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The importance of English in the future

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These days English is becoming extremely important in Japanese society. This is evident in the high English scores in university entrance examinations and the focus on English in compulsory education. The importance of English in Japanese society will not change in the next decade. In fact, I think it will become more important in the future.

Will my English language skills be applicable in the midst of such a trend? To be sure, my English skills will not be accepted in the society. My English skills are ridiculously low and too lacking to have a conversation in English. In a lecture called “Tutorial English,” which started in the fall and focuses on English conversation, I lack English vocabulary and take a very long time when explaining things using English. These days, translation apps have now evolved considerably, so there may be no need to study English as long as we have a translation app. Yet, between being able to speak English and not being able to speak English, the former is by far the cooler choice.

Therefore, I want to be able to speak English. How on earth can I speak English well? I will describe two of several.

The first is to listen to English every day. There are many benefits to listening to English every day. First, it improves my listening skills and makes me familiar with the sounds, rhythms, and intonation of English; this will make me able to understand natural speech when it is delivered by native speakers. Also, learning correct pronunciation and intonation by ear will help improve my own pronunciation skills. In addition to this, I will build vocabulary naturally as a learner acquires new words and phrases in context. The routine of engaging with English audio will positively influence not only listening but also other abilities like speaking and reading. In addition, learning English through movies and music can turn the process into a fun experience and easier to sustain over time.

The second one is Reading foreign newspapers. There are also many advantages to it. First, I get to learn current events in English, which helps I improve my vocabulary and reading comprehension. Since the articles cover a wide range of topics, I can pick up specialized terms and expressions in a natural way. Such knowledge can also be applied to TOEIC. Another benefit will be that I will directly grasp the cultural and social backgrounds of English-speaking countries; thus, my international outlook will be broadened. Furthermore, it will give me more chances to come across grammar samples that would lead to accurately expressing myself in English.

These are my ideas on how to improve English. I would like to make use of these methods to study English during the spring break.

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