My Best and Worst Teacher Ever

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“A picture is worth a thousand words.” This is one of my favorite sayings that I deeply agree with. It is a lot easier to learn how something works by looking at pictures or images, rather than by hearing someone describe them. In this regard, I was really lucky enough to have an English teacher, Mr. Park, in high school who is the best teacher I ever had.

Mr. Park was a teacher who inspired us to learn English in an autonomous way based on one of characteristics of adult learners, which is unlike children, adults are autonomous and self-directed. He wanted all of us to succeed according our own motivation for learning. He often gave us an opportunity to make a presentation in front of the whole class that was about whatever we were interested in, and divided us into several groups to help one another in translating and understanding paragraphs in English. Sometimes he let us watch a Hollywood movie with English subtitles, but deleted some words on purpose so that we could guess them, developing the ability to understand the context in English. Upon all activities he managed for us, I think he was an enabler who wanted to assist students to acquire their own knowledge. Such teaching style was great to me in a sense that I had a successful language learning experience, and I became not afraid of learning English and even got to love this language.

On the other hand, I remember the worst teacher I have ever had. It was Ms. So who was a total explainer speaking and worse, she was a highly mono tone speaker. She was also teaching English, but all she wanted us to do is to solve problems in textbooks as homework and listen to her explaining how we could draw correct answers in class. It was one-way communication, and a mug and jug approach as we can often observe in a traditional classroom. She even gave us physical punishment if we did not do our homework or do wrong, and it created a terroristic atmosphere in class. She seemed to know the subject matter well, but did not show any respect to us. I felt desperate in her class and it was a really awful language learning experience in my high school.

I agree with the idea that teachers must actively involve students in the learning process, let them work on tasks that reflect their interests, and allow them to assume responsibility for presentations and group leadership. Students should be motivated to learn English in class so that they can continue to improve their English autonomously in the future. Teachers should help students to feel comfortable in English context to the extent that they organize their activities and speak English without worrying about making a mistake, doing activities. I had such a teacher that I could continue to study English, have fun with it, and become an English teacher.

Therefore, we, as an English teacher, should always remember that how we teach affects how our students learn. In a good example, my amazing teacher, Mr. Park showed me how to teach English well in class. His teaching style affected me in learning English and even teaching English to my students a lot in a good way. I would like to be an English teacher who helps students to encourage themselves to set and reach personal goals. Also, I will try to find appropriate and interesting activities for students to be autonomous learners. “A picture is worth a thousand words.” In fact, this saying here is about the way I learned how to teach English well from my amazing teacher, Mr. Park. I would like to teach my students, always remembering how he taught me. Furthermore, I will try harder to develop my teaching skills in a variety of settings so that I can be a teacher who some students might think is the best teacher he or she ever has.