



Describe a time when you visited a friend or family member at their workplace.

You should say:

- who you visited
- where this person worked
- why you visited this person's workplace

and explain how you felt about visiting this person's workplace.

It was not more than a year ago that I had to **(1) swing by** my cousin's office which was located **(2) in the vicinity of** a big mall, u know kind of **(3) rendezvous** for me and my **(4) buddies**. My cousin is actually a lawyer, or that's what he'd told me. I was sort of **in** a legal **(5) dilemma** and I was in urgent need of some professional advice. If I'm on the right **(6) chronological** track, it was a December morning, I **(7) hit** a couple of relatives **up** to make sure about the **(8) whereabouts** of my cousin. I mean, the word had it that he was the boss around there. When I got there, first I had to ask around and even describe him in terms of his appearance since his name didn't actually **(9) ring any bells** for anyone. * The **(10) butler** who was around actually helped me a lot in finding my cousin's place. I couldn't believe what I was looking at, it was a small **(11) cubicle**. The sad thing was, he didn't even have **(12) enough room to stretch his legs** and **(13) by the look of things** I understood that he was **(14) swamped**. Being the considerate guy I am, I wanted to **(15) make a U-turn** and **(16) bug out** ASAP. Oh I can never forget the look on his face when he **(17) caught a sudden glimpse** of me. He totally **(18) went beet red**. I started to pretend everything was **(19) A-Ok** and that I wasn't actually noticing his **(20) wretched** condition **(21) in the slightest**. He invited me to his friend's office, a real office I mean. Only then did I understand that he was not an actual lawyer but a **(22) paralegal**. It was quite funny; he was trying to distract me from the fact that he was fake by **(23) rattling on** about how hard it is to have a job in the legal system. I was just playing along the whole time making sure my presence was not making him inconvenient. As soon as he was done I got up and said that I am feeling a bit **(24) indisposed** and had to see a doctor immediately. That did it actually. Later on I got this feeling that I had no right to **(25) turn up** without notice at my cousin's workplace. I **(26) have no clue** what I was thinking when I decided to **(27) throw my cousin for a loop** by what I did. Well, I learned my lesson I guess.

Collocations and useful phrases:

1. Swing by (something) VISIT

To visit a place or person for a short time

I'll swing by the grocery store on my way.

2. Vicinity NEAR

In the vicinity (of something) in the area around a particular place

The stolen car was found in the vicinity of the station.

There used to be a mill in the vicinity.

3. Rendezvous

A place where two or more people have arranged to meet

Boats picked us up at pre-arranged rendezvous.

4. Buddy (informal FRIENDLY)

A friend

We're good buddies.

5. Dilemma

A situation in which it is very difficult to decide what to do, because all the choices seem equally good or equally bad

A moral dilemma

In a dilemma

I'm in a dilemma about this job offer.

This placed Robert Kennedy in a dilemma.

be in a dilemma/ After years of recession, the company was in a dilemma over its future.

face a dilemma/be faced with a dilemma /Women may still be faced with the dilemma of choosing between jobs and families.

pose/create a dilemma /The difficult economic situation poses a dilemma for investors.

put/place somebody in a dilemma/ His divided loyalties placed him in a dilemma.

resolve/solve a dilemma /People often need help with resolving their dilemmas.

explain your dilemma (=talk about it)/ He explained his dilemma to me.

a difficult/serious dilemma/ He was in a serious dilemma because neither option seemed very desirable.

A terrible dilemma /She was in a terrible dilemma because she loved both men.

A moral/ethical/political etc dilemma/ Doctors face a moral dilemma over how long to prolong someone's life.

personal dilemma/ The men who were on strike faced a personal dilemma over whether to return to work.

painful dilemma (=a very difficult one) She faced the painful dilemma of having to decide whether to tell the police about her son's

A common/familiar dilemma (=one that a lot of people have) Deciding whether to put an elderly parent in a nursing home is a common dilemma.

the central dilemma (=the main one) The Prime Minister's central dilemma was whether war was justified.

A way out of a dilemma (=a way to solve it) There seemed to be no way out of the dilemma.

6. Chronological

Arranged according to when things happened or were made

We arranged the documents in chronological order.

7. Hit sb up

To ask someone for money

Did he hit you up for cash again?

8. Whereabouts

the place or area where someone or something is

He showed great reluctance to reveal his whereabouts.

9. Ring a bell/ informal REMEMBER

If something rings a bell, it reminds you of something, but you cannot remember exactly what it is

Her name rings a bell but I can't remember her face.

10. Butler

The main male servant of a house

11. Cubicle

A small part of a room that is separated from the rest of the room

A shower cubicle

Office workers in their cubicles

12. Room space [uncountable]

somewhere for a particular thing, person, or activity

I hope there's going to be enough room in the fridge.

room for /My suitcase was so full I didn't have room for anything else.

room to do something /The museum doesn't have enough room to show everything in their collection.

plenty of room/enough room /There's plenty of room in the boot for your luggage.

Stretch your legs informal WALK

To go for a walk, especially after sitting for a long time

13. By the look of sth

The way something seems to be:

The neighbours are back from holiday by the looks of it (=that is how it seems).

look I don't like the look of this new policy (=I do not like the way it seems).

14. Swamp

To suddenly give someone a lot of work, problems etc to deal with

SYN inundate

be swamped by/with something

15. **Make a U-turn**

1. **a turn that you make in a car, on a bicycle etc, so that you go back in the direction you came from**

make/do a U-turn

He made a quick U-turn and sped away.

2. **complete change of ideas, plans etc**

make/do a U-turn

Critics accused the government of doing a U-turn on its promise to increase education spending.

16. **Bug out**

To leave quickly

17. **Catch a glimpse of**

A quick look at someone or something that does not allow you to see them clearly

They caught a glimpse of a dark green car.

brief/fleeting/quick glimpse (=a very short look)

We only had a fleeting glimpse of the river.

18. **To go beet red**

To redden in the face (blush), typically due to embarrassment.

She went beet red when her crush came up and talked to her.

I went beet red when the teacher made me speak in front of the whole class

19. **A-ok**

In good condition

SYN satisfactory

We took the car in for a check, and it was A-OK.

20. **Wretched**

Extremely bad or unpleasant

SYN miserable

I was shocked to see their wretched living condition

21. **In the slightest**

To emphasize a negative statement

22. **Paralegal**

Someone whose job is to help lawyers do their work

23. **Rattle on**

To talk quickly for a long time about boring things/ SYN go on

Nancy would rattle on for hours about her grandchildren.

24. **Indisposed**

Ill and therefore unable to be present

Mrs Rawlins is temporarily indisposed.

25. Turn up

To arrive at a place, especially in a way that is unexpected

You can't just turn up and expect a meal.

Turn up late/early/on time etc

Steve turned up late, as usual.

26. Not have a clue

To not have any idea about the answer to a question, how to do something, what a situation is etc:

'Do you know how to switch this thing off?' 'I haven't a clue.'

27. knock/throw somebody for a loop American English informal

To surprise and upset someone