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Language Lover

It is a well-known fact that education in Hong Kong is a disaster. When I was a student in Hong Kong, everyone in the classroom always started with the question, “How can I get a better grade or can I use a shortcut to make it easier?” Not everyone in Hong Kong can get admission to a university, and every senior in High School is required to take a mandatory public exam which acts as a cut-off for universities to recruit qualified students. If students are not qualified, their lives as students may “end” at that moment. Therefore, they must fight until their last breath because this is the only way to a bright future. Most people probably know that students in Hong Kong only care about their grades. Consequently, they do not know why they should learn English, why they should communicate with others, and why they should write essays. This is not what we want students to be. If students want to be successful language learners, they should try to get rid of the concept that studying is only for a grade and they should believe they are partners of a language. A successful language learner should demonstrate certain traits, such as seeing the learning process as ongoing and practicing the language every day.

Successful language learners should have the ability to monitor their learning process and what they should do to bring them to the next level. For example, I started learning English five months ago. At the beginning, I did not know how to communicate with others, and I wrote an

essay with a lot of mistakes. Therefore, I started to plan my learning routine of what I should do to improve my skills. Hence, I joined a club and went to a tutor which helped me improve my ability to write and speak. It worked for me because I received some positive feedback from my peers and professors, and they stated that I made fewer mistakes than before. That is how I monitor my learning process to know what my level is at this moment and plan for the future. For the next step, we should try to move to the next level. How should we do that? I started with searching for extra materials online rather than just having course materials. For example, I learned more grammar rules and tenses that I did not know before. A good language learner should look for extra materials online in order to proceed to the highest level.

Every successful language learner must keep practicing the language every day. For example, I can use a word like “conditional reflex” which I learned from my physical education lesson. Our muscles get familiar with the action that we do repeatedly. For example, a basketball or football player shoots the ball more than a thousand times per practice, thus helping muscles to memorize the action. This situation also applies to our language learning. If we want to be a good language learner, we need to keep practicing every day in order to connect to the language with our brain and get familiar with the language. Hence, I keep practicing every day with different people on the campus and I memorize more than 30 words a day in order to expand my vocabulary “database.” Since I have been memorizing and practicing 30 words a day, the language in my essays is more specific and detailed.

To summarize, successful language learners should treat a language as their partner or lover. In order to be a successful language learner, everyone should develop a habit of practicing the language every day and monitoring their learning process. If everyone can grow with these habits, a bright future is waiting for him or her.