ase ne wonkɔmɔ.

Girl: Yennaase.

English Translation:

Interviewer: So, what's the name of your old school in Accra?

Girl: I went to Accra High.

Interviewer: How was it?

Girl: It was a day school. It was really nice. Accra High was really, really nice.

Interviewer: Really? So . . . umm . . . What have you been up to now that you're out of school?

Girl: Me? Hmmm. Well right now, I'm on break, so I'm just having fun with friends.

Interviewer: Did you finish school a long time ago?

Girl: I finished four months ago.

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Girl: Yeah. So I'm basically just having fun before I go to the University.

Interviewer: I see. Which university do you want to go to?

Girl: Well, one of my uncles said he would help me go to a university abroad, because he's lived there for a while. However, if he can't help me, I'll go to Legon because I don't really like Tech.¹

Interviewer: Why?

Girl: Oh! They don't know how to have a good time at all. They're always studying.

Interviewer: Really?

Girl: Yeah. That just won't do for me.

Interviewer: And Legon isn't like that at all?

Girl: Of course not! There's always something going on at Legon, Funfare and so on. I mean, look at how Volta Hall ladies are always having fun.

Interviewer: I see. So you really want to go there.²

Girl: Yeah, definitely. By all means. I don't even care which major I have to take. I would even take Dondology so I could go to Legon.

Interviewer: What's Dondology?

¹ Legon refers to University of Ghana at Legon, and Tech refers to University of Science and Technology. They are two of the main universities in Ghana.

² Volta Hall is an all-female dorm at Legon.

Girl: Dondology?--these small, small courses where students dance and so on.³

Interviewer: Do most students not like that?

Girl: Well, I wouldn't mind doing it if it got me into Legon.

Interviewer: So you would take any old major?

Girl: Yeah.

Interviewer: I see. Did you specialize in science, arts, or business in SS [Senior Secondary School]?

Girl: I was an arts student.

Interviewer: Oh, okay. So what would you want to do at the University?

Girl: Well, I don't really care much about what I'd be doing, because when we got our results, I had aggregate 13. I just want to go to the University.⁴

Interviewer: What does aggregate 13 mean? Is that a good grade?

Girl: Aggregate 13? Well, I wasn't a shark in school so I wasn't studying all the time. I think aggregate 13 is cool.⁵

Interviewer: So it's an okay grade.

Girl: Yeah.

Interviewer: So what do you want to do when you grow up?

Girl: Me? You know FC, right? Well, I really admire the beauticians who work there and would love to be one too. I would like to work in Amsterdam or the U.S. or the U.K.⁶

³ Legon has a good performing arts college where students take dance and other performance classes.

⁴ Students have to take a final examination after Senior Secondary School and how well they do on this exam determines whether or not they go to the University after SS. The results of this exam are measured in aggregates.

⁵ A shark is a very good student, sometimes thought of as a nerd.

⁶ FC is a huge cosmetic company.

Interviewer: I see.

Girl: Yeah. One of my friends from the school Mom works at is at a place like that, and she's really great.

Interviewer: I see. Well, thanks for talking to me, Sister.⁷

Girl: Don't mention it.

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⁷ Ghanaian women call their female peers "Sister" sometimes, even if they're not related at all.