

Dear Ms. [NAME],

I hope you are doing well!

[I sigh and hand her the phone, “Here.”

She anxiously scans the screen,
she looks frustrated.

“더 좋은 말... can't you make it sound more *prettier*?”

“What do you mean *more*? It's an *email*, just send it.”

As I get up, the old Ikea bed frame creaks

(It was originally mine but Umma uses it ever since I got a new one).

She sighs,

“Please? 한번만? {Just once?}”]

[DELETED] I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy!

You've been a huge help to us ~~in~~ at school.

[“Is it ‘at’ or ‘in’ school?”

“Uhh, usually people say ‘at’? But I don't think it really matters though, they're both fine.”

“So ‘in’ is wrong?”

“No, it's just- I don't really know but like, I don't think she'll *care*.”

She sighs.

“You're an American, how come you don't know this?”]

You're so considerate and thoughtful, we're so grateful to you!

[“Isn't that too much?”

“Well, she really did help us a lot.”

“Yea, but it's just too much. It's too overbearing, like what if she feels awkward?”

“Then what else should I say? You just don't know how to thank someone properly.”]

You've really worked hard, we couldn't have done it without your help!

[“큰할머니 {Great-Grandmother}? She died?”

“어, last night. 내가 한국에 있는 동안 많이 도와주는데, 10년 동안 보지 못했어.” {She helped me a lot when I was in Korea, I haven't seen her in ten years.}

“...”

“보고싶다.” {I want to see her.}

“... That sucks.”]

(Add something here?)

[She sighs,

“싫으면 안 해도 괜찮아 {If you don't want to, it's okay}, I can do it.”

I guiltily sit back down

the bed creaks as we both shift to make room

(it can barely fit one of us).

“Is there a way to say ‘보답하고 싶어요’ in English?”

“Uhh... I don't think so.”

“English is such a stupid language.”

I grin, “Yea. It is.”]

Once again thank you so much for all of your help, have a great day!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]