Learning English

at work

TESOL 163

Teacher: Jasmine

Name:Joyce(Eun Jin Jeong)

After graduation high school, learning English was out of my world. Except occasional events, I did not have much opportunity to stay around English skill required circumstance.

But, new change comes without notice. Two years ago, I got this new job for marketing task in a global company. Communication in English is a decent portion of my job. Just like that, I am learning English at work not a school or institution.

It is difficult to have a conclusion whether my challenge is successful or not at this moment in time, but it is obvious that learning English at work has some positive effects, and also has negative effects on development of my English skills.

So, what are pros and cons of learning English at work?

The biggest advantage of learning English at work is that I can learn everything through the experience-based tasks such as conference calls, business trips, discussions, writing e-mails, presentations, and creating documents. And in the course of carrying on these tasks, co-workers and business partners often play roles of my teacher at work as most of them are at the advanced level in English.

For Instance, there are times when one of my colleagues gives a presentation on the new product to my team and business partners. We all listen carefully, take notes, ask questions and try to use the new product if needed. We learn actively what the features of product are, how to play the product and how we explain the product to other people during the presentation.

The second biggest successful factor is on my own motivation. I believe that my desire for a successful career built motivation to keep learning English at work and make progress. I try to remind myself that I love my job and I can love my job more when improving the skill of my English at work.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of learning English at work which made me consider failing my challenge on learning English.

The first negative factor about my learning English at work is that I can’t afford to make mistakes ‘at work’. As you might be aware, office is far from the low-anxiety learning environment to be allowed to make mistakes. For this reason, I hardly speak in English in a meeting or a conference call for important business issues with native speakers. My speaking skill has seen little improvement over the 2 years while my reading and listening skill has have a bit improvement. Miscommunication result after not proper and fluent speaking and writing in English has always been the biggest concern and burden for me at work.

The second negative factor on learning English at work is due to the difference between my English comprehensive capabilities and required and commonly used level of English skill. .

I am often faced with the input beyond my English comprehensive capability at work such as contract reviews. In order to learn English effectively, I need to focus on the tasks to be slightly beyond my current level of English competency,

To wrap things up, there have been some pros and cons for me to learn English at work for 2 years. With the experience I’ve been, I will keep learning English at work by maximizing motivation of learning English and by participating English skill required tasks at work.