**What made me communicate?**

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About 17 years ago, I've started to study English and for 15 years concentrated on reading and grammar. Therefore, like many Koreans, speaking to a native was very hard for me. In order to improve my English, I worked at an English school which had a native English teacher. Whenever I had difficulty in communicating with the teachers in English, I’ve started to think what is the best way to improve English. I began to focus on conversation and not just reading.

To begin with, I decided to change my way of thinking. Instead of being afraid of errors, I asked my coworker some questions about pronunciation, intonation, and conversation. Marie, who was the native English teacher, drilled me on pronunciation every day. It improved my comprehension and understanding. As I accepted advice that my coworkers gave me, I began to speak aloud with confidence.

Second, I used a pattern book and this gave me the beginning of frequently used English expressions. I made a rule to study for 30 minutes a day and memorized 5 sentences using patterns. Although I tried to memorize these patterns twice, just a few of them remain. Even if this method was effective to give me a basis to improve my speaking skills, I cannot remember everything.

Third, I wanted to build on the patterns and expressions from my book by hearing them used in real life settings. Because I know recorded voice of the pattern book could be different from conversation used among natives. For example, I printed the script from *Tangled* in order to reinforce and improve my communication skills. So, I listened to Rapunzel’s words trying to copy her pronunciation and expressions. This activity is helpful to make English expressions and pronunciations more natural for me.

In conclusion, getting used to spoken English requires confidence and dedicated practice. Reading a book only with one's eyes and listening only with one's ears is only part of learning a language. From the view of the students, speaking is harder than the other parts of language. Speaking skills are essential for exchanging thought, which starts with communication.