**SHOWING NOT JUST TELLING**

**WRITING LESSON**

**TELLING PARAGRAPH**

The Differences in the Life of Kuwaitis and Americans

When I lived in Kuwait, my life was very different. The language, food, dress and way women behave was different than in the United States. I worked, worked out at a gym, and visited friends a lot.

**Questions:**

1. When did I live in Kuwait?

2. How as the food different?

3. What language do they speak in Kuwait?

4. How did they dress?

5. Describe the expected behavior of Kuwaiti women.

6. Where did I work?

When you write, you need to tell the reader specific details and information. The reader should be able to answer questions about what you say. Remember, the reader is not there to ask you these questions. All they know is what you tell them. The reader does not know what is in your mind; s/he only knows what you tell them.

**SHOWING PARAGRAPH**

The Differences in the Life of Kuwaitis and Americans

I moved to Kuwait in September 1999 and lived there until January 2002. I moved there to live and teach English at the University of Kuwait. The life was very different from the life in America. First, the food was different. They had fast food like Americans, but they did not eat pork because it was against their religion. Also, they ate a lot of foods such as falafels and lamb. Second, they speak Arabic in Kuwait, which is a very challenging language to learn, especially for an American. Third, women wore long black dresses called *abayas* and scarves over their hair called *hijabs*. You never saw a Kuwaiti woman showing her shoulders, legs, or hair. They could only do this at weddings, but women celebrated in a private room separate from the men. They dressed this way because it is part of their religion and also was a way to protect women from sexual harassment by men. Another difference was in the behavior of women. Women are not allowed to go out alone or walk with any man except a relative or their husband. At restaurants, women have a separate eating area to sit. Only the men can sit in the open spaces outdoors. Women also could not vote when I was living there. This has changed, but you never saw a woman politician when I lived there. Also, there are separate days and areas that men and women can work out at a gym, and the men had more days than the women. As you can tell, there are many differences between the cultures of Kuwaitis and Americans.

Now, let’s see if we can answer the questions above.

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