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**My Experience of Learning English**

 I’m still learning English, and I’m sure I’ll never stop learning, because I found it fun to learn a language. And I think that’s what world class teachers do, let the students find interest in learning English, and give them unforgettable experience in class. Here are some of my experiences in learning English, I’ve experienced both traditional and modern way of classes, and sometimes I acquired English and other times I learned.

I’ve started to learn English from my age 7. I was home schooled in Singapore for a year, I had private English lessons 3 times a week. I learned the Alphabet and words like rabbit, lion, squirrel and sentences that I needed to buy ice cream from supermarket. Then I came back to Korea and where there was no English class in elementary school at that time, so I totally stopped learning English. Occasionally I was bragging to my classmates by telling the animal names and ‘how are you?’ sort of sentences. Funny thing is that I even had to go to the restroom to tell them, 1 on 1, inside the locked toilet. Until now, I don’t quite understand why I had to go to toilet to tell animal names in English, either it was too precious to tell everybody, or I was embarrassed.

 After 4 years without learning English, I went to China with my family. I was busy learning both Mandarin and English in my 6th grade. I met one American friend named Tally who loved my mom’s Jangjorim (simmered beef), she was in my school for 6 months and I learned naturally to hang out with her for the most of the times. I was trying to talk in the way she was talking. It was different experience from studying English in a classrooms, it was more of acquiring English then learning. I enjoyed conversation with her, and I wasn’t embarrassed to speak in English at all, from time to time I asked her questions about how to say things in English.

In China, English class was all about memorizing, not only the vocabulary but the whole paragraph. My teacher let us memorize the whole page and there will be quiz or reciting in front of all the students on the next day. Everyone was struggling in the class. I didn’t really like the way of teaching, but luckily I had good memory. Lecture was lousy and no methodology was used, not even the tape listening, it was only memorizing, memorizing and memorizing.

When I turned to 13, I started to listen to English songs, reason was simple,.MTV was the only channel that I liked to watch in China, cause at that time Chinese TV channels were only showing Jingju (Peking opera) or communism. I memorized lyrics, (it was nothing compared to memorizing paragraphs), then I sang the same songs again and again. I learned a lot in this way.

Then I finally graduated college in Beijing and started working in a company. 90% of the emails and communications were in English. I had to be fluent in English in order to do my job at best. I had to argue with many different nationalities, like Indians, Australians, Japanese, Europeans, etc. So I took business English classes in lunch hours at work, my teacher used modern teaching method, so we did a lot of group work and discussions. Although we didn’t get to teach each other, but the students did most of the talking, teacher was just asking questions and getting us to talk. All the students and teacher got close, we became friends in the end. I enjoyed the most and she was my best teacher.

If I become a teacher, first I’d like to give more speaking opportunity to students like my business English teacher. I’ll give assignments to read or write or listen before the class. Because most of the students lack chances of speaking in English, especially if they are not living in English speaking country, sometimes classroom will be the only place that they can speak in English to each other. Second, I’ll use all 3 methods of learning, visual, audio, tactile-kinesthetic. For example, I’ll let them sing their favorite English songs or let them role play with their favorite movies as well. Third, I’ll respect and listen to students, I’ll get close to them. It’s the basic condition to motivate people. Like I was happy to go to English class every day to see my teacher I also want to become a teacher that students can’t wait to see. Learning English should be fun. Only then the students can continue learning even without the teacher.