

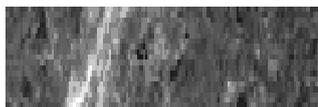


# THE VOICE OF APPLIED ENGLISH

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*Don't be afraid to see what you see.* — Ronald Reagan

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## Inside this issue:

## Creating an English Speaking Environment by Rita

1 **Creating an English Speaking Environment**

In Taiwan, students spend a lot of time studying but have little chance to use English. It may be because that students in Taiwan lack an environment to practice what they have supposedly learned. Here are some suggestions to help students create an English environment.

2 **Our Disappointment**

One way is getting a part-time job where students can use their English ability more often. For example, working in an American style restaurant or other jobs which require the use of English. In this way, students can use their English in a real setting.



3 **Our Favorite Classes**

4 **College Degrees = More Money?**

Another way can be to open one's mind and meet exchange students on campus. Most students in Taiwan tend to be shy when talking with people, not to mention talking with foreign exchange students. Students should change their attitude and be open minded. Spending time communicating with foreign exchange students will greatly improve one's English ability. Students can also experience different cultures during the conversation.

5 **Living Near the Night Market**

A third way is that instead of spending time watching some Taiwanese local TV shows, students can choose American movies or television series. And, of course, English subtitles are preferable. This will help students improve their English conversation, listening, and pronunciation.

6 **My Volleyball Life in College**

Some students still believe that only by studying abroad can they master their use of English. However, in Taiwan there are also opportunities for students who want to master a new language. Students can practice English outside of school, the workplace, and even at home. Maybe students don't really need to study so much English—they just need to be given more chances to use it. The more they practice and use English, the better their English will become.



## Our Disappointment by Karen & Polly

Have you ever looked forward to your college life when you were a high school student? Frankly speaking, I feel disappointed about my college life, and so does one of my classmates, Karen. There are several reasons why we feel dissatisfied about our college life.

First, we don't learn much information from our classes. When teachers give their lectures to us, they sometimes only focus on textbooks and can't finish their lectures on time. For instance, teachers don't interact with students. They may deliver lectures as soon as they can while students' minds go blank, and they start phubbing.

Do teachers care about all students' actions? In our college, it doesn't seem that teachers take students' actions highly. Teachers always hurry to finish their lectures for fear that they can't meet their schedule by the mid-term or final exams. Hence, they don't correct students' actions. If they correct their students, they would not meet their schedule on time. On the contrary, in our high school, our teachers tended to correct our actions. The reason was that they hoped students could learn not only extra information but discipline. Consequently, they may want more freedom as they are college students.

Next, as an old saying goes, "Unity is strength." However, in my college life, everyone goes their own way. Take our English singing competition as an example. To do our best, we needed to practice again and again, but when we had to get all the students together to practice, some were late and others absent. Therefore, the final outcome didn't pay off.

Finally, we find that we don't have much passion for our future. In the past, our parents said that if you don't know what you are interested in, you can enter college to find your interests. However, in fact, after entering college, we need to take part-time jobs to make money for our tuition. As a result, we stay up late. Then we can't get to school on time the next morning and skip classes. Are above mentioned conditions good ways for us to find our interests? Absolutely not. We may often feel lost about our future.

In conclusion, we all get frustrated about college life. The boring lectures, the lack of teamwork and no prospects for the future are our reasons for what we think about our tedious college life.





## Our Favorite Classes by Jane, Peggy & Vivienne



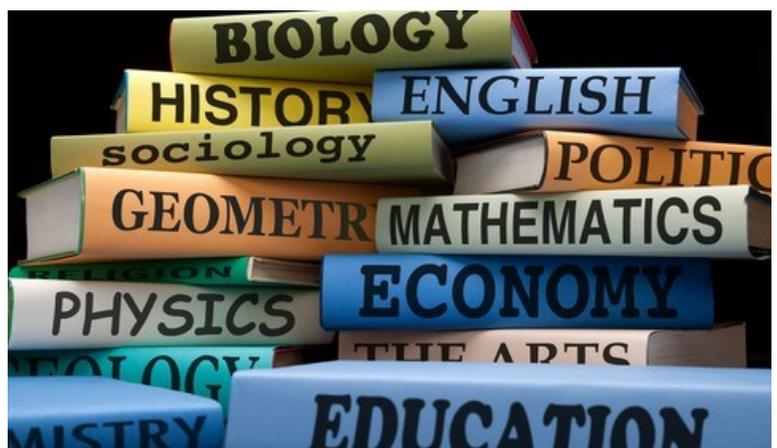
There are many subjects we can learn in the university. Some are required courses, and others are optional. Although all of us are currently majoring in English, our favorite courses are different. Here are three examples about our favorite courses.

