

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### What is your name?

Dewi van Soest.

### Why did you choose to study English?

It's actually a bit silly; the language suits me very well and I love reading immensely. I'd also attended a *kennismakingsdag* and what I heard there sounded great.

### How was your 'career' with English in Leiden? When did you start, when did you graduate, have you done additional activities?

I've started studying as a newbie in Leiden in 2005 and graduated at the end of 2010 with a Master's Philology/Literature. After my Bachelor's, I've studied for one year at the Free University in Amsterdam, but I just couldn't find my feet there. I missed the *gezelligheid* in Leiden, hated the time it took to get there, missed affinity with the modules I was taking and above all, I missed the English department, its lecturers and modules, in Leiden.

### What were your favourite modules?

Easy! 'An Introduction to Anglo-American Film 1940-1990' from Dr. (Michael ☺) Newton and the Master's modules 'Arthur of Britain' from Drs. Veldhoen and 'Ode to Fear' from Dr. Van Leeuwen.

### Do you have any experience going abroad? What did you do (studying, placement, something else)? Where did you go? For how long?

Not directly related to English in Leiden. I didn't go abroad until after graduating. I wanted to get away for a bit; I had the 'itch' after hearing all the great stories from my friends. I was also a bit bummed that I had so little practical experience regarding work, but definitely also regarding speaking English on a daily basis. I decided to go to a country where no-one else would go to and I succeeded in doing that: I went to Dhaka, Bangladesh. I was there for almost five months to do a placement with an NGO School (English Medium level).



I taught English there, focussing on the pronunciation of English. It was a bit of a dive into the deep end which provided me with an unforgettable time and friends for life.

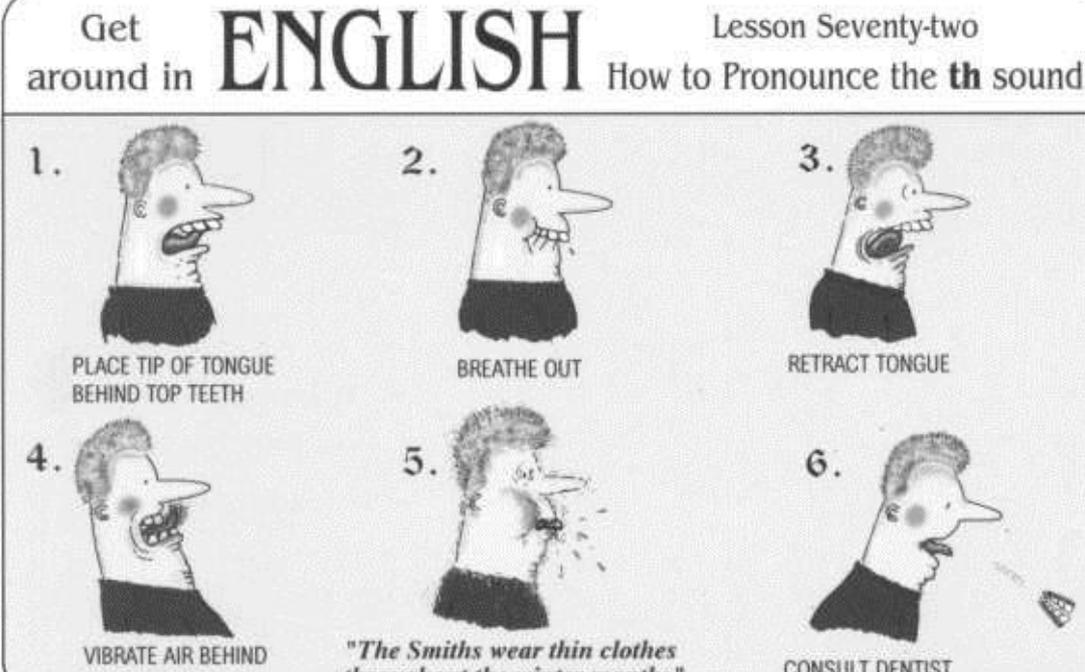
**Did you go to any Albion activities? If yes, which did you like best? If no, why not?**

I didn't go very often because in my second year, I became a member of a *studievereniging* which took up a lot of my time (and I've enjoyed every minute of it!). Hahaha, I mean, I was in a lot of committees, of course! I've attended a High-Tea, which was very *gezellig*. I would have liked to go to London, but you know, students can be a bit low on cash...

**What kind of a job do you have now? How did you end up there?**

I'm still wandering around a bit. The job market is scarce and demands relevant work experience which unfortunately, I really do not have. I've worked at Rabobank where I worked on a temporary project dealing with foreign students who come to study at Leiden University. At the moment I'm doing a placement with Persgroep Nederland, the collective name of the publishers of Trouw, AD, Het Parool and de Volkskrant. Here, I'm working on a project concerning job descriptions.

Get around in **ENGLISH** Lesson Seventy-two  
How to Pronounce the **th** sound



1. PLACE TIP OF TONGUE BEHIND TOP TEETH
2. BREATHE OUT
3. RETRACT TONGUE
4. VIBRATE AIR BEHIND TONGUE AND SAY:
5. "The Smiths wear thin clothes throughout the winter months"
6. CONSULT DENTIST