

First Day of Work in Nairobi

Nairobi is a new city and a new country for Diane. She came to Kenya two months ago. Today she starts work at a college. She is nervous. She will meet many new people, and sometimes it is difficult for her to remember new names.

The college is small, so it is easy to find the Research Department. It is upstairs and there is a nice view from the windows. She can see grass and beautiful trees. Her new boss, Bill, is friendly. He introduces her to the other people in the office, Nereah and Esther, and they tell Diane about their work. They also talk about their lives and their families. Diane finds out that Esther is the aunt of one of her friends. Diane doesn't feel nervous in her new job anymore because she has two new friends.

Two hours later, it is time for a tea break. All the people who work in the college go to the cafeteria two times a day to drink chai together and chat for 15 minutes. Chai is black tea made with water and milk. Diane goes to the cafeteria with Esther and Nereah. When she walks in, everyone is standing in a line. Two people behind a table are pouring hot chai into cups. Everyone picks up a cup full of tea, puts sugar in it, and then walks to a table to talk with their co-workers. Diane watches and does the same thing.

Diane carries her tea to a table with an empty chair and many other employees in the college. She says "Hello", and then starts to sit down. Suddenly, the cup slips off the saucer and tea splashes everywhere! Her blouse is very wet and there is tea on her skirt and the floor. She is so embarrassed! Everyone helps her clean up the floor and the chair, and she gets another cup of tea. The people at the table are very friendly. Many become her friends that year, but no one forgets her first day! And no one forgets her name.

