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My Best English Teacher

When I lived in Tampa, FL, the United States of America in 2015, I got into the ESOL class that was at University Area Community Center. I met Jim Geskey who was in charge of teaching English for grown-ups there. At that time, he was over 70. He used to support previous homeroom teachers as a volunteer at first, and then he became the homeroom teacher. Literally, he loved teaching English so much. Even though I was a non-native speaker as well as a full time mom of two children, I eventually got Academic Skills 7+ scores, which was the highest stage at the end of his course, thanks to his passion and teaching experiences. In this essay, I will show you that there are three main reasons why he is the best English teacher that I have met so far. First, as an enabler teacher, he allowed all the students to create their own ideas. He did not even boss us around, and he helped us learn faster, and retain new information in a comfortable atmosphere. Furthermore, he taught with a modern style; he was student-centered. For example, he let us pair up or group up, and utilized a variety of learning activities, which was based on what we could face in real life. Therefore, all the students in the class could participate actively and communicate freely. Lastly, he was an effective teacher. He tried to empathize with students and politely correct some mistakes that we made, so we picked up new information faster, and we did not hesitate to complete more challenging tasks. In what follows, I will describe three main reasons in more detail below.

He was a successful enabler teacher. There are three reasons below. Firstly, he did not urge us to follow the standard answers, and always helped us imagine, and figure out the answers in our own ways. Secondly, he tried to stay right next to each group, and listened carefully to what we were talking about, but he did not interrupt us at all. Therefore, we could freely ask him what we had wondered, and keep sharing personal ideas. Thirdly, sometimes he also handed out many materials to deal with at one time. However, he let us find the answer in our way like searching for good information in a book, or looking up information online etc.

He was also a modern style teacher. This class consisted of students from very different backgrounds, especially for immigrants. So, he tried to deal with many real situations that we would face in real life like getting a job, a job interview, and American culture etc. For example, we took it in turns to become an interviewer or interviewee, and we tried to participate in it voluntarily and speak more actively. Therefore, we could be ready for them in advance, and experienced them indirectly. Besides, thanks to his experience based learning, we also picked up various useful English expressions as quickly as possible. Lastly, he gave us plenty of chances to give a presentation in front of the other classmates. That activity was very tough and made us feel very nervous. However, we started to get out of our comfort zone and it helped us level up.

He was a very effective teacher. First of all, he always tried to empathize with students, and put first priority on what was the most helpful information for us in real life. Secondly, he encouraged us to try more challenging tasks, so we could improve our English skills steadily. Thirdly, his attitude for students in the class was very impressive. He tried to respect our background and politely correct some mistakes that we made, so we did not hesitate to pick up new information, and we could keep studying in a low anxiety classroom environment.

As remarked above, he motivated all the students to develop their English skills by utilizing various teaching techniques. He also encouraged each student not to hesitate to make mistakes and to make them express their ideas in English. Lastly, he was a very hardworking teacher to give students as much helpful information as he could because he really wanted us to get used to living abroad as quickly as possible. Therefore, I want to teach as he did if I have a chance to teach in the near future. He really had a great attitude about non-native speakers. I think he was not just a teacher, but he was a role model for my entire life.