



The Brida Journal

The Brida Community Review, November 2022

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Welcome

The Brida Journal is back.

But it is in a different form.

When I started the Our Brida Community back in February of this year, I thought that the Journal was dead. As you know, the community publication was “Situations”. It was OK. But somehow it didn’t feel right.

The Brida Journal was originally intended to be a journal for learners of English, by learners of English. The idea was good. But the format was wrong. The weekly publishing cycle was wrong. The enthusiasm was declining.

It was time for a revamp.

What is new?

Firstly, The Brida Journal will replace situations. Over time, it will reintroduce some of the parts from the old version of the journal and, most importantly, it will be now published monthly.

It will be an edited version of the main conversations all community members engage in.

And, most importantly, it will be YOUR content. Not mine.

I hope you like it and continue contributing to it.

A big thank you to you all for making all this possible.

Best regards

Frank

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Old versus New

Hello to the community! My idea of a new topic is to compare old vs. new. For example, buildings. What do you like more? Old or new ones? Best regards, Martin

Part One: Buildings

We had a very interesting conversation today about that! I think it is very hard to define if things are better or worse... For me it all depends on who is judging. But, regarding buildings, I think the news ones are more functional and safer – although the old ones are more romantic. What do you think? (Igor)

Yes, I think you are right. Every person is different. The new buildings have bigger windows. That means a lot of light. But the old buildings have more stories. That is also interesting. I like old buildings with modern decoration. For example, the Louvre in Paris with the Pyramid. The chic Pyramid makes the old building attractive. Poundberry in England is a new village built in an old style. (Wenya)

Old buildings don't need to have modern decorated ;-). But sometimes I like it when old meets new, too. In my opinion, you're absolutely right. They are more romantic. If you consider something like fire protection, it looks worse for the old houses. But it isn't romantic to be reasonable. (Martin)

Should we keep every old building or just public monuments? (Manfred)

I like your example with the Louvre because I like this building with all glass. I have another example; I live in an old building, but it was renovated, and my apartment is modern. That is beautiful. (Maxime)

Part Two: Second Hand or New

Do you like to buy new things or second-hand things or both??? (Wenya)

I think it is better to buy second-hand things for environmental and money-saving reasons. But, there are fewer problems with new things like computers or phones. The solution is maybe the circular economy. (Maxime)

Most of all, I like second-hand things, often it is the better quality for less money. It is a good move against Growth ideology, which of course cannot work forever. Recycling is also not always real recycling and is very costly. (Martin)

I think second-hand is a good idea, but I usually buy first-hand. (Manfred)

I use both. In Alsace, there are a lot of garage sales, second-hand stores, not to mention online sales sites between individuals, and we got caught up in the “game”. I hate waste and I am less and less materialistic. So, I reduced my wardrobe and my surplus things. I’m more into second-hand.

But society pushes us to consume, and, for the clothes, appearance plays an important role. We are therefore forced to buy fashionable clothes, see targeted brands, to look better and more easily integrate into society (alas).

I also understand people who don’t want second-hand for hygiene reasons, or want to buy new articles. Just as I understand the need to recycle, do something for the planet, spend the least money...

In addition, I notice that second-hand clothing is often of better quality, more durable since it passes between several users. I would not say the same thing about old electrical or computer devices which, even if they are more easily repairable, have a lifespan. (Nathalie)

Part Three: Technology

Personally, I like new technology, because people can live more safely. Cars have become safer in the last years. Another example, you can be more productive with the latest technology. For example, 3D printers.

