

Sample Case Stories

English for Social Ed II

These are past student examples and therefore might contain grammatical errors. If you notice them, what would be the correct way?

Susan with PTSD

Susan is an 8 year old girl who lives with her grandparents. Her mother visits them once a week on Sundays. Her father died in a car accident when she was one year old. Susan's grandparents both love her very much, however, they are older people who don't have the strength to raise an 8- year-old child. They do the best they can to make sure Susan has a better childhood than before.

Susan experienced physical abuse as a child. Her stepfather was an alcoholic who hurt her when her mother was not at home. Susan's mother is a workaholic and spends most of her time at work so she can't attend to Susan because of her job. It took her two years to notice something was wrong. When she found out she immediately broke up with him but started working even more, that's the reason Susan lives with her grandparents now.

Susan is not doing very well at school. She is usually very tired because she suffers from insomnia. She was also diagnosed with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). Due to her childhood trauma Susan stopped talking to men in general, and every time she comes into contact with men, she gets very anxious. Her only comfort is in the animals that she loves very much.

Klara and Friends

Name: Klara

Age: 12

Klara lives in a small village. She has one older brother. She lives in the house with her mother and her mother's boyfriend, but also with her grandmother. Her brother lives with their father in the next town. Her family is complicated. Parents don't talk to each other. She goes to her father every other weekend. Mom has no time for her because of her boyfriend, and Mom's boyfriend is strict and is only interested in Klara's school success.

Klára is not popular in the class, or the collective excludes her. Because Klára is unhappy and would like to belong to the team, she started giving presents to her classmates. She brings them little things like chewing gum, chocolates, chips. Her classmates start to take an interest in her. Her confidence began to grow. But when she didn't bring a gift, her classmates didn't make friends with her.

Her parents do not know about her suffering. The teacher doesn't care. Classmates don't care, they are interested in gifts. Klára is looking for other ways to make friends.

Vojta Rocks but can't Find Work

Vojta (22) is a young adult man, he lives with his parents and younger brother.

He likes metal and hard rock music, hockey club Kometa Brno, going outside with friends, mainly with young girls, and spending many times with them. He is coming home too late. I think it may be about five am and he sleeps until five pm. He studied in high school, the field of study was caregiver.

Vojta is intellectually disabled and due to the fact, he doesn't understand the value of money, he can't read a watch and he doesn't understand a context. It means that he decides to do something but he can't see what have to do at all.

The parents want Vojta to go to work, earn money and become independent. Vojta tried to work at a supermarket. He replenished goods. The other experience was security. He was sitting in the reception and he borrowed keys, opened gates, watched television, and so on. Yes, it was funny for Vojta. This experience did not last long. Vojta was not successful.

It is important to write that I can provide a work assistant. It means that I can be with Vojta at work at the same time and help him to learn work duty - come to work at time, work tasks, have a break, and so on.

And where is the issue? There are not common to employ a people with disability or people with intellectual disability on the open labour market in the Czech Republic. The open labour market you can imagine as a work place in regular jobs. The typical jobs for people with disability you can find on the protected labour market. But what if they want to be employ together with nonhencapped people? What have to do for that?

What do you think? Can Vojta work on the open labour market? What could be Vojta's jobs? What would you do to support Vojta?

Eliška and self-harm

Eliška is 12 years old teenage girl. She lives in a small town with her grandmother in a small flat. She really loved her grandfather but he died 3 years ago. Relationships with her parents are not very good, Eliška hates her mother because she left her when she was 3 years old. Her relationship with her father is a little bit better, but he is in prison and he will stay here for a few years.

In school, she has 2 friends but she doesn't trust them. She doesn't want to go to school because she thinks that other kids are mocking her. So she hasn't been in school for almost 2 months. Also, she has very bad marks because of her high absence from school. When Eliška came to school after two months in a few days she had self-harm marks on her hands.

The teacher and the director of the school are trying to contact Eliška's grandmother but she doesn't respond, also Eliška doesn't go to school again.

Valentina/George - girl going through transition

Valentina is a 16-year-old girl, who is living with her grandma. She goes to school and has good grades and usually gets through the day at school without conflicts. But sometimes she's bullied for wearing more "boyish" clothes and not being girly enough and she hasn't experienced anything with a boy and they call her lesbian and weird. She likes to go for a walk, read books, and talk with her grandma about her problems because she doesn't get along with her parents much. Her father is an alcoholic and her mother is not supportive at all, so she finds comfort in her grandma and she is sleeping over by her place very often. She doesn't have many friends but she doesn't mind, she's good at her own company.

She recently discovered that she doesn't feel like a girl anymore and she struggles with herself a lot. She's scared that she will be convicted and her grandma won't accept her and won't understand that. She decided to tell her best friend Karla about this struggle and she was quite supportive about it. She secretly started her research with transition and wants to become a boy. She also has several months before making the decision on which school and school field she wants to continue.