2nd Essay

My personal experience of English learning

“Only English, but make comfortable first.”

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Have you heard about the storybook, “David goes to school?” There is a young boy named David, troublemaker. It introduces rules of school through his school life, which shows the reason that we need to set up rules. Even if the class is for adults, it is important to set rules of the classroom in order to manage students with effect. Especially, English class has two rules in common. They are “only English” and about “attendance.” I would like to share my experiences about it.

To begin with, students should speak only in English in the classroom. When I was in New york, I studied English at private school. There were many Chinese, Spanish and Japanese. It was first time to study with persons from any other country. I was so nervous because I have never talked to others in English at that time. I sometimes went out during the class and went to the bathroom when it was my turn to answer. I was not a good student. Most of the students was lower level, so they did not speak English well like me. Many students talked to each other in their language, whenever they did not use English, teacher said “Only English, no Chinese, no Korean.” Even though, after I became accustomed to speak English, I closed my mouth when any words did not come up. I wanted to improve my English speaking skills, and I kept trying to speak English with my tutors.

After I came back to Korea, I studied English at NY English studio in Jongno for a month. I took a lesson one by one and my teacher was Korean-Canadian. Since she was a good listener, I could speak a lot during the class. However, she was very strict. The class was kind of debate class, and I had problems with coming up words. I wanted to speak Korean words or use a dictionary, but she said “No Korean and No dictionary, you should find another way to speak English.” Everyday she pushed me, and I really stressed out. “Only English” is good, but it was sometimes not a good way.

Secondly, I am often get in trouble with attendance. I am punctual, and I feel uncomfortable when I have time problems. I try not to be late and not to be absent, but an unexpected thing happen. When I studied English at Manhattan, I lived in Flushing. In order to go to Manhattan, I had to take a bus and a train for more than one hour. One day, the train suddenly did not work, I had to take another transportation. I was late, but a teacher said it was my fault. I felt kind of unfair, but I could not say anything. One more experience, it was another private school at Manhattan. I took a morning class, but they changed my class to an afternoon class without a word. I complained that because I had schedule in the afternoon. However, they told me, “we sent E-mail on last Friday.” and “you are a full-time students. Why do you have another schedule?” Since I had F-1 Visa, I was sensitive to attendant. But I could not change my schedule, I was absent for a week.

To sum up my opinion, in order to improve English speaking skills, making an environment to speak English a lot is very important. However, teachers should be tolerant and cheer up students. They should wait for when students are ready to speak. For attendance, teachers should understand students’ inevitable situation. I feel grateful for Ben to understand my situation that I have to be absent next week. If there are many working students in the class, the teachers should not be too strict because they might have no choice.

In conclusion, it is important to follow the policy, but most of all, we should consider students first as a teacher. I believe that if teachers and Students have responsibility and consideration to each other, they will meet with good results.