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Essay #1.

According to the survey on learning styles modality, I am a “Visual” and “Kinesthetic”, and I had the highest score in Kinesthetic learner.

Unfortunately, there were not the English teachers accepting or supporting my kinesthetic character at all in my middle and high school days. As I remember, they were just exact the “Explainer” in the classroom.

Only regarding my character, that was a very sad story, however, there was an effective point for English learning in those teachers’ classroom. Especially, on grammar, these just explanation method is quite useful. As we discussed in our class, if there is a situation that the foreigners learn Korean focused on grammar, we will teach the grammar explanation and would say “That’s the way it is”. Of course, at that time, the teacher taught me the principles and critical points of the grammar, however, there were so many explanations and I had to study and memorize very hard. Paradoxically, such those activities helped me to grow and build my grammar level and skills. But I think about it little differently, it might be possible to implement the other ways to learn the grammar, for example, live demonstration or group activities, etc.

Anyway, most of Korean students would start English learning through grammar explanation without speaking and natural listening. I think it is wrong from here. As we can see from the babies on language learning, they started with natural listening, and then they try to speak, the grammar is last one. So this is the reason why many Koreans speak or use English hard.

By the way, in vocabulary studying, I found the effective way by myself in my high schooldays. That was not a surprising one, just “root-based” vocabulary study. I had started with this study method already, and then after, one teacher and one book said and recommended this way.

As I remember, there were very few lessons or classes for speaking and writing. I could not find quite long and effective speaking classes in my school days. The teacher, she or he was the only one in the classroom, spoke English. Students just listened and wrote down his or her notes. I am aware that speaking is the most important part of the language in nowdays. So there should be a practical and effective training session for speaking, however, most of English classes in Korea didn’t have enough time and spaces to do this.

There were just all of traditional classrooms in my middle and high school, for the first time, I met the modern classroom in my college days. In “University English” classroom, we did the group activities, discussions, and some quizzes, etc. The professor taught us as involver, this kind of class was very interesting and helpful for me.

Just a month ago, I took the class for business English at one English academy, the teacher of the class taught me one method which means “shadowing”. In any videos or recordings, we track the voice of a performer and read one by one late. It’s kind of speaking and imitating the pronunciation. It is a very useful way for me to learn and elaborate my English.

It is essential to say that there should be not a best answer in language learning. But those are far more effective which the active and modern classrooms. Not a preparation for the test, when the teachers are more active, the achievement of the students will very high.