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My Best Teacher

I met my best teacher in Vancouver, Canada. Her name is Carol Finn who taught English. After finishing my third-year of university, I planned to go to Canada to study English more. I've stayed there for about 1 year and I took her English class for my last four months in Vancouver. I cannot forget her because she made my English a lot better. She used modern techniques during the class, was an enabler who made the best atmosphere of the class for learning, and was an effective teacher with empathy, authenticity, and respect. First, I was getting interested in English by participating in her class actively, and it made me concentrate on the class without being bored. Second, she had not only abundant knowledge of English but also a lot of teaching experience. I think she knew how to teach and manage the class well. Due to her, I had a great experience of learning English at that time.

She was a modern style teacher. Her class had variety activities and group work. At the beginning of the class, she explained what we were supposed to talk about on that day briefly but accurately. And then we were given vocabulary sheet related to the topic. She assigned words to students and let us make 1 sentence per 1 word. After making sentences, we shared them together. If there were some mistakes, she corrected them immediately. After that, each of us had a chance to talk about the topic freely by sharing our own experience which was relevant with the topic (there were different nationality students). We also did group work and played games during the class, which made me fun and involved in the class voluntarily. For example, she divided the class into small groups and had competition for vocabulary quiz. She told the definition of the word, and if anyone of us knew which word it was, raised our hands and answered as quickly as possible. She sometimes gave reward to the winner team.

She was likely to be an enabler according to the three categories of teaching styles. When I took her Business English Course, we should make a group presentation for the final exam. The presentation was about a product which we sold virtually. We supposed that we worked for a company and had to sell one product of that company. We chose the product, looked for the information about the product, organized the whole process, and made materials for the presentation by ourselves. When needing her help, we were free to ask her and she gave us some useful tips. She guided us to a right direction and provided us with information which was not available to us. When we had grammatical mistakes, she pointed out and corrected in a polite way. She was very kind, so I've never hesitated to ask whatever I wanted to know. Her appropriate and positive feedback helped me improve my English.

She was an effective teacher because she had the three core teacher characteristics - empathy, authenticity, and respect. First, she often asked me how I was doing in Vancouver. She cared for me as she knew that I was there without my family. She also advised me to keep studying English after I went back to Korea. She told me that she learned Spanish in Mexico for 1 year, and she almost forgot because of not using it after leaving Mexico. Based on her experience of learning language, she could give me timely and sincere advice. Second, she was a skillful explainer with her own words. Her examples were so concrete for me to understand what I learned easily and precisely. When I did a good job, she complimented me with cheerful words such as I'm so proud of you, and you're one of the best students that I've ever met, which encouraged me to study harder. Third, I felt she was my friend as well as my teacher. After class, I sometimes had dinner with her. Once I brought her to a Korean restaurant, she said that she was very happy to have such a great Korean cuisine and appreciated it a lot. At the last day of the class, she gave me a heartfelt present - a letter and a photo album with her photo. It was really touching. The three reasons of the above show how she taught students effectively with empathy, authenticity, and respect.

Considering my English learning experience through her class, my best teacher, Carol Finn, had a modern teaching style, was an enabler and was an effective teacher who had empathy, authenticity, and respect. That's why I regard her as my best teacher. She made me feel that learning English was very interesting and enabled me to study English with confidence. In addition to learning English, good rapport between she and I gave me an unforgettable memory. I want to be a good teacher as my best teacher. First of all, I want to trigger student's interest in English. I think the more interest students have in learning, the better they can participate in the class. Besides, I want to make class climate positive, supportive, low-anxious but challenging, and encourage students to take part in the class actively with less fear. Under this climate, teachers and students can be more likely to have a good relationship. I'll also do my best to keep studying how to teach effectively by finding multiple adequate teaching ways and applying to the class. Looking back on my learning experience with her was a valuable opportunity to think about deeply what kind of teacher I want to be.