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Rewarding Moment Learning from a Worst Teacher

I met Mr. Koo when I was in Daegu, South Korea. He was my English teacher for freshman high school. He would always go around with a thick stick and a very serious or angry face. This is why everyone was always scared of him, including me. He would also hit someone who could answer his question during the class telling, "You do not even know this?". In an instant, it filled our classroom with silence. We felt very uncomfortable and difficult to act due to the situation. He told us to shut up every time we were solving an exercise. He did not let us discuss, converse or exchange our opinions. With this atmosphere, we were blocked from learning well.

Mr. Koo was an explainer. He seemed to know everything that he taught us very well. So we just listened, took notes and took exams. We were not allowed to speak to each other neither ask questions. He did not use materials like, pictures, games, videos, cards and others to help our understanding. He would only explain.

Mr. Koo was an ineffective teacher in my opinion. With the reasons above, I believe that he did not create a positive learning atmosphere for us. He did not really listen to students, gave clear and positive feedbacks. Inspired confidence, was not judgemental, was not approachable, and he did not seem to know how well the teachers and students should relate. I think, to be able for students to learn well, teacher and student's good communicative relationship is very important.

If he had various teaching techniques like audio-visuals, live demonstrations, discuss groups, experiential learning, and taught monitoring others, our class’ retention rate would be very high like 90 percent. But he only did lecture and reading. This is why our retention rate remained from 5 to 10 percent.

In my opinion, a teacher should be respectable, someone with sympathy, and sincerity. In addition, a teacher should be like an enabler that involves himself and sometimes be a counselor or a guide to students. But Mr. Koo was not able to do any of those. I also think that the aim of learning is to exceed someone's potential capacity of learning. But what Mr. Koo did to teach us, was not able to let us reach what we aimed for. If he were more responsible when he was teaching us, we would have been able to learn from him better. In the future, if by any chance that I will be a teacher too, I will keep this experience as a reference.