On the other hand, I prefer old cars to new ones, because I like the old design and sound. When you drive an old car, you are in another era. (Maxime)

I see it similarly to you. It depends on the situation and on the object. Most of all I would like to agree with what you wrote about the good old cars -I see it the same way. (Martin)

Modern design is not always practical. The dashboard of the Tesla is more distracting than that of a 20-year-old car. (Manfred)

Part Four: Holidays

Is it better to spend your holidays in the same place or to discover new places? (Manfred)

Sometimes It is nice to visit the same places, and sometimes to discover new places. I like landscape, I can see into the distance. I like ocean too, the boats, interesting experiences, fishing and fishermen. But I get seasick, that’s unpleasant. I hope to visit Amsterdam again. I went to Marrakesh once, It was nice, but once is enough. I would like to visit Africa and England. (Wenya)

We don’t like going to the same place. We prefer discovering other countries, regions. Otherwise, it is monotonous, it is a new discovery. Everything is the same. All countries and regions have their own charm. If you book a tour or do something more traditional, staying in one place. (Bernard & Monique)

We have visited many places in France, Argentina, South Africa, but we never revisit the same place. Generally, we stay for 2 days and then move to the next destination. (Clarisse)

Part 5 General

Old or new, what is better? That's a good question! We can't affirm what is the best, it depends on the subject. For the buildings Martin, I think we have improved the construction, more effective against cold or heat, stronger, more practical, higher or with an optimum capacity. I can see that at Seoul. But I observe that we are constantly looking for improvement, and sometimes we backtrack and say that the old process was finally better. For example, half-timbered houses, as in Alsace, have proven themselves, as evidenced by my house, which is almost 300 years old. Either these fortified castles still standing have survived the centuries, climatic hazards, disasters and wars, solid and durable. Finally, I think that the new one is especially good to improve comfort and ease.

Maxime, you who are an engineer, you improve technology. You might think it simplifies our daily lives, but sometimes it complicates it. We are not all engineers and understanding even with the help of a technical manual is sometimes complicated. And the worst is when the new technology doesn't work, and it's blocking, preventing any operation.

Old or new? There is good and bad in both.

But we must not forget that we always have to learn from the past and from the ancients!
(Nathalie)

I am impressed by your answer, and I agree with you. I also think that old buildings are stronger than new ones, and new ones are more comfortable with new technologies. In the future, we need to develop new construction technology to adapt to our future needs and growing population.

The role of an engineer is to solve problems, develop new technology to solve the problem and not live in the past. For that, we need to learn from the mistake of the past to have a better future. (Maxime)

Totally agree with you, Maxime.

Even if I prefer the old one, perhaps out of nostalgia and because it is something known and mastered, I am aware that we must evolve and improve again and again... The most difficult for engineers will be adapt and make the right choices. Doesn't that put too much pressure on you?
(Nathalie)

Part 6 Transportation (Maxime & Martin)

What is your opinion about old vs new transport? This discussion is relevant to my university studies. Thank you for starting this.

I know that you like old things, and you work on new trains. When do you know that new is better than old? Especially in your field of engineering. (Maxime)

On the negative side, the cost pressure is enormous. Imagine, a tram costs about 500.000 Euros. The product has to be ready by yesterday, cost nothing and do more. This is the dream of the customer and the nightmare of the manufacturers. On the positive side, there is the long lifecycle of a tram or train (30 to 60 years). This is extended with retrofits and upgrades. Because of that, there is more time to develop and test software and equipment. The national and European homologation criteria are very strict, because of health and safety regulations. Complete and

thorough documentation is essential. Therefore, we know that progress can be good if it is done properly. (Martin)

Part 7 Mobile Communication

As you know I live in Seoul. I would like to say something about using the mobile phone here. The biggest difference between where I lived in France and here, is that here, you have to do everything with your phone; Public transport, maps, ID card...

Last week my friends and I decided, to rent bicycles, and we went to the Han River. But, when we had to rent the bikes, we had a hard time to download the application. It took us about 40 minutes... and all was written in Korean, luckily my friends are Korean, and could help me with the language. But then we had a good time !! (Cléa)

I know that is really different between different countries. You are right about Seoul, you need to have a mobile phone to do everything.

We begin to have the same in Laval, for example, you need an application on your phone to rent a public scooter. I find that I use my phone for everything in Laval and I also think that I can use my phone for everything in all cities in France. Is it a question of geography or simply modern life? (Maxime)

Mobile phones can make life easier, but it is not good if one is totally dependent on them. What do you do if the internet is down? Martin

Part 8 The Podcast

Listen to Julia, Igor and Ismar discuss how the world has changed during their lifetime.

