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**My Best English Teacher**

There is a saying. Well begun is half done. It emphasizes the importance of actually starting something to do. Then, what is the other half? In my opinion, that is meeting a good teacher. When I was a senior in my university in Korea, my department changed all the classes into only English lecture entirely. At that time, I could follow the lessons, but I could not answer the professor’s questions. I felt keenly the necessity of studying English, especially speaking. I applied for a leave of absence during two semesters and I prepared for going to the USA urgently. I did not have enough time to arrange the details of studying abroad. I was not sure whether I could do it well. When I had many worries about my English, I met Carol as my first English teacher in the Kaplan, Washington D.C. Carol is my best teacher. Carol taught me to English through various activities and discussion. So, my English had improved a lot. She was always all ears to her students. If we had a difficulty communicating in English, she used to listen carefully and advise us.

Carol was a modern style teacher. My classmates and I could take part in doing a variety of group work. First, we learned some words about a specific subject. One person of the class stepped forward in front of the classroom. Carol showed a piece of paper written one of the words to that person. Then he or she explained the word we saw only by body movement to the others. While looking the motion, we guessed the right word. That was one of the funny activities she presented. Before going to the USA, I had never studied English in such a way that I had so much fun. Another interesting activity is making a sentence or a dialogue script using the word we have just learned. Then we presented our works to the other classmates. When we learned a bundle of new words, we could read, listen, speak and write. So, I could remember the words I learned for a long time. I think Carol was masterful at integrated skill approach.

She was an enabler. She encouraged us to create our own ideas and discuss. She prepared some articles in a newspaper or we did. We read the and discussed our view about the article. She gave us a chance to express opinion evenly. All of us could give our individual opinions actively. My classmates were from different countries, so we had a diversity of thoughts in the class. It was another pleasure to listen to the opinions of people who had different views from me. In my case, I was not good at speaking in English. I was afraid of speaking in a discussion section at the very first time. Carol always created a low-anxiety class atmosphere for speaking. As times went by, I could speak my opinion to the others as I felt free to make mistakes. She enables me to speak English confidently.

She was an effective teacher. She always listened her students’ difficulty while we stayed in the states. She introduced the five stages of feelings the student might felt in the foreign country on the first time. I was very impressive. She let us know the difficulty as we lived in the states in advance. I felt she really cared about her students. One day, my friend wonder why Americans answer “sure” if he says “thank you.” When he listened that answer, he felt bad. That’s because he understood that the answer ‘sure’ means he had to thank the American. He thought that was very rude answer. My classmates, myself included, felt the same way. After she heard his story carefully, Carol empathized with him and explained the clear meaning of ‘sure’ that it is natural that I help you. We understood the real intention and resolved the misunderstanding about the sure. We learned sure is a possible answer to gratitude.

When I look back upon those days, I am very lucky to meet such a great teacher, Carol. She is a modern style teacher, enabler and effective teacher. She prepared a lot of enjoyable activities and we were to be the center in her class. Also, she really cared about us. Before I met Carol, I studied English only by memorizing words. Thanks to Carol, I realized that studying English is not boring, but interesting. Someday in the future, I will become a great English teacher like Carol. So, I will be remembered by my future students as I remember Carol.