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Importance of learning English

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Currently, it is estimated that 1.5 billion people speak English on a daily basis, which is about 20% of the world's population. Unlike Chinese, the second most spoken language in the world, English is not confined to one country, but is used daily in about 80 countries and regions. Furthermore, since English is studied in many countries, it is clear that if you can speak English, you can communicate with people from all over the world. From the above, we can see that learning and speaking English is very important in today's globalized world.

 As I mentioned above, there are a lot of merits in learning English. Then, I will now describe two experiences that made me realize the importance of English.

The first is my local experience. Since my hometown is a World Heritage site with temples and shrines, and tourists from all over the world visit my hometown, I had opportunities to interact with foreigners from a very young age. On trains and at stations, I was often asked how to get to destination or how to buy a ticket. However, I could not answer those questions because I neglected learning English at that time. Then, I felt ashamed of my inability to speak English and felt that I had to make an effort to speak English. Furthermore, I felt that I should learn 　 English in order to be able to tell attractions　of Japan to foreigners at tourist spots.　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　 　　　　　 . The second experience that made me realize the importance of English was when I became a university student and started working part-time. I am currently working at a movie theater, and since my theater has many foreign customers as well as Japanese customers, and I speak English with foreign customers, I have many opportunities to use English in my daily life after entering university. However, since I cannot speak English fluently and am not good at understanding it, I cannot communicate smoothly with foreign customers and often cause them trouble. From this experience, I realized that learning English is meaningless if I cannot actually use it. After entering university, I began to focus on practical skills such as speaking and listening in my English studies. And, little by little, I have recently been able to talk with foreigners without problems.

Through the above experiences in my hometown and part-time job, I am acutely aware of the importance of English. When I was a child, I neglected learning English because I thought it would only be used overseas. However, as I became a university student, the range of my activities widen, and I realized that there are situations in Japan where I have to use English, and that I must learn to speak English. I am going to make an effort to improve my practical skills, such as listening and speaking, so that I can speak English fluently in this day when English has become increasingly important.

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