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**The Best Teacher I have Ever Had**

Thinking back to great teachers I’ve met in my life, one teacher comes into my mind immediately. I met him last year in a private language institute for adults. He was one of the leading teachers in an academy who were skillful in teaching whose lecture could fully satisfy students’ needs. He had lots of strengths including attractive appearance, delicacy, enthusiasm toward lectures, and good teaching materials. But above all, there was one thing special about him, which was his positive mindset and authenticity. He had a strong influence on me, and this led me to the decision to become an English teacher.

His class was largely divided into two parts – a main lesson and a group study. Each class always began with a review of previous lecture and ended with a lesson review, namely two review sessions per class. During this review session, he created a friendly atmosphere so that students felt free to give their answers. No one was under pressure to be right. After the review, he taught his students new vocabulary that would be dealt with in the class, and led the main session based on audio-visual and live demonstration teaching techniques. He showed various video clips, explained and demonstrated them and induced students to imitate every detail of the people in the clips – gestures, facial expressions, and even their singing. Thanks to that teaching, some expressions and gestures still remain in my memory. In addition, multiple intelligences could be stimulated at each class because he covered various subjects with different kinds of video clips such as movies, advertisements, and speeches.

He put group study session to allow students to discuss lesson contents of the day with his presence. In this session, students sitting in a group of three or four reviewed the lesson and asked questions with each other, which made the classroom more learner-centered. Sometimes he intervened and gave additional questions to maximize the effects of group study as an enabler. Using this time, he also established a close rapport with his students. Setting group study at the end of the class was a good strategy to increase students’ retention rate in that he was an explainer rather than enabler when it comes to leading the main lesson. Furthermore, every time, he offered his students great supplements such as additional materials on the subject dealt with in the class, and some latest issues in the world. His dedication to the class was obvious and enough to touch all his students deeply.

He was distinguished from other teachers by his EAR (empathy, authenticity, and respect) values, which had fascinated many students including me in spite of depression in a field of English education. Perhaps it was natural for him to respect his students as he was teaching adult class of older learners. But his sincere respect and authenticity moved his students and had many of them finish his 10 months training course despite its relatively long period. In addition, he was a good listener and counselor with a warm heart. He often sent good messages to his students on the basis of his personal experiences and consulted his students authentically. I was once agonizing seriously over whether to become an English teacher or not, he advised me to follow my heart and supported my decision.

Knowing the subject matter well is the fundamental value as a teacher. And there are lots of teachers who are qualified in this. However, there are not many teachers who know methodology in which they can convey that knowledge effectively and let the students absorb it. The most idealistic teacher should have characteristics such as EAR on top of knowing subject and methodology. He is still receiving much love from many students. The reason why he is still loved by his students is the same with this. His effective teaching methods filled with enthusiasm and his characteristic prioritizing EAR have impressed a large number of students, some of which are working towards a goal of becoming an English teacher admiring him.