

transcript

THE SHIFT



In China, we have a very old proverb that says,

“If you give someone a fish, you feed that person for a day.

But if you teach someone how to fish, you feed that person for a lifetime.”

Never did I think this could be true of learning English...until now.

English Classes in India are mostly lead by the teacher. The teacher is completely responsible for moving the lesson forward. Students give feedback only when asked to do so.

The students have less chance to practise because there are 50 to 60 students in a class.

In Greece, you must take mandatory English classes in high school. The students have homework, tests and exams like the other classes.

There is a lot of memorizing and repeating, but very little opportunity to speak with or hear native English speakers.

I learned English back home in school. I thought I knew it. When I moved to this English speaking country, at first I thought “What language are they speaking? Is that English?”

When I was in college, I realized learning English in the classroom was not enough.

There is a saying in Africa, “One must come out of one’s house to begin learning.” And to really learn English, you must come out of the classroom.

Back home, I was a teacher for adults learning English. I knew that I had to motivate them to learn on their own, to look for English in their surroundings and immerse themselves in it.

I discovered the world of English songs; If I liked the song, I could sing it to myself again and again, and music helped me remember the words or even whole sentences.

I watched many movies with subtitles which made me read and hear the words at the same time.

I started my own granite business and talking to my customers helped me improve my English a lot.

I needed to learn how to build my own website, so I took an HTML course in English.

This kind of learning is totally different, because when you are out learning English in real life,

transcript

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there is no teacher there to tell you what to do – You must do this for yourself.

I took control of my progress and I decided that I wouldn't be shy about it.

There is a saying in the Philippines, "People who do not break things first will never learn to create anything."

You don't have to be afraid. You can get out there. You can do it.

I believe that you can learn to do for yourself what I do for my students – plan, monitor and take control of your learning.

You choose what you need to learn, something that you are interested in.

You can create your own schedule and learn in a way that works best for you.

It's never boring because you are learning something that is part of your life.

Practise real English from real life, not textbooks.

With the right strategies and tools – you can learn English on your own! You just have to be shown how.

There is a learning program that gives you just 30%, and 70% you have to do by yourself – that means, you are your own teacher. This shift changes everything!

The potential is very exciting!