When I entered university and joined the Faculty of Law, my experience of learning English became very different from high school. In high school, I studied English mainly to prepare for exams. I focused on grammar, vocabulary, and reading because I needed to pass the university entrance exam. I studied “exam English” a lot. But this kind of English was not very useful for real communication.

At university, my way of studying English changed a lot. I now have native English-speaking teachers. This is a new experience for me because, in high school, all my English teachers were Japanese. Native teachers speak English with natural pronunciation and intonation. Sometimes it is difficult to understand because they speak fast or use words I don’t know. But I think listening to real English is very good practice. Also, I can learn about different cultures and how people think in other countries through their classes.

Another big change is writing essays in English. In high school, I only wrote short sentences or answered questions in English. I didn’t write long compositions. But now, at university, I have to write essays about legal topics or my opinions on social issues. Writing essays is hard for me because I need to organize my thoughts in English and use correct grammar. Sometimes I don’t know how to say what I want, so I search for words or ask my teacher for help. Even though it’s difficult, I think writing essays is good for improving my English.

Through these experiences, I realized that English is not just for exams. It is a language that people use to communicate in real life. When I write essays or use English in class, I feel like I am using “real English.” It is different from the English I studied in high school. Grammar and vocabulary are still important, but now I also think about how to express my ideas clearly and naturally.

I am not good at English yet, and I still make a lot of mistakes. But I feel more confident than before. I can understand native speakers better now, and I can write longer essays in English. Also, I enjoy learning English more because it feels useful for my future. In the Faculty of Law, we sometimes study international law or read English legal documents. I think this is good training for my future career if I work in a global field.

In conclusion, entering university changed my way of learning English. Studying with native teachers and writing essays gave me new challenges and chances to grow. My English is not perfect, but I think I am improving step by step. I hope to keep learning English as a living language, not just for exams.

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