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Korean Dispatches

The Halloween Tragedy in Seoul

Halloween in Korea is an important festival. Many people go partying in Itaewon, a big street in Seoul. It's a famous street for night life, many students go there, and there is a K-drama about this street. The name of this series is Itaewon Class. My friends and I were just chilling at home. We were shocked about the tragedy. (Cléa)

I'm so happy to hear that you were not in that area that night. The sad news went around the whole world. How many friends joined you for your Halloween party? How does one chill? (Wenya)

We were 4, we watched a Halloween movie and baked some Halloween cookies. (Cléa)

Can you tell us what has happened since this tragedy? (Manfred)

There was a national mourning. And a memorial in front of the street. My parents and I went there and layed some flowers, we were touched and sad. There was a public enquiry, many people, who were responsible, lost their jobs. (Police officers, public officials...) (Cléa)

Visiting Gangwa Island.

My parents and I went to a observatory to see North Korea. I felt a strange feeling, the atmosphere was tense, the South Korean military were everywhere... But it made it a unique experience for us. We saw North Korean mountains and villages. The place is called Gangwha Island. (Cléa)

That is cool! How long did you drive to the observatory? How's the weather in Seoul now? (Wenya)

It took us about 11/2 hours by car. (Cléa)

This must have been a depressing experience. It shows how close war and peace are. (Manfred)

Yes I was so shocked and a bit upset. I realised that, sadly, the war is not as far away as I thought... (Cléa)

Kimchi Day

November 22 is Kimchi Day in Korea. It celebrates the Korean traditional dish, made from fermented cabbage with spicy spices. I don't find it that delicious, but sometimes several restaurants cook this well. Korean with Kimchi is just like French with bread. (Cléa)

Kimchi day is very interesting, how does one cook Kimchi? In China, the traditional dish is "Chinese Dumplings". Maybe you can find them in Seoul.

For the moment I didn't see any Chinese Dumplings, Koreans have their dumplings called "Mandu". People usually buy Kimchi already prepared. (Cléa)

Before reading the article, I thought Kimchi Day was the equivalent of Thanksgiving because it is in the same period. Do you celebrate Thanksgiving with your American friends? (Maxime)

I didn't celebrate Thanksgiving with my friends, because I had covid. And if I hadn't had Covid, I don't think, I would have received an invitation, because it's a family celebration. (Cléa)

K-Pop

Hello everybody!! Here's your specialist in Korean culture! The greatest news here, is that the Korean superstars BTS, will do their 2-year compulsory military service. The oldest one, Jin will go to a unit at the North Korean border, the 13th of December. Can you imagine some others western pop stars having to do this!?

Can you help me, who is BTS and which music direction are they? There is no compulsory military service in Germany. I wish Jin well and good luck. (Walter)

I don't know a lot of things about BTS, but I have a student who really loves them, their songs, and their dancing, and she studies Korean by herself because of them, and she likes to draw pictures too. I'll ask Leticia about that. (Rosii).

I don't so much about K-Pop. What is it? Is it a group? How many singers are in the group? Which song do you like the most? Is it popular amongst young Korean girls? Do you know street dance is popular in China? (Wenya)

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Back to Space

Hello everyone, I heard this morning (24 November), there are two new astronauts like Thomas Pesquet. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of space exploration?

I think it is great, because if one day unfortunately, there is a big catastrophe, humans can live on another planet. Also, I think it's an interesting subject. Humans have to learn much more about this. (Cléa)

I think that it is important that France is present in this conquest of space.

The advantages are:

- technologically, participate in research, discovery and exchange;
- politically, establish its important place in the world.

The disadvantages could be the excessive expenditure engaged in these space programs which do not seem to bring that much to the population and do not seem to solve the majority of the major problems on Earth.

I would be interested in listening a podcast on that subject...

Maybe have you another point of you ? (Nathalie)

I agree with you, but I found another disadvantage...

