**My success of learning English**

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When I went to America, I didn’t know much of English. I could only say my name and where I was from, so I had to take ESL course. After taking the course for a year, I was able to have a conversation with native speakers and take regular high school subjects. Having an effective teacher, getting rid of emotional barrier, and dealing with many group activities lead me to learn English successfully.

To begin with, I met a very effective teacher. There was only one ESL class available in my school, and the class wasn’t divided into levels. Everybody has to take one class regardless of the level. It must have been very difficult for my teacher to teach the class. However, she communicated clearly and slowly for the low level students, and she walked around and helped the students individually. Also, she was very patient. She didn’t interrupt the students while they were speaking, and she waited for students’ answer even if it took some time. She empathized with my problem as well. She understood how difficult it was to study English as a second language, and she was never angry at me for not being able to answer her question. I think she was a very good teacher.

In addition, studying with people whose first languages were different from mine and second language was English like me helped me weaken the emotional barrier. When studying second language especially speaking, I have been nervous and stressed. I’m afraid of speaking in front of a native speaker. I know what to say, but the words don’t come out of my mouth easily. Once I failed to learn Spanish because I couldn’t break this emotional barrier even though I lived in the Spanish speaking country. In my ESL class, I felt comfortable speaking with my classmates because I knew that my classmates were there to learn English like me. Also, my teacher kept encouraging me to speak more in the class, and I heard good comments from the teacher and the students. After practicing, I was able to overcome the stress, and I wasn’t nervous when I spoke to native speakers. Therefore, I believe breaking the emotional barrier is very important to learn a second language.

Last but not least, group activities were beneficial to learn English based on my strongest intelligence. I have interpersonal intelligence. I learned the best while communicating and working with other people. During the class, I had a lot of group activities. For example, we had to do research on the topic and explain to other groups. It was unfamiliar to me because I was used to the traditional teaching method. My teachers were mostly explainers in Korea. No wonder I was only able to say my name even though I had studied English for 3 years in my middle school. What impressed me the most was the peer editing. After writing a paragraph or essay, we had to exchange our paper and corrected each other’s writing. By doing so, I was able to see how my classmates expressed their thoughts and the mistakes they had made. Later, it was easy to find my mistakes on my paper. This improved my writing skill a lot.

Everybody has different reasons to learn a second language. In my case, I needed to learn English to live and study in the United States. I believe that I accomplished my goal through the English class I took on the first year of my stay in America. In conclusion, I learned English as a second language successfully because I had a help of a capable teacher, studied in a low-anxiety learning environment, and did a lot of group work.