

The greatest moment of my GET tenure in Korea

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I had my second open class on May 25, 2011. This time we had to invite the An-dong English teachers to come and watch the class. Then, afterwards, we had a discussion reflecting on the class where constructive feedback was given by the EPIK teachers and Korean English teachers. I didn't know how many people to expect to observe the class but over 10 teachers came and filled up the entire back row of chairs in the classroom. Since our classroom appears smaller than other English rooms I have visited in An-dong, we had hoped that many people wouldn't come in order to avoid overcrowdedness. A few of my Korean colleagues wanted to come but lack of space prevented them from doing so.

Miyoung Teacher and I decided to conduct our open class with the food science dept. students because they are the best English learners in the whole school. They are always eager to learn and they actively participate in class so I enjoy teaching this great group of pupils every week. Their behavior proved even better for the open class because I informed them of it beforehand and they felt the pressure of doing well since they were being watched. They made me so proud of them.

I taught my open class lesson on "Visiting the Hospital." Miyoung and I deemed this lesson pragmatic for the students because it's something that we all do at some point in our lives. Everyone must learn how to communicate his or her illness symptoms to the doctor and to receive the doctor's advice as to how to improve one's health condition. I taught the students the meaning of "symptom," and showed them a video clip of an actual doctor/patient scenario. Then, I went over several health problems including the common cold, pink eye, earache, headache, insomnia, acne, back pain, sprained ankle, stomachache, and fever. Not only did they learn the symptoms, but also the antidote for these medical

issues.

Finally, Miyoung and I performed a role play for the students in order to demonstrate the goal of their activity in which they had to construct a patient/doctor dialogue with their group members. The teams with the best skits were asked to perform them for the class. We enhanced the role play by using medical toy props (stethoscope and IV needle) borrowed from Miyoung's children. The class ended with a review worksheet distributed to students to test their understanding of the material presented during the lesson.

Following every open class, it's customary for the Korean English teachers and the GETs to assemble for light refreshments while reflecting on the overall outcome of the class. We discuss the lesson plan, the related activities, the teaching style, and the behavior of the students. Visitors verbalize their observations of the class offering constructive criticism that serves to enhance the teachers' ability to teach English as a second language. The atmosphere of discourse is relaxed because we all support each other and want to help each other become the best that we can for the sake of the students.

Miniature tomatoes, homemade cookies, and juice beverages nicely covered the four rectangular tables that were set up like a roundtable, ideal for dialogue, open forum style. We waited for the principal to give his remarks, and then I provided a self-evaluative spiel and Miyoung did the same. Afterwards, almost everyone in the room offered feedback, both pros and cons, which caused my co-teachers and me to think about the way we teach. Generally, we received rave reviews of the class, especially since most teachers' have low expectations of the students at our school because of their inferior ability in studying English. All glory, honor and praise be to Yahweh God for this success! I take no credit of my own; He always causes His children to triumph in everything they set forth their hands to do.

To view additional photos from my open class feel free to visit my school's website:

<http://www.hansaenghs.kr>. Hope you enjoy the pictures taken by my wonderful co-teacher!

