**149th WK Tesol class – 이지은 (Jenna)**

I have takenvarious English classes in my life from elementary school until university, andI’d like to share the worse as well as the best experience I had.

I remember oneEnglish class in 2nd year of middle school, which was, I think,basically no help in improving my English skill. She was a typical ‘Explainer’just like most Korean teachers back then and her teaching method was verylimited and monotonous. What she did was, after reading out the conversation orparagraph from the text book, she picked someone in the class and made him/herto repeat it. Then, she simply explained what the words and sentences meant.After a few weeks of class, we were supposed to memorize the whole conversations/ essays in the book and take a test of filling the random blanks from those.

The main reasonwhy it was ineffective was most of students in that class had no chance tospeak out the whole time and there’s no communication between students andteacher. Even if you were chosen to read out sometimes, you didn’t get anychance to say your thought or think about how to create your own sentence. Whatyou have to do was to just repeat exactly what she said. Also, herpronunciation and intonation were pretty incorrect, so called ‘Konglish’, sorepeating after her didn’t help improving our speaking skill. It actually madeour own pronunciation get even worse sometimes. I think her method of takingtest was also one of the factors that made a lot of students frustrated. Sinceyou have to perfectly memorize every single word in the text book, the testresult was not about your actual English skill, it was more like a memorizingcontest. So a lot of my friends in the class just gave up from the beginning.She didn’t care about good classroom dynamic and interaction with her students,which made her class very ineffective.

On the otherhand, one of the best language class I’ve experienced was ‘English conversation’class in the university. It was totally different from any other classes I’vetaken before. It was full of various group activities and conversation sessions– between student and teacher, and between students. The main activity duringthe semester was to write a script and perform our own musical in front ofeveryone. The teacher let us choose our own topic among several options and wecreated a storyline ourselves within the topic. During the class, he walkedaround the room to see if there’s anyone having a trouble or difficulty andhelped him/her find a solution him/herself by giving learning tips or hints,instead of giving a direct answer. I can say the teacher was a perfect exampleof ‘enabler’ and he encouraged students to be autonomous and self-directed. Becausewe had to perform in front of other students and the grade was determined bypeer evaluation and group competition result, everyone showed fullparticipation to make their play successful. We tried to find out more naturalway to talk, more variety of vocabularies and fun jokes even. Also, we utilizedvarious visual aids and created probs to make the stage interesting.

The best thingabout that class was I could improve all 4 English skills; listen, speaking,writing and reading. The class itself was more focused on listening &speaking, but we could also significantly improve reading and writing, becausewe had to write a script on our own, and for that, we did research and read alot of articles and script examples from the internet. Now I think of it, thisclass was a big stepping stone in my long English learning journey.