My name is Peggy Hsieh. My favorite subject is basic Japanese. There are some reasons why I like Japanese. First of all, I love the Japanese language very much. For example, I listen to Japanese songs almost every day. In the primary Japanese course, I can hear Japanese and learn how to speak Japanese for two classes. It is very wonderful! Second, I am interested in Japanese culture, and I can learn about it from this class. For instance, I can learn that Japanese people talk to each other very politely. I

also can learn to speak and write the names of Japanese food. It is really interesting. The last reason is that I really like Japanese comic books and animation. If I learn Japanese very well and keep practicing it, I can read Japanese comic books and watch Japanese animations. I don't need them translated into Chinese. The reasons above are why Japanese is my favorite course.

My name is Jane. My favorite course is writing class. There two reasons why I like writing class. First, it helps me to know more about the form of paragraphs. For example, a paragraph must include a topic sentence, several supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence. Second, it can improve my writing ability. For instance, now I can write a paragraph much easier. To sum up, for knowing more about instruction and improving my writing, writing class is my most favorite course.

My name is Vivienne. There are many reasons why I like Chita's reading class. First, he is a humorous teacher. He can always make us laugh out loud and make us want to listen more. Second, I think he is a brilliant teacher. Somehow I don't know why I get more attention on his class. He can keep our attention. He is funny, but this doesn't mean that he only says some jokes to us in his class. Besides, not only is he an interesting teacher, but he lets us know many things that are not in the book! He shares lots of matters that happened to him when he studied in New York. He gives us different kinds of information about foreign cultures.



Everyone has their favorite courses. It is good that you can choose many kinds of classes in college. Though we are majoring in English, we still have other classes we can choose.



## College Degrees = More Money? by Kelly & Jessie

Nowadays, education in Asia is very essential. A college degree is taken for granted by everyone. People in Asia usually have a stereotype that a higher degree can get much more money. Since a college degree is so important, they try their best to finish their studies. Besides, their parents always put much pressure on their children. Most students may choose a college to meet their parents' expectations. But sometimes the expectations are not what students want.

Not everyone who graduates from college can get their ideal job. It is also said that education does not mean everything. Employers are much more emphasizing on professional skills instead a higher degree. Besides, some students may have difficulties at the beginning of their jobs. That's because they are not familiar with their new jobs. Furthermore, some students even say that their jobs are not related to their major in college. Most students have to cultivate other specialties in this competitive society.

Here us an interview from our cousins' experience. One of my cousins said that without a college degree, she would have lost some job opportunities. So she told us we have to study hard and get a high degree. Because she is an executive in a company, she thinks a high degree proves that you will have high status in your job. If you have a lower degree, you will not have a good job in the future. Furthermore, she also said that she easily found a good job after she graduated from college. In this realistic society, a high degree is absolutely needed or you will be out of luck in this cruel world.

However, our friend who does not have a college degree has another opinion. She only graduated from senior high school, and she did not enter a college. She decided to help her mother with running a steak restaurant. For her, she can earn more money during the four years instead of spending time in a college. Compared with the diploma, she focuses on professional skills more. Once she ever told me, she thought studying in college was just a waste of time. She wants to accumulate job experience, and then she will learn how to cook from her mother. In the near future, she hopes to learn more about cooking. She is planning to study cooking abroad. A college degree for her is not that necessary. She also disagrees that a college degree means more money.



A college degree does not mean that you will be successful in the future. In fact , many companies want a talented person. Then they will see your degree. Does a high degree mean more money in the future? I think this thought is not acceptable. I saw some news on television programs. A lot of people who graduated from their college, but they have difficulty to find a good job. They are unemployed. We ever heard an educationist say, "You must learn everything that is useful to you." If you do not, you can not compete with your coworkers. We have to develop our talent. In the future, our talent must be useful to our job.



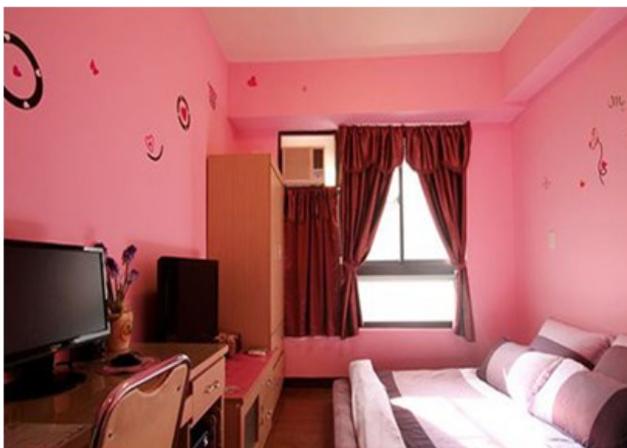
## Living Near the Night Market by Jane, Joyce, & Miley

It's convenient for students to live near the night market. There are many reasons why living near the night market has benefits. For example, there is a variety of food you can choose from, and you can't miss the stinky tofu. It was voted the third best food for students. It tastes crispy. Pearl milk tea is popular with teenagers. Pearls are divided into big tapioca pearls and small pearls. These two pearls have different tastes. Oyster omelets are also widely known in the night market. This dish consists of an omelet with a filling of mostly small oysters, and it is special to the spicy and chili sauce. There are also popular snacks in Taiwan, and they are usually found at night markets or roadside stands.

