**Why I am Here**

**[96th WK TESOL]\_Kelly Kang (Nayoung Kang)**

I am Kelly, and I've been studying English for eight months. I was not an ordinary student when I was young.

I wanted to be a pianist, so I used to play the piano for three hours everyday. My mom registered me for classes at a piano institute, and I learned how to play the piano when I was five-years-old. I was really good at playing the piano as a child. I took part in a piano concour, and I earned the top prize when I only seven years old. It was a big competition for children. I really wanted to become a professional pianist, so I practiced a lot. I loved it.  When I was 11-years-old, my tutor told my mom she thought I should be trained by a professor because my proficiency level was so high. So I couldn't take lessons from her anymore. Unfortunately, I couldn't work with a new tutor because it was too expensive. The lessons cost seventy thousand won for just 40 minutes. The institute fee 20 years ago was only 30 thousand won per month. My mom told me that she didn't think she could support my piano lessons anymore because they were too expensive. When I heard that, I was shocked because my dream was taken away from me. After that, I just let it go. I didn't study in school.

I became a computer engineer and I need English for work. ----- That’s why I started studying English. I need a professional English teacher to help me improve my English. Since April of last year, my position changed at work. Before changing it, I had a senior manager who was in charge of communicating with other colleagues who work for the head office in U.S. Suddenly he decided to leave the office and I had to take over his role. I am responsible for writing emails and having conferences with colleagues in English .Unfortunately I rarely studied English when I was in school. My university didn’t require students to turn in a TOEIC score for graduation. I didn’t need to study English.

To improve my English in a short time, I needed a strategy. Many Koreans have been studying English for a long time, but for how long they have been studying, their speaking ability is still below-average when compared to people in other countries. So I don’t think their studying methods are effective. I was forced to memorize patterns and whole dialogues when I studied English in school. Teachers made us memorize textbooks for exams because we were evaluated by the scores. The results told us who we were, where we were in school and which level university we would be able to enter. I really hated memorizing the contents in text book that I didn’t understand. Teachers made me memorize and remember the content even though they knew that I didn’t follow their instructions. My high school English teacher wrote so many vocabulary words, and some of them seemed to be of no use to us. We were instructed to fill in a paper with vocabulary words,  and we had to take quizzes. I was sick and tired of that kind of studying, so I need to find a new method. I started researching different methods of studying English in hopes of finding the best one. It was difficult to find the answer. They are all focused on tests like TOEIC and TOEFL. I asked people about English studying methods, some of them recommend that I study abroad, but I don’t think that would be possible for me. I found TESOL and I decided to take the course and teach myself the skills.

I hope my English proficiency will reach an advanced level so I will be able to talk with native speakers without any misunderstandings. I’m going to study hard, learn a lot from the course and my classmates’ experiences, discuss about teaching skills and come up with a lot of good ideas and share them with others. Of course, I really want to be the best in my filed. For this, I need to improve my English skills. At the first TESOL class, I learned listening skills are the first learning skill for babies when they start to learn their native language. I’ve already started applying this rule to my own study methods. I have been listening to English after the class. I’ll learn a lot during this two month class, and I'll try to apply every rule to myself and think deeply about the teaching skills. I hope I will become a good teacher for myself after graduating from the TESOL Certification program.