Three different periods

There are varieties of ways to learn English. I, too, had experienced different ways to learn English. My experience of learning English can be divided into 3 periods. First period is until the age of 10, second period from 10 years old to 19 years old, and the last period is from 20 years old to until now. Each period had own good things and bad things at the same time.

When I was an age of 8 or 9, my mother always turned on the audio tapes to get me familiar to listening English. She made me and my brother to watch movies in English without subtitles, and also made us to read English books like Harry Potter series. I could not understand the whole things that I listen and read, but it kept me to read and listen to English. In this period, I started to get interest in English. I am not sure whether I understood it or learned something from doing all these activities. I think during this period, the purpose was to just get used to listen and read English.

At the age of 10 to 19, I learned English from academy. Of course, we had an English subject in public school, but it was not enough for me to improve my English skills because it just taught the very easy and basic things. Like all the other typical Korean academies did, I just sit and wrote down and tried to memorize everything what teachers taught me. Memorized the form of how we could make a subjunctive mood and all the vocabularies that I learned that day. In this period, I studied for the test, not for myself. I learned a lot, but cannot memorize it all. It was such a waste of time. It was a hard time for me because I was so frustrated to go to academies, but I had to struggle not to lose interests in English.

The third and the last, from 20 to now, I am learning English at school and academies. It was far better than any of my other periods. At school, I learn not only grammars and speaking, but also about history, literature, and the language itself. Professors try to make students to understand about the topic. They watch how students react about their lecture, and try to make them concentrate. For example, they show some videos to help students to understand easily or ask students some questions or ask students to question them. Professors are willing to give feedbacks of students’ work or test results. They ask students to study or read the articles before the class or after the class to make students to understand the subject better and therefore can concentrate and learn more. At academies, I learned what I wanted to learn unlike when I was a high school student. As I didn’t have much experience and chance to speak in English, I choose to learn speaking. This period, I studied to broaden the knowledge of English and also enjoyed studying.

From my experience of studying English above, I learned a few things. Just have students to memorize can make them to know it, but will forget soon. But if teachers or professors have their students to get interest in studying English, they will learn faster and will voluntarily study for themselves. It will eventually make them to memorize better and consequently it is a more efficient way. Teachers should know well about, be aware of what they are teaching. That is the one thing and for another, they should effectively teach their students.