ADULTS ARE AUTONOMOUS AND SELF-DIRECTED

The thing the most regret when people die, is that they didn’t do what they wanted to.

* Anonymous -

I was a person who couldn’t speak English at all, even though I had studied English for over 10 years and I got good scores in English tests. It wouldn’t be surprised to look back at my school days and university days. I hadn’t seriously studied English, and had hesitated to do something useful for studying English, even if I wanted to do so much, like studying abroad, getting a working holiday visa or traveling around somewhere abroad. Then I graduated from university, I just kept deciding that I would do those in a couple of years.

After working for several years, I decided to go to Europe all of sudden. I didn’t want to regret anything at my last moment in this life. It was all of sudden, so I wasn’t fully prepared and didn’t know anything about real me. I had a hard time while traveling because of English. People ignored me because I wasn’t able to speak English and treated me as if I wasn’t there. It was common sense because I couldn’t understand what they said, also I wasn’t willing to talk to people who weren’t from Korea. I was frustrated.

I became a false beginner instead of getting back to work when I got back to Korea. I set my goal to communicate with foreigners. I studied by attending classes. Compared to traditional class, modern class gives chances to practice a lot, but still not enough. So, I met foreigners through internet, but I couldn’t communicate with them. I figured it out why. That’s because I was terrible at hearing. In English class in my school days and even that time I hadn’t been received proper hearing instructions. How could I communicate if I couldn’t understand what my partner said.

It is well known that watching American TV shows is an easy way to improve to hear English. However, people in American TV shows speak so fast, I couldn’t understand at all if it wasn’t subtitled. If it was subtitled I just read subtitle. It didn’t help me to study. I had to find out another way to improve my hearing. Then one day, I found one famous Japanese animation reproduced by Disney. I downloaded that and watched. It was so helpful. That was dubbed by American voice actors and actress who pronounce well and speak not too fast.

These days many institutes for studying English use video files in class, but they use usually juvenile or not funny ones. Adults could easily lose their attention if it’s juvenile. To improve hearing skill, second language learners are needed to be exposed as many hours as possible. I like Japanese animations. So, I well know that they aren’t juvenile, and they have very interesting story structures. Therefore, people are willing to watch them again. Also, the stories are all connected of course, so they can hear the same words over and over again by the story going on. That will be definitely a practice to hear.

I will provide students English dubbed Japanese animations when I teach people. I think my hearing skill has been improved by watching dubbed Japanese animations. My speaking skill is getting better as my hearing is getting better. Without subtitled one is better. However, if people who don’t have a little high ability to hear English, I will provide subtitled ones. I’m sure they would watch it again without subtitle.

I’m happy because I have been studying English after I felt I wanted to. Do everything what you want or you will regret when you die.

(the number of words approximately 590~600)