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 “Nobody’s perfect, Talk! Talk! Talk! ”, this is just one of the sentences that I can remember hearing during the times when I was learning English extensively, on my high school years. In the Philippines, we learn English in as early as 4 years old, we started by counting numbers In English and knowing the alphabets by heart. The real deal in learning English started during my high school years. There was traditional and modern setting of classroom for learning English and there is also a combination of both.

 As I remember, all the subjects are communicated in English except for the subject Filipino which is all about the Filipino people, history and grammar. But I just want to concentrate on my experiences on learning English on my 1st year in High school through 4th year. On my 1st year, learning English is not easy even if I had knowledge on simple or basic grammar or vocabulary. My teacher tends to explain everything through lecture about grammar, and we as her student listened and read a lot. As I remember she talked and talked , introducing the basics on grammar ( now, I understood why she did that), we do have books and homework. If I am not mistaken, I did not get anything from the lecture, if there is, it would be very limited, so when examination comes I have to self study to be able to pass, but I do admit in some way it helped because I learned new words and learned about the basics of grammar.

 On my 2nd and 3rd year in high school, it was totally different, the setting in learning English was more intense. The classroom is very active, during this time I was encouraged to talk and make mistakes by my teachers, according to them it is only from trying and making mistakes that I can be corrected to improve. Each person were encouraged to communicate with others students using English, we are given group works, group reports as a team where we used visual aids live demonstrations, discussion amongst our team to convey the message of our topic. The teachers will explain during these years but after that it’s all up to us, they are there to guide, correct and add knowledge. It was great! I learned how to communicate with others, how to deal with situations, using proper grammar nonetheless, and tons of vocabulary words (exaggeration) to use besides the basic words we learned during my 1st year.

 During my 4th year, it was totally different, our teachers encouraged us to read, to listen, and communicate. Not only that they lecture they also made sure that we are involved in everything, I would say that they were mentors to us rather than just our teachers. It was a difficult year but they seemed to make the learning experience so easy. The teachers were expert on what they were teaching, they teach and then makes us do reports by ourselves and with group. Which is really great, because, first they teach, let you work alone then let you work in a group, so before you go to your group you already have your own idea on the subject matter at hand, which would be for sure different from your group mates which would even make it better because now you will have the chance to share what you learned from the teacher and absorb what your group mates have learned as well.

Looking back, it was a very productive experience, I thought the 1st year was useless, but as I go along, the teacher at some point has to teach only, free from interference from the students. The 1st year teacher introduced everything we have to learn, equipped us if I may say. The following teachers cultivated what was planted.