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Great Start with a Great Teacher

The best English teacher I have ever had is Miss Lee. She was an English teacher in the middle

School that I attended in Korea. I met her when I was in the first grade there. At that time, I was in

Early Production Stage; I knew some words but did not know how to speak English. Miss Lee wanted

all the students in the class to have interests in English and to enjoy learning it. She helped us

participate and have confidence in class. Thanks to the way of her teaching and encouragement,

I became more interested in English. At the end of the school year, I improved my English a lot and

reached the stage of Intermediate Fluency.

Miss Lee was a great enabler when most of the school teachers were the explainers who had

their class in a traditional way. She allowed us to choose the topics we wanted to learn in English

and taught us some new words related to it applying the Input Hypothesis. Also Miss Lee

certainly applied Affective Filter Hypothesis to the class well. She wrote a simple dialogue with us,

which included practical phrases. It gave us a lot of chances to practice speaking together and to

present it actively in front of the classmates. She tried to make a class environment as comfortable

as possible for us to speak up without the fear of making mistakes. It helped us make a good start

with English and move up to the higher level with more confidence at the end.

Having many students in one class, Miss Lee had us group up to do the activities in the class.

We did not have enough teaching materials except a cassette player and audio cassette tapes based

on the text book. So what we usually did to make the best of it was a role play as a small group

and learning English songs. We enjoyed those rather seemingly simple activities tremendously

because we worked hard together as a small group and everyone got a fair chance to participate

in them. Through taking part in the process of learning English, we also learned how to support

and help one another. It made what we learned more memorable than ever. In order to teach and

lead such a big class with 70 students, Miss Lee, was very supportive and attentive for an effective

class as an excellent guide.

With great empathy, Miss Lee seemed to understand what we need to improve our English

skills. She applied various teaching techniques such as a role play and group works based on the

integrated-skill approach. It actually helped us pay more attention to the class and increased our

retention rate. As she utilized these teaching methods properly, we were able to work on all four

language skills in English at the same time. Through the school year with Miss Lee in the class, we

learned English so much in a very effective way.

I still remember the class I had with Miss Lee and how active it was vividly. Miss Lee was not

only my first but also my best English teacher. She was “The Enabler” who made us involved in the

class with our own ideas and participate voluntarily. Under Affective Filter Hypothesis, she created

a friendly atmosphere for us to use the language more actively. Also she always taught practical

terms and phrases in various situations of everyday life to the students to keep the class more

interesting and useful applying the Input Hypothesis. Although Miss Lee had to work in a traditional

classroom, she tried very hard to utilize different teaching methods to help the students learn more

effectively and focus on their work. I always think of Miss Lee whenever I start to teach a new class

with new students. It reminds me how wonderful it is to have a great teacher, especially if you are

a beginner. I will try hard to make sure that the students in my class have a great start!