Firstly, the conquest of space was a competition between USSR and USA during the Cold War and was to improve their missiles. Technologically speaking, if many countries participate in the conquest of space, they always improve their missiles and can kill everyone. (Maxime)

I find it good. We have the chance to unite all nationalities on one future project.

And we can discover new ways through research and development. We have a big chance to advance our technological knowledge. For example, see the photovoltaic which comes from the space program. I think positively, and I hope all nations in the world work on one program for the future. What do you think? (Walter)

The Chinese government places a lot of importance in its space program. But I think they need to pay more attention to Chinese people. (Wenya)

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A Tale of Three Cities

Hi Rosi, I would like to know about Sao Paulo. This is a very big city, like Seoul where I live. Can you tell me how it is organized, how are the buildings? Are there parks or natural zones inside the city? Are you well serviced by public transportation?

Sao Paulo is the most populated city in Brazil, on January 25th, will be 469 years. Sao Paulo is a wonderful city, that offers a huge variety of leisure, entertainment, and culture. Yeap there is a huge and amazing park “Parque Ibirapuera” and others too, about public transportation there are subways, trains, buses, and bikes, and it’s possible to use bus itineraries, and schedules in apps.
(Rosi)

What a big city, wow! I live in Nördlingen, and we have 20000 people, a little less than Sao Paulo, but we are older (approx. 1000 years old) Can you tell us the top ten sights we should visit? Would you like to know more about Nördlingen? (Walter)

Yep! Please can you prepare a presentation about your town, I’m curious about the culture, the economy, the entertainment, sports.

I’m happy to prepare a presentation about Nördlingen. Please give me a little bit time for this. Could you prepare a presentation about Sao Paulo please? (Walter)

I would like to know more about Nördlingen. This is a big city with 20 000 people, and I ask myself if you need a mobile phone to do many things like Cléa does in Seoul or me in Laval?
(Maxime)

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Alex and Céline

Hello everyone, thank you for your warm welcome. We live in Seebach, next to Wissembourg, but we don't know Monique and Bernard. I am a physiotherapist and an osteopath (Alexandre), I am a nurse and a consultant in helping relationships (Céline). We joined the community to improve our English, for travelling, reading scientific articles, and speaking with other people.

(Céline) My hobbies are walking and admiring nature, running, reading, eating good food and learning.

(Alexandre) My hobbies are running in nature, ski-skating, permaculture, reading and eating good food too.

Thank you that you introduced yourselves. I have a question, what is Permaculture? How do you spend Christmas? What will you eat and drink? Have you decorated your house and garden? With whom will you spend Christmas? (Wenya)

Topics of permaculture are very big. I need a few weeks to prepare myself. We spend Christmas Eve with Celine's family and Christmas Day with Alexandre's family. Apéro: we drink champagne and eat toast with salmon and foie gras, aubergine caviar. Main Course: turkey, with chestnut stuffing, homemade spaetzle, butternut, mushroom sauce. Dessert: Yule Log, homemade Christmas cookies. Last Tuesday all the family decorated our house with garlands, Christmas candles, advent wreath. We will decorate the Christmas tree next week. (Alexandre)

Do you run in the Col du Pigeonnier. We probably have met when we go walking in the forest there. Do you have your surgery in Schoenenbourg? (Bernard & Monique)

My hours are 8.15 to 12 noon and 14 to 19h, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Tuesday and Thursday 8.15 to 12 noon. By appointment only. It's not a problem to accept you in my surgery.

It is strange to meet you here but it is very cool. I need to make an appointment in December and all my family go to you once a year.

Have you heard about GeoCaching? That could interest you both because you like to walk, admire nature and learn something. (Maxime)

I am sorry but unfortunately, I have no free window in December. I recommend going via "Calendovia" to make an appointment. What is GeoCaching? Can you explain it?