The second reason it's good for students to live near the night market is so you can have convenient transportation. At the night market, there are a lot of parking lots, and you can also take a bus to the night market. You can not only walk but also take a bus to school. It takes five minutes to get there. The third reason is that the night market is near the school. Because the night market is close to many schools, students are the main customer group. In addition, you can go shopping, buy some clothes, shoes, and accessories there. You can also play ring toss game, darts, claw vending machines, and shooting. If you have high scores, you will get some prizes like a big dolls or toys. Also there are special areas for furniture, photo shops, and pet shops. These goods are sold at less expensive prices as compared to regular stores.



On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of living near the night market. The rent prices for students will be a little expensive. But the benefit is convenience. You only have to walk three or four minutes to get to the night market. Although some apartments do not include a washing machine, most apartments have these facilities.

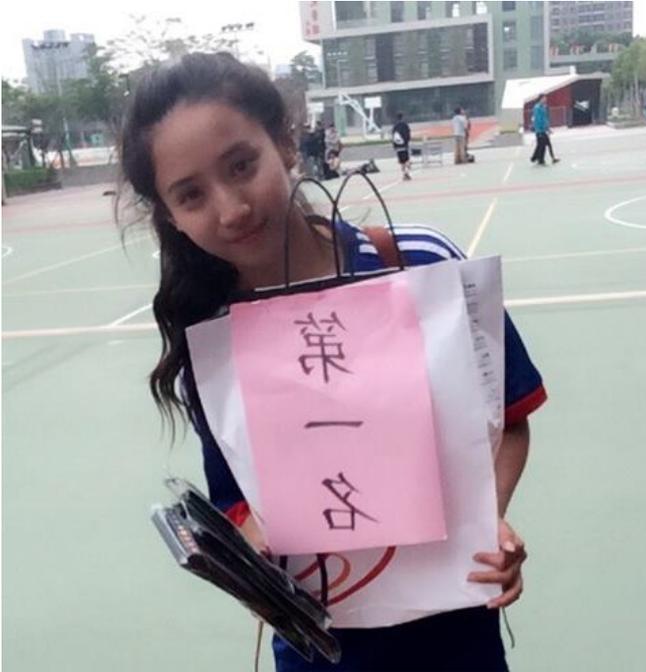


If students want to reduce the costs of rent, they need to save electricity. When they go out, they have to turn off the electric power source, or the if you don't want to pay higher rent, you can choose an apartment which is cheaper. But the space may not as big as you want.

The night market can be a good area for students to live. It's convenient to shopping and schools. And when you feel bored, you can hang out with your classmates, friends, or family.



## My Volleyball Life in College by Penny



Sport is one of that favorite activities around the world. I love all kinds of sports. Sports can be really fun and is good for health as well. When doing sports, I feel good, and it helps me relieve stress. There are many types of sports, such as hiking, climbing, basketball, or swimming and so on. However, my favorite sport is volleyball.

I've been playing volleyball since I was in elementary school. I joined the school dodge ball team, and the teachers trained us every single day in order to win the games. I had my own team, and we really got along. I am so happy that I had such a wonderful memory for my childhood. However, as time went by, I have grown up and had few opportunities to play ball games just like I did when I was young. Fortunately, there was a girl who took me to play volleyball in college. That is to say, my volleyball life had just started.

I've never played volleyball before, but I almost fell in love with it when I first gave it a try. Nevertheless, things didn't go well the first time I tried to play volleyball. I got a lot pain and some bruises because my wrists couldn't endure the gravity when the ball fell off. What's worse is that I didn't know how to play it professionally and the best way to control the ball. My mother wanted me to stop playing when she saw my wounds. But I really love playing volleyball because it brings me happiness. One year later, I made a lot of friends and found my own team, and we recently took part in a contest. I felt really nervous and excited when the game was coming. About two weeks later, we finally won first place, which we tried so hard to get!!

To sum up, volleyball is so fun and an exciting sport to play. I've never thought I would play it in my life. However, playing volleyball has become my everyday routine at school. Although it's possible to get hurt playing volleyball, I can still see many people play it every time when I go to the court. Now, I still play volleyball almost every single day, and I think I won't stop doing this until I graduate.



Articles in this edition of the AE newsletter were written by students in the four and five year programs in the Applied English Department.

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