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English education

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English is the language which is the most spoken in the world, so it is better to be able to speak English. However, Japanese English education is said to be bad. Actually, I cannot speak well in English. What is wrong with English education in Japan.

First, I introduce current situation of the education. In Japan, people start to learn English at Junior High School and include college education, they normally study English for 10 years. It seems so long. In spite of that, you know, most Japanese people are not able to speak English fluently. Of course, after studying English for about 10 years, people can understand simple greetings and words. However, there are very few people who can communicate naturally in English with foreigners. Monbukagakusyou aims for junior high school students to acquire English proficiency at Eiken level 3, and high school students to acquire English proficiency at Pre-2 level. According to the report of Monbukagakusyou, actually, only 47% of junior high school students have ability at Eiken grade 3, and only 46% of high school students have ability at Eiken Pre-2.

Second, there are some problems with English education in Japan. The first issue is that lack of voice learning. From the perspective of native English speaker, it is often said that Japanese people’s pronunciation is not the same. This can be said to be because Japanese people are not taught proper English pronunciation in the first place. In other words, because there are extremely few educational opportunities for audio learning, listening and speaking skills tend to be low. As a result, they are unable to effectively use the wealth of English knowledge they have acquired, including vocabulary, idioms, and grammar. Another problem is that exam preparation is seen as important. In Japan, there is a strong tendency for many teachers and students to take entrance exam for the purpose of learning English. The content of the entrance exam is centered around reading and writing. As s result, classes in school tend to focus on grammar or become a place to teach exam-taking techniques. In other words, it can be said that English is something that is necessary to get a good score on entrance exams, and is not seen as a communication tool. Because of this, many students lose interest in English after taking the entrance exam.

Finally, what can people do to improve this situation? In order to overcome the problems with English education in Japan, it is necessary to get children used to the sounds of English from an early age. To do it like this, it will be more effective to do some creative work not only at school but also at home. For example, people play English news or listen to English music for their child. In addition, focusing on communication is one successful way. This is because English is a communication tool and it is important to convey intentions and information. For this reason, it is necessary to learn English while imagining in what situations people will use it. When they emphasize communication, they are able to practice speaking naturally, because the emphasis is on output.

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