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 The great time I spent on with my teacher

The best teacher I have ever met is Mr. Kwon. I first met him in the spring of last year through the application called “Sumgo” which is a place to help people to find instructors in many fields. At that time, I was around low intermediate level, and struggling with learning English. This is because, for me learning English was one of my hobbies, and I did not have specific purpose to learn English hard. I really liked learning it, but did not need it for anything. I just wanted to learn English more, but the motivation did not last long. So, I totally lost my way I should go, and looked for a good teacher to lead me. He introduced himself. He was just back from New Zealand, had lived there over 18 years, and had confidence about teaching English for students. He was very polite and encouraged me a lot from the first lesson.

He was an enabler. He usually said I should be the one who is only focused on the lesson, and he always wanted to be involved when it was necessary or when I hesitated to share ideas. He often emphasized that feeling pressure with learning English does really not help to improve my English, and most of the lessons I had with him were actually great. He told me about having a positive mindset while I was working as well. He said I had to bring my English identity of myself to the lesson. None of the teachers I had met explained it like him, so I think that was the turning point for me to change my attitude for English. Many of his lessons were enough to drag my attention to the lesson.

I think he was a modern style teacher. He sometimes made me be an auction manager of paintings, negotiator for some business and others. This was the most interesting, at the same time, hardest part with him. Once we discussed or created serious stories, and made some scenario with it. It was helpful for my writing and grammar skills. Then we acted with the scenario that was not only acting but also included wearing costumes. He even brought his friend on the phone who lived abroad for our role play when it was needed. I think he utilized lots of methods on it. We always had the lessons at a café and it was not that easy to act or wear costumes. But we both were serious and enjoyed it. I am really sure that most of the time with him impacted greatly on my English skills and retention. I can say by doing that I am more comfortable and confident to express myself in English. One thing I came up with is that he showed me the diagram one day, and it was exactly same with Learner Retention Rates. I am not sure whether he referred to it or not.

He was an authentic teacher. He was enthusiastic all the time, and tried to have empathy with everything I said. After 3 months of his lessons, I got busy with other things, lacked time for English, and gradually some problems happened to me. I told him what I thought honestly. I said I just felt burned out and exhausted but did not want to stop learning English and deal with it. What he advised me was to take some time doing nothing related to English at all, and clear my head. He encouraged me, and let me think about what I had achieved and done constantly. It really worked and I got over it soon. Writing in this essay, I realize how much he cared about me. I am extremely grateful to all of his efforts.

I sometimes question myself that what kind of teacher I could be in the future. Before I met him, I never thought about being a teacher. Once, I read an article, and it says teachers have the powers to make and break lives. I totally agree with it. He showed me kindness, respect, responsibility and humbleness that teacher should have for their students. I guess, it caused me to start thinking about being a teacher, and led me to an unexpected way. I can definitely say that I want to be a teacher like him. He inspires students with a variety of methods. I feel that what I learned from him was not just English but also attitudes as a teacher. I will cherish that memory of those days with him for a long time.