My Hopful and Hopeful Success in Australia

Shin DaeGun(Lana)

689

I learned English for finding a new job in Australia. To me, Australia was a country of hopping kangaroos when I first got there. I didn’t know much about English, so I spent quite a tough time. But, I found it was very successful in the end thanks to the special elements such as friendly class, effective teaching style, and low-anxiety environment.

First of all, the class was not a traditional type that I experienced in Korea. It gave me a totally new concept of class ; welcoming, fun and relaxing. I registered a language school in Sydney and got into a pre-intermediate class. My teacher was an Australian who was very active and passionate in teaching. As his teaching style was very encouraging, students could speak more than him and participate in every activity during his class. It felt so modern to me in comparison with the classes I had before. When I learned English in Korea, most of Korean teachers used traditional teaching style which means ‘teacher talks and students listen’. No wonder the atmosphere of the classes was very boring and strict. There were never enough chances for the students to speak English during the classes. Because of those previous learning experiences of mine, I was so surprised and even shocked with the new teaching style in Australia. If I hadn’t met a teacher like him, I wouldn’t have studied with such fun and got motivated.

Second, the teaching style of my teacher was fantastic. I have to say that I’m a type of tactile and kinesthetic person who enjoys gesture and body language while talking. So was the teacher! Normally I was supposed to hold back that habit during the classes in Korea. Students were expected to be quiet and motionless just like the teachers who only deliver their lectures with even tone and manner during the whole class. However, my Australian teacher was so animated while he was teaching that the students could focus on him and learning. Learning a new vocabulary or expression was so exciting that I could memorize the spelling and meaning so easily. For example, when he explained a ‘plumber’, he took a picture of plumber, pretended he was a real plumber and showed us plumber’s work. The teacher also used various seating arrangements and he always checked the students’ understanding. Moreover, we went to play bowling, got together for the beach barbecue party, and went to play billiard every Friday. While we’re doing it, we naturally practiced speaking and got many sentences for daily life. Therefore, I was able to develop the skills of speaking and listening while I was enjoying the activities.

Last, I was in the low-anxiety environment at that time. I was very stressful to study when I studied English in Korea, because I always concerned on the scores of the test, and the teachers gave me much pressure on me. I couldn’t feel that studying was fun. However, I studied more naturally and comfortably. I didn’t have any anxieties about tests or conversation. In my class, the students were in the same level and we had similar abilities in everything. The teacher wasn’t strict at all and he could control the class with liberal environment. Also, the students from all over the world were very energetic to learn and their participation was so active. It gave the class so comfortable and energetic environment and it got me the success in learning English.

In conclusion, my learning English in Australia was very successful. It was just filled with ‘hopful’ (like the kangaroos) and ‘hopeful’ experiences. It was thanks to the modern class and teacher’s teaching style and the fortunate matching of my teacher and my personality. Also, the low-anxiety of class helped a lot. Therefore, it is very important to have active and comfortable class and choose well-matched teacher. I was so lucky to meet the Australian teacher in the language school. I still appreciate his teaching. I realized that people who want to learn second language need to meet a teacher who is well-fitted for their style of studying. It guarantees the success like mine.