

2019 School Opening (Evening Division)

Good evening, everyone. This is the second time we meet. I hope now you are more familiar with the environment in Wenzao. Your challenges with language learning start tonight but you should not be afraid. I am going to share with you some secrets of learning in Wenzao, that is how you can learn well.

First of all, open your heart.

You can try all possible ways of learning. The way we teach here may be very different from your past experience or from the ways students are taught in other universities. For example, we use the target language for instruction. In an English class you must listen, speak, read, and write in English. This may seem very difficult to you at first, but the whole-language environment is also the most effective way of learning. When you don't understand, you simply raise your hand and ask. The teachers are willing to help you. Never think that you are stupid. In fact, when you don't understand something, your classmates are also the same, and you are helping them when you ask.

Another example is you will try to use some information technology to help you learn. On our cloud-elearning platform, there are options of distance learning courses, and when you miss a class, don't forget you can learn and review using this facility. Learning is possible whenever and wherever you want to learn. This is especially helpful to you when you are busy with your job.

Second, try learning by doing.

You should remember that there are no shortcuts in language learning. Sitting in the classroom never guarantees that you can pass the tests or that you can finally graduate. Therefore, the ability to learn is more important than the knowledge that is stuffed into your brains. You may make mistakes in words or sentences, but that is exactly how we learn. We learn from mistakes and to avoid mistakes. Practice makes perfect; the more you try, the better you get in language proficiency.

Also, you need to be brave enough to express your ideas. Language shows human intelligence and it is not a repetition of someone else's words or ideas. You may struggle a lot when you try to talk or write about something in your own words. However, language is like the wild monsters in Pokemon Go. When you catch them and master them, you will have a sense of great achievement. With different kinds of treasures in your pocket, you can enjoy the power that a language brings to you and have more fun in learning deeply and freely.

Third, build friendship.

One of the best ways to learn is to learn with friends and classmates. That is the reason why we have a lot of assignments that should be completed by pairs or by groups. Collaboration with other people requires good skills and attitude and is especially important to career development. In every class, you need to find a few classmates that you can study with and you will discover you actually learn better with friends and from friends. This is what we call "peer-learning"; you help each other to understand the lessons, solve problems, share resources, etc. In addition, you will also have a more pleasant life when you develop your social network. Friends encourage each other when they feel stressed in learning. For evening students, the nights are long but you are not alone or lonely.

Finally, don't give up easily.

Perhaps it is not very hard for you to enter Wenzao for study, but sometimes only half of the students will graduate four years later. There are many reasons. You quit school because you are too busy at work, or because you get married and have new plans, or because you lose the interest in the studies, or because you can't learn well. As an adult, you certainly have a lot of responsibilities, but please don't take these responsibilities as an excuse for not improving yourself. Various learning resources, counseling, and financial support are offered in time of your difