

(U.S.)

Sarvijaakonkatu 36 A 38
FIN-33540 Tampere
Finland

October 19, 2004

Dear Emily,

Thank you so much for the e-mail you sent me yesterday. I'm so glad to hear you are coming to Finland! After all, we have been writing letters to each other for over ten years, so it will be great to finally meet you in person. Since you will be staying at your grandmother's place in Klaukkala, the easiest way to get to Tampere is, as you noted, by train from Järvenpää. Unfortunately, I have agreed to baby-sit our neighbor's children the day you were planning to arrive in Tampere, and the kids are so small that I cannot bring them with me to the train station. Pekka won't be able to meet you at the station either, because he has to be at the university to take an exam when your train arrives. However, it's quite easy to get from the station to our place, so I thought I could send the directions to get here to you in this letter. You could take the bus: it'll make the journey a lot easier.

It doesn't matter which platform you arrive on in the train station. There are steps leading down from every platform, and you should simply go down the steps into a tunnel. The platform numbers "grow" towards the other end of the tunnel (the biggest being five), and you should also see a green sign indicating a pizzeria there. At the opposite end, next to the stairs going up to platform one, there is a row of doors which lead to the waiting area of the station. Go through these doors and walk straight ahead, and then exit the station through the main doors, which look similar to the ones which lead to the waiting area.

You should now be in a small plaza in front of the main building of the train station. On your right, on the other side of the street, there should be a small park, and on your left, a parking lot. Behind the parking lot, there is an office building with many shop signs on it, for example the sign of the second-hand store *UFF*. Straight ahead of you, there will be a busy intersection. If you walk towards the intersection, you will find yourself at a pedestrian crossing. You will be coming from the direction of the train station, and there is only one pedestrian crossing on that side of the intersection, so you can't miss it. Cross the street using the pedestrian crossing.

You will then be standing at the beginning of **Hämeenkatu**, the main street of the center of Tampere. The street is easy to recognize: it is lined with big trees, and straight ahead, further away, you will see the signs of *McDonald's* on the left and *The Body Shop* on the right, for example. Since it will be early December, there will be all kinds of Christmas lights hanging above the street, too. However, you will only have to walk down the street about 50 feet to get to the bus stop where all the buses coming to our part of the city stop. On the opposite side of the street, there is *Stockmann*, a big department store, and on the same side with the stop – right next to it actually – there is a shoe store, *Andiamo*, and a restaurant called *Memphis*.

You can choose either bus number **17** (to Holvasti), **25** (to Janka), or **27** (to Irjala). All of them will take the same route and bring you to the right place. Since it will be afternoon, the buses will go by quite frequently, so I think you won't have to wait long (definitely not more than fifteen minutes). There will almost certainly be someone else at the bus stop besides you, but if for some reason there is not, you should stop the bus by waving at it when it is approaching the stop.

Get on the bus through the front door and pay the fare to the driver. The fare for a single journey is two euros, and the ticket is valid for an hour. It would be good if you had the exact

sum of money ready, but the drivers also accept bigger sums – a little reluctantly, though. Besides a “hey”, you don’t actually have to say anything to the driver, since all journeys inside Tampere cost two euros, and buses 17, 25, and 27 don’t go outside Tampere. After getting your ticket, just make yourself comfortable for about ten minutes, since the journey won’t last much longer than that.

When the bus continues from the bus stop, it will first go through the same busy intersection you just crossed. It will pass the train station and immediately go into a tunnel. After the tunnel, there will be a gradual upward slope, after which there is another intersection with traffic lights. The bus will continue straight ahead through this intersection. The bus will turn for the first time after four traffic lights, counting from the stop where you got on. It will make a gentle turn to the right onto **Sammonkatu**. On Sammonkatu, you should sit on the bus through three more traffic lights and then get off. Nearly all the bus stops on Sammonkatu are situated right after the main intersections, and so is the one where you should get off.

When the bus comes to the first traffic lights on Sammonkatu, you should be able to see a small grocery store called *K-Pikkolo* on the right side of the street. By the second traffic lights, there is a *Teboil* gas station and a *Hesburger* hamburger restaurant on the right. After the second traffic lights, you should get up and move towards the middle or back door of the bus. When the bus approaches the third traffic lights, press the “stop” button to inform the driver to let you off at the stop right after the lights. Usually there are other people getting off as well, so someone might press the button before you, but it won’t hurt to do it a second time, just in case. When you get off the bus, you are almost there! (It’s not the end of the world if you happen to notice that you’re still sitting on the bus and have gone past the right stop. Just get off at the next stop and walk back to the previous one, where you should’ve gotten off. It’s easy, since the stops are quite close to each other.)

Next to the bus stop where you should get off, there is a *Neste* gas station and another *K-Pikkolo* store. Walk back to the intersection that you last crossed on the bus, and turn left. You should then be standing at the beginning of a very short street, **Sarvijaakonkatu**. At the other end, the street is divided into two separate streets that lead to the left and to the right. (Sarvijaakonkatu continues to the left.) On the other side of this intersection, on the wall of a low, yellow building, you should see a square, blue sign with the letters *EM* on it. To the left from the EM building, there is a tall, red and white apartment building. That is where Pekka and I live.

There are four entrances for this building (numbered 30, 32, 34, and 36). Our apartment is at the farther end, in entrance number 36. The exact address is **Sarvijaakonkatu 36 A 38**, but the letter “A” does not really mean anything, since there is only one entrance with number 36. You can see the numbers of the entrances on the small lamps above the doors. When you find the right entrance, press number 38 on the buzzer next to the door. I will then open the door for you. Our apartment is on the sixth floor, so I recommend taking the elevator!

I doubt if there will be any problems with you finding the way, but if something should happen, you can always call me. My cell phone number is +358-44-1234567. Even if something mysterious happens, for example your phone doesn’t work or something like that, don’t worry. Almost all young people here speak good English, so I’m sure you’ll get help from anyone you ask if you are not able to contact me. But I think you’ll manage just fine.

So, have a good trip, and I’ll see you at the beginning of December!

Yours,

(Signature)