

Vg1 Bygg og anleggsteknikk, Vg2 Overflateteknikk

Line - an Apprentice Painter

Line works as an apprentice painter in a local painting and decorating business in Stavanger. She arrives at the home of Mr. Smith, an Englishman who recently moved to Norway, and who wants to redecorate the living room in his new home. He is homesick and wants a British touch to the room. That gives them an opportunity to discuss cultural differences.

Mr. Smith: How do you do...my name is Alan Smith. I hope you don't mind that I cannot speak Norwegian yet.

Line: Hi, oops...how do you do, my name is Line Kleiv, my boss sent me...and no, I don't mind that we speak English. Actually, I need to brush up on my English a bit. But my boss told me that your living room needs a bit of "brushing up", too?

Mr. Smith: Yes, I contacted your company yesterday about redecorating it.

(They go inside, and Mr. Smith shows her the room – pointing)

Look, the ceiling suffers from neglect – it really needs some paint... and look at the skirting boards and the window and door mouldings - I'd definitely like a different colour. There is a shade of white that we call "raindrop" at home...

(interrupting himself) Unbelievable! Who could believe that I'd even miss the British weather?... Do you think you have anything like that shade of white in Norway?

Line: We can look at a colour chart later, maybe. Do you have anything in mind when it comes to the walls? To be honest, I think the wallpaper needs replacing, and the joints are not even. What do you think?

Mr. Smith: I appreciate your honesty and agree with you. I took over this house just a few weeks ago, and I really feel I have to add a personal touch. Even if I have not spent so much time in Norway, I have noticed that you spend a lot more time at home than we do in Britain. I have many new and friendly colleagues, but I miss the social life around the pubs in England where it is easy to meet new people.

Line (*nodding*): Mmm, I really think you've got a point about us Norwegians being extremely ...how do you say in English...people who really enjoy staying at home..?

Mr. Smith (*laughing*): Oh, you mean a homebody? Yes, I guess that is a cultural difference, even if we also have a lot in common. Well, I have to realise that I will be spending much of my spare time right here. My home is my castle, right? So – let's settle it, I have to bring some Britishness into this room. What's better than a typical British wallpaper? Sanderson and, Colefax and Fowler are British trademarks that might have something to suit me. Both companies have online galleries. Do you mind taking a look, and we might decide on something?

Line: A brilliant idea. We have an arrangement with British manufacturers, they will send us anything we like.

(*Sounds of typing*)

What kind of style do you want, Mr. Smith. Are you fond of old-fashioned designs?

Mr. Smith: Well, I *am* a bit nostalgic, you know, so I'd like to go back to the 60s when I was born. There were a lot of stylized florals back then, with small prints. Look! (*pointing*) I think they've got a collection there in the design library. Aah, look at this one called Amberley. What do you think?

Line: I like it. Pink and green is a very nice combination. It is made in 100% cotton, the width is the regular one, it seems, – 134.5 cms. (one hundred and thirty-four point five centimeters) If you like, I can place an order. I think we should receive it in a couple of days.

Mr. Smith: Lovely!