Can you explain what Calendovia is? (Walter)

It's a platform to make an appointment. If you google Calendovia, you select name and the town, you will find the relevant doctor. Have you a similar system in Germany? (Alexandre)

<https://www.calendovia.com/>

As far as I am aware, we do not have such a platform in Germany. Is the platform popular in France? How does this platform help you? (Walter)

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A Disabled Student

A thought-provoking dialogue written by Ismar

- Hello!
- Hello! How are you doing?
- Not too bad, but I am envious of you!
- Why? I am not a special person!
- Oh, you can type on a laptop!
- Why? It is something so common? Anyone can do this.
- Oh my friend, do not take things for granted.
- I got it, but why would you like to know how to type?
- I know how to type on a computer.
- Then, what is the matter?
- I was approved for a language course at Federal University, but as I cannot type my homework I had to quit it.
- I do not understand it, why?
- All professors require that students hand in their homework typed, mainly have to post them on a Google classroom or Ava platform. I cannot it.
- Why? what is the difficulty ~~of that~~?
- In fact, as I said, I know how to type, but I cannot do it because I have problems with my hands and arms. It is too painful for me if I type a text, even a small one.
- Oh, that is a pity! I am studying Languages. I had a discipline when the professor showed us we should think critically and be an agent in our community.
- What do you mean?
- Have you talked to your professors and explained your case, that you cannot use a computer, and you would like to go on with your course? There are blind, deaf people, and many others with some differences that study at the university. Being blind, deaf or anything else is not a deficiency, it is a difference. A real and good university has a diverse environment, anyone in a diverse-thinking university does not want you to be the same as the rest of the students. In a diverse thinking place, we can learn a lot from one another and develop our university community that will take this kind of thinking and behaviour for our society. And why not change and improve public policies for the social inclusion of all different people?
- That is a different point of view. I have not heard of such a thing. But do you think I can retake my university course without using a computer?

- I am not 100% sure. Have you heard of Stephen Hawking? Besides Einstein, he is considered the greatest physicist we had in our recent history. He had a problem communicating, he did it using a voice synthesizer. Of course, the university cannot provide any technological device to solve your case, but you can try to use a different way to do your homework and tests.
- How could I do that?
- Can you by hand?
- Yes, but not too much, after a short time I feel pain too.

- Can you record your voice in a smartphone recorder?
- Yes, I can exchange audio messages with my friends and my family.
- All right, theoretically, we have the half the problem solved.
- How is that?
- Speak to your professors, tell them your case and ask them to hand your homework in recorded by voice and not written.
- Do you think they will accept them?
- I do not know! Initially, ask them if the university is for everybody or only for people who are considered normal or physically perfect. After that, you present your case and the solution you have found for it. Including, we read another text saying that disabled professors are less recognized than other ones. It is not fair, is it not? We are all human beings and different to one another.
- Wow! I am not sure if I will get to go on with my language course, but at least it is the tip of the iceberg. Maybe my dream can become true!
- Yeah, that is right! Then, go ahead and use your own rights!
- Thank you a lot for everything. If it works, we can meet each other in some class or in the corridors.
- Right! I need to finish my homework.
- Bye! I see you.

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Brida Podcasts

New Podcasts released in November.

Title (Click to listen)	Description	Level
Old versus New	Julia, Igor and Ismar discuss how the world has changed and explore what is better, old or new.	Upper Intermediate
3D Printers	Maxime, our Engineering Student at the ESTACA in Laval, France, explains to us the advantages of a 3D Printer and how we can use one at home.	Intermediate
Brazil is not for Amateurs	Ismar explains to Frank the advantages and disadvantages of living in Brazil.	Intermediate
Yoga & Education	Rosii teaches English and Portuguese in São Paulo, Brazil. In her first conversation with Frank, she describes her life as a teacher.	Intermediate
Asynchronous Communication	Igor hosts the discussion on how people can communicate more efficiently within their organisations. He speaks with our regular Tuesday panel, Ismar in Brazil, and Sebastian and Julia, both in Germany.	Advanced

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Brida Presentations

Watch again.

More coming in December & January.

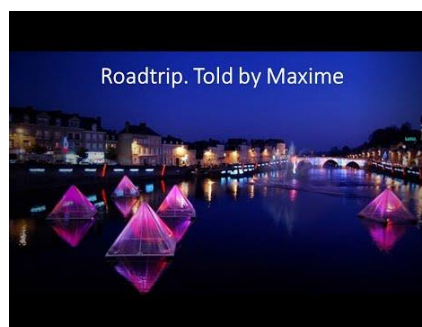
Hello everyone, have a look at my presentation of my hometown. Let me know what you think.
(Manfred)



Hello everyone, I want to invite you to watch the video of my hometown Kassel. I hope you will enjoy it. I am looking forward to your feedback about my pronunciation. Best regards, Martin



Hello everyone, I have finished the video of my road trip! You are going to discover the incredible story with monsters. Terrorism and emptiness. I would like to know if my pronunciation is comprehensible when I speak spontaneously.
(Maxime)



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The Get Togethers

Get Togethers are a great place to meet community members and speak in English. Choose from the selection below. We meet in the Brida Café.

Tuesday Evenings Get Together	Tuesdays, 19-20 CET	Join the original gang in general conversation on wide ranging topics. Intermediate to Upper Intermediate
Thursday Mornings Get Together	Thursdays 10 – 11.30 CET	Join Nathalie in Seoul, Monique, Bernard and Clarisse from France and Babette in Germany. We discuss the latest community topics.
Thursday Afternoons Get Together	Thursdays 14.30 - 16.00 CET	Maxime and I discuss all things Engineering. But not just that. Upper Intermediate.
Thursday Evenings Get Together	Thursdays 17.15 – 19.45 CET	Join Alex and Céline and as we take first steps in Brida in English. Level; Beginners
The Brida Swimming Club	Fridays 12.30 – 14.30 CET	Walter from Germany, Manfred and Martin from Kassel learn to swim in English. Level: Beginners
The Atlantic Corridor	Mondays 15 – 16.30 CET	General conversation with Ismar in Brazil spanning the Atlantic Ocean. Intermediate.
The Sundowner	Every second Friday in the month. From 19.00 CET	We usher in the weekend with a relaxing drink, some nibbles and light conversation. Intermediate

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Coming in Dec. / Jan.

I know, there will be other unplanned topics which we will talk about in the Brida Community. This is what is in the pipeline.

The Discussion (Hosted by Ismar)

Ismar asks how good is it to be materialistic?

Old versus New (Hosted by Martin)

There is still some life in this topic.

Space Exploration (Hosted by Maxime)

Is it such a wise thing to do?

Restaurant Culture. (Hosted by Nathalie)

Following Nathalie's article about restaurant culture, we compare different restaurant cultures.

GeoCaching (Hosted by Maxime)

What is it? How does it work? Why is it fun?

Permaculture (Hosted by Alexandre)

Is this just another word for gardening?

A tale of three cities. (Hosted by Rosii, Nathalie and Walter)

Presentations by Rosii (Sao Paolo), Nathalie (Seoul), Walter (Nördlingen, Germany)

Podcasts

Seeking Opportunities 3 & 4 (Igor's fascinating story on finding a new job)

Selling to a Salesman (How can a salesman sell to a salesman? Sebastian explains)

Tomorrow's World (Cléa and Maxime exchange thoughts on education)

Presentations

Oskarville. A school project by Rosii

Welcome to Nördlingen by Walter

Welcome to Sao Paolo by Rosii

This is our Seoul by Nathalie

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Links & further information

Old versus New	Poundberry, Dorset, UK	Click here
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Alex & Céline	Calendovia (in French)	Click here
Television	Watch Korean, Chinese and Japanese series for free. With subtitles in many languages	Click here

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Contact Information

Brida is a community dedicated to helping you improve and practise your English.

Would you like to join our community?

All you have to do is register. Simply go to

<https://www.our.brida.eu>

and discover, participate, and share.

Take advantage of the 30-day free trial, without any risk.

No payment details are required upon registration.

After 30 days, you decide if you wish to stay or not.

For more information

Contact

Frank Peters
Peters-Langues.

3 rue des Vignes
67160 Cleebourg, France

Email : frank@peters-langues.fr

Phone/WhatsApp +33 6 01 89 08 04

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