

Through Mika-sensei's Lessons

Ikuya FUJII (D2)

Prof. Mikaela Huntzinger (Mika-sensei) mainly taught us how to pronounce English sounds (F-V, R-L, TH, schwa sound, etc.), which Japanese people are not particularly good at. Mika-sensei also taught me subtle nuances and tips that we could not get from videos or articles on the Internet. As a result, my listening skills have also improved greatly, for example, it has become easier to distinguish between R and L sounds. Mika-sensei also especially emphasized regarding pronunciation was the understanding of syllables. By carefully understanding these syllables, we could clearly convey technical terms that were difficult to be understood by ordinary people. In addition, I received advice on how to structure my poster and oral presentations. Finally, together with the participating students, we gave a presentation in English and received timely feedback from her on pronunciation, phrasing, and structure. Through these lessons with a native English speaker, I was able to gain confidence in my own English conversation ability and gain the problems that many Japanese people face, which I believe will have a great effect on my future English learning activity. There is no doubt that the lessons I learned in this lesson will be an extremely valuable opportunity in my future life as a researcher.

About Group Lesson for English Speaking

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I took part in this group lesson for English speaking because I will make a poster presentation in English on the international conference this December. The lecturer, Dr. Mikaela Huntzinger, has deep understanding about the large differences between English and Japanese. So, she carefully taught us the way of English pronunciation, especially the sounds unique to English such as r/l sounds, f/v sounds, and th sounds. Additionally, she provided the class meeting our requests. I could practice my poster presentation and discuss about the contents with the other participating students. After that, she gave me a lot of kind and useful advice and powerfully encouraged me. Although I could not attend only two of the five classes, it was very significant and valuable opportunity for me.

Thoughts after the group English lesson with Mika-sensei

I attended the group English lesson from Nov. 15 and 16 at Kyoto University, Katsura Campus. I really enjoyed this lesson and learned a lot. First, I learned how to make a successful poster and talk. I tried to make easy-to-read posters and practiced several presentation skills such as "take-home message". Second, I practiced difficult pronunciations such as r/l, f/v and th sounds. At first, I could not pronounce these words properly. However, I was able to improve a lot thanks to mika-sensei giving me good advice and correcting my pronunciation over and over again.

Overall, I had experienced and learned a lot of things during this lesson. I would like to make use of what I learned in this lesson in my future presentations. Furthermore, it was a good opportunity for three students from different laboratories to interact with each other. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the JGP office members for organizing this lesson under the pandemic and to Mika-sensei for her careful teaching.

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