**My path in learning English**

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I have learned English since I was a child. At that time I usually learned by storybooks and media. Every morning and before bedtime, I would pick up any storybooks and listen to the tape repeatedly. Then I would read the book by myself and speak loudly following the words. After reading, I would bring my own notebook and started to copy what is written. Also, I watched lots of TV shows and movies. One of my favorite childhood TV shows was Blue’s Clues. I would always sit in front of TV and wait till the show to be aired. When the show began, I was not only watching TV show but also following whatever the host did. If he sang, I sang. If he said something, I mimicked every word of his. Moreover, I enjoyed watching Disney movies. As I mentioned above, while watching Disney movies, I would follow what the characters said and sang theme songs. Most of English that I learned at that time mainly depended on visual and auditory.

When I grew up and became a teenager, I started to go to the English academy. There I began to learn about English grammar. In other words, I started to learn English more deeply. The teacher first explained about the rules in English grammar. I listened carefully and took a note what was written on the board. After about teaching 5 lessons, the teacher gave homework to practice. At due date, I would give my homework back to the teacher. After collecting all homework, the teacher started to mark and gave it back to every student putting right answers next to the wrong ones. When I was about 13 to 14, I lived in New Zealand for two years to study abroad. That was the biggest change in my life. Everything that surrounded me was entirely different from where I used to be. At first I had a hard time catching up with classes and speaking in English. However, I never gave up and tried my best to be better in English. Even afterschool, for 6 months, I had a private lesson once a week. After all, my English got much better and I also gained confidence. I would say English that I learned was mainly depended on oral.

I am still learning English. Now as an adult learner, if I look back into the past that I have gone through, I would say what I have experienced to learn English was all successful. But especially New Zealand impacted lots in my life while I was learning English. The first reason was classroom environment. In Korea, most of the students were passive during the class. I was also that kind of students. I would just sit there, listen to the teacher and write down words. Even though I had a question to ask, I could hardly raise my hand. In New Zealand, it was completely opposite. Most of the students were active. Studying in that environment changed my attitude toward classes. I became more active and focus in class. I would even ask teachers whenever I had questions. As a result, I gained more information than what teacher taught in class. The second reason was the teacher. In Korea, academic teacher usually taught the lessons and gave homework to students. There was not much communication between teacher and students during lessons. However, the teacher I was taught in New Zealand was different. Teacher always had a conversation with me related to the lesson. That helped me a lot in understanding about the lesson. While discussing about the topic, teacher gave more chances to me to speak freely. That helped me build confidence and better in speaking English.