

# Rekindling Hobbies During Lockdown

30th April 2020

**I have tried to pick up drawing again, says ECP coach Darren, but, unfortunately, it hasn't started well.**

Last week, my colleague Rob asked me what I was doing to pass the time while self-isolating. I replied by saying that I was exercising quite a bit. Apart from the obvious (like spending time with family) sport and exercise has always been the most important thing in my life. I literally can't live without it. I would go **insane** if it was taken away from me.

However, I also had another hobby until I was nineteen years old. I used to draw a lot and I wasn't bad at it. I produced one or two pieces that my mother thought good enough to frame and hang on the wall of our house.

But then life got too busy and I never drew or painted another thing until a couple of weeks ago. The **lockdown** encouraged me to pick up a pencil and draw. What a disappointment. My effort was weak. It was terrible. I suppose that's what you get for abandoning something for two decades.

But for others, it has been a positive experience.

Two weeks ago, Shane Gillen from Dublin decided **to pick back up** the pencil and start portrait drawing, for the first time since exceeding at art in school.

Since then, the Dublin man has completed some very impressive **portraits** of famous Irish people.

**Before you read the article, find this vocabulary in the text:**

**to pick up:** to start something after a pause

**insane:** crazy

**lockdown:** when large numbers of people are ordered by the state to stay at home

**to pick back up:** to lift or take a pencil in his hand again

**portraits:** drawings of people showing the face

**to rekindle:** to start something again

**kind of:** in a way, more or less.

**to get back to:** to return to doing something

**lockdown lifts:** when the period of enforced confinement ends

**to get up and running again:** when businesses start operating again

Shane said that he rarely has time to work on artwork

regularly, so coronavirus lockdown is the perfect opportunity for him to **rekindle** his love of art.

The 32 year old said that people are championing thriving during the pandemic - doing something new or turning a hobby into a business.

"I knew I could draw but I hadn't gotten around to it. We're all sat at home so I just decided to pick up the pencil again," he said.

"Life **kind of** gets in the way and I would have doodled but not too much so about two weeks ago I just decided that I'd try some portraits."

"Drawing has always been a hobby of mine, but with a busy schedule I've not had much time to focus on it. I thought, what better time than isolation **to get back to** it."

"I use a pencil to draw the guide drawing and then layer that with an ink pen. That's all I use. I'll find an image of who I want to draw and copy it from my computer screen."

"I'm currently planning on doing one a day until the **lockdown lifts**. I'll likely have a little less time to focus on it when things **get up and running again**."

Written by ECP coach Darren after reading this [article](#)

Look out for ECP's upcoming **Fantastic Talent Night!** Show us your talents! Drawing, telling jokes, singing, magic...



Shane Gillen working on one of his portraits on his balcony



www.englishcoachingprojects.net  
info@englishcoachingprojects.net

## Let's chat about that!

Write your opinions in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

Have you rekindled an old hobby during the lockdown?

What hobbies do you miss most that you can't do right now?

Will you make more time to do the things you most enjoy once the lockdown is lifted or will you return to a busy lifestyle?

Has the lockdown given you a greater appreciation of the arts?

Is exercising part of your daily routine these days? If so, why?

# Social Events In English

Real-Life English in Vitoria-Gasteiz



**English  
Coaching  
Projects** S.Coop.

# Practical English Stuff

Real Language to Express Yourself Better



**COFFEE  
SATURDAYS!**

Join us on

**Saturday 2nd May**

for a coffee and a chat from

**11.00 to 12.30**

Click on this [link](#):

[https://hangouts.google.com/call/0sd3X\\_j19ZOZ7GMee-EAAEEI](https://hangouts.google.com/call/0sd3X_j19ZOZ7GMee-EAAEEI)

Or ask Ali for an invitation via email:  
[aksnails@gmail.com](mailto:aksnails@gmail.com)

Will you...

- sing a song?
- draw a picture?
- do a dance?
- recite a poem?
- perform a rap?
- play an instrument?
- tell a joke?
- draw a picture?
- do a card trick?
- stand on your head?

or...

something else?

Take part in English Coaching Projects'

**FANTASTIC  
TALENT  
NIGHT!**

Date: Friday 15th May  
Time: 19:00-21:00  
Platform: Via Hangouts

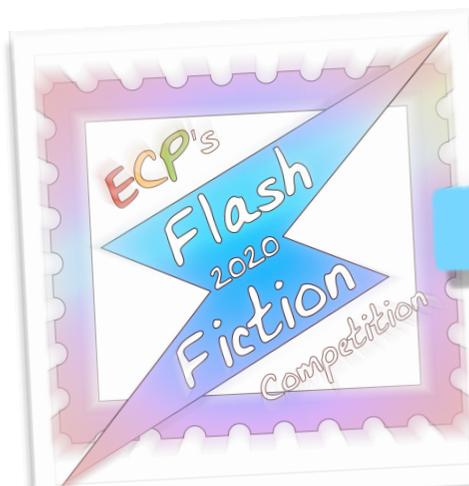
**Don't forget to enter...**

**ECP's Flash Fiction competition!**

**What are the prizes?**

**Closing date extended to 17th May!**

When the competition is over, we have decided that **vouchers for pintxos** will motivate you to write!  
**Winner:** A voucher for 20€ of pintxos and drinks at Bar Erkiaga (or one in your town)  
**Runner-up:** A voucher for 10€ of pintxos and drinks at Bar Erkiaga (or one in your town)  
So, what are you waiting for? **Let's get cracking!**



Click to see the rules

"bufte(t)" "balle(t)"

**ECP's QUICK JOKE!**

As humour is a very important element in our lives these days, here is a joke about art.

Just one thing to keep in mind before reading it: there are some words in English that come from French and that have a 't' on the end of the word. **We don't pronounce the "t" at the end of the word.**

For example: buffet, ballet, valet, Monet...



Improve your vocabulary with [ECP's Quick Jokes!](#) There are nearly 100! Follow us on [YouTube](#).

