

Methods of English Learning during the Transition from Senior High to the Great Learning

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Abstract: As a freshman, I've just finished the heavy schoolwork of Senior High school and I'm preparing myself for getting accustomed to the new life of college as soon as possible. And when it comes to study-the core part of college life, especially English learning, we have to attach great importance to the fact that English learning is a lasting process which lays emphasis on accumulation and application. In substance, English is more a language or a kind of tool which could be used to arm ourselves than a subject set in the syllabus since primary school. As mentioned above, I suppose there won't be huge differences in learning English in college, but that doesn't mean there is no difference. Delicate differences indeed exist. Of course, as far as I'm concerned, maybe what we're more inclined to is the similarities and further learning skills. And personally, I'd like to talk about the methods of English learning during the transition from several main aspects below.

1. Introduction

As the proverb says "A good beginning is half done. ", and without much exaggeration to say, positive attitude towards learning any subject plays an essential role in the good beginning as well as the following process. So if you want to get somewhere in English studying, I think it a must and basic step to always maintain a positive attitude.

2. Phonetic Symbols

There is a common phenomenon that although many of us started learning English from an early age, some even begin before the period of kindergarten, few of us have ever learned phonetic symbols systematically. In Senior High, we may not pay enough attention to this part, we may not get to know that phonetic symbol is a written character used in phonetic transcription of represent a particular speech sound. International Phonetic Alphabet for English is divided into DJ phonetic symbols and K. K phonetic symbols. The former one includes 48 phonetic symbols, where there are 20 vowels and 28 consonants. The latter one includes 42 phonetic symbols, where there are 18

vowels and 24 consonants. I believe having general knowledge of it can be helpful to the recognition and recitation processes of words and even to the whole English learning process.

3. Words and Phrases

Word is such an essential and significant part in English that it couldn't be ignored at all. Without the basic element-word, we can't form what we want to express, let alone communicate with others. In this case, why not just take learning words for granted. For both high school and university, I suppose we need to recognize and then recite new words to accumulate our vocabulary, at the same time, it's necessary to revive those we've learned before from time to time. Nevertheless, the vocabulary of university is much wider than that of high school. Let's take the specific number for example, the required vocabulary for high school is usually from 3000 to at most 3500 and when it comes to university, the vocabulary for CET4 is around 4200 and that for CET6 is about 5500. During the whole stage of university, our accumulation is expected to reach 6000. So take it seriously.

As for phrase, it is associated closely with word. Originally, most phrases are derived from the corresponding words, and phrase is also called word group. Moreover, mastering the meaning and usage of phrases is quite beneficial to understanding the language. There are quite a few phrases that we may fail to understand just by telling their appearance, namely the main part-the central word. This requires us to find the regular patterns and then learn them by heart. Further more, what's worth mentioning is that some phrases which looks simple usually have deep and far-reaching meanings, or they can be humorous. To sum up, memorizing set collocation plays an important role in grasping phrases, and phrases also plays an essential part in English learning.

4. Grammar

As we all known, grammar has a reputation for being so difficult and boring. Maybe this is one of the reasons why many students don't take an interest in English and some students are unwilling to pick English up again after the College Entrance Examination. Of course, we can't deny that learning grammar is indeed tough and knotty, however, it's a must step toward English learning and we should attach great importance to it if we want to learn a language systematically and nicely, English included.

Since we've set out to start the learning journey in university, we must prepare ourselves for meeting the challenges and difficulties. Although the requirement of grammar learning isn't so high, it doesn't mean that we can ignore the fundamental process of grammar learning. On the basis of the study in high school, what we should do is to carry on the work and extend the range of learning grammar, which involves concentrating on the field we may never heard of or only have a ambiguous concept of. Only when we put great efforts into what we're doing, can we see the dawn of progress and improvement.

5. Sentences

I think a sentence is might as well said to be made up of tree parts:words, phrases and the application of grammar. No matter how short or how long is a sentence, it can hardly take shape without them. To be exact, the eight elements of a sentence consist of subject, predicate, predicative, object, attribute, adverbial, compliment and appositive. When we put sentences together in a logical and appropriate order, we can apply the knowledge we've learned to life.

6. Listening

Listening is also an important practical part of English. Compared with listening practices in high school, as far as I'm concerned, the listening of college English is more complicated and difficult, for the contents of listening material are richer and the speed of it is much faster. Not only should we concentrate our mind when listening, but we should also get familiar to the pronunciations of different expressions during the daily practices. I believe listening is a comprehensive part which could test our ability to some extent.

7. Conclusion

To make a conclusion, English learning is a long process which can accompany us all the way through our learning process. Moreover, it's a accumulative process that needs patience and attentive spirit. What I mentioned above is some of my views on English learning.

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