




Dear Host Family,

My name is Gretel. I am sixteen years old, and I live in a small city called Castellón de la Plana, near the coast of the Valencian Community in Spain. At first, I am a quiet person with people I don't know, but as soon as I start to feel comfortable, I become more extroverted and talkative.

Castellón is a calm city with not many things to do, which is why the go-to hangout spot with my friends is the only big mall in the city. In summer, I usually spend the days reading a book while listening to the calming sound of the waves at the beach while tanning, and then I go for a swim. I am also a very big fan of watching sunsets and sunrises. I can easily spend ten minutes trying to get the perfect picture because I think they are beautiful. 

I am really looking forward to going to the USA and living with a host family. Ever since I was a little girl, I have been influenced by American culture. I think my desire to go to the United States started with American series and movies. I love watching them, and they made me want to experience being in those places myself. I want to learn more about American culture and everyday life. 

I feel like I am a very adaptable person. I can easily adjust to new surroundings. Some days I love staying at home reading or watching movies, and other days I feel adventurous and want to go out. I get excited even by the smallest things, even the thought of going to an American supermarket excites me, simply because it's something new for me. It's different from what I'm used to and that makes me very curious.

I live with my parents, Nuria and Samuel, and we have a small dog named Mochi (like the Japanese dessert! ). I absolutely love pets, especially dogs. In my opinion, it's incredible how people can create such a strong bond with other species without even talking to each other. Every day I walk my dog in the park while listening to music on my headphones, and I would say that this is the moment of the day when I truly disconnect and relax.

I am someone who has many hobbies. I enjoy painting, playing video games, reading, listening to music, doing diamond painting, drawing, going to the gym, hanging out with friends, and trying new restaurants (even though I am a bit of a picky eater).

I have always studied at a British school, which is why my English level is quite good, even though my Spanish accent is noticeable. Currently, instead of doing Bachillerato (11th and 12th grade), I am studying something called professional formation in business administration. I started this because, even though I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up, I know that I am interested in the business area.

I love all of my friends and I strongly believe that quality is more important than quantity. My best friend is Eva, and we have been friends since we were born. At the beginning of this school year, I was scared that I wouldn't make any friends because I was used to being with the same school friends my whole life. However,

I quickly made new friends, and even though I haven't known them for a long time, it feels like I have. My current school friend group is formed by Yulia, Nicol, Daniela, Lledó, Alexandra, and Erika, and we often go to grab something to eat after school.

I also kept my old school friends, which I was scared to lose because we no longer see each other every day. Núria and Zeena are always there for me, even though we don't go to the same school anymore. I also have friends from all over Spain, such as Sofia from Madrid, Rafa from Andalucía, and Leander from the País Vasco. Even though I don't see them often, we all know that we are there for each other, and that is what true friendship means to me.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter. I am really excited about this experience and hope to become part of your family, share my culture with you, and learn from yours. 😊

Gretel



Would describe yourself as:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timid | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient | <input type="checkbox"/> Talkative |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sociable | <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Energetic | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent | <input type="checkbox"/> Neat | <input type="checkbox"/> Affectionate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Studious | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Witty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>kind, polite</u> |

Check one box for the activities you enjoy, and check two boxes for your favorite activities:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Movies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Water Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Dance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Jogging/Running | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Painting/Drawing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding/Rollerblading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Boy Scout/Girl Scout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Video Games | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Museums | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Instrument (which do you play): _____ | | (<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced) |

What is your religious affiliation, if any: _____

Would you accept to go to religious service with your host family? Yes In theory no, but I'm okay to try *(it will not be mandatory but it usually is an important part of the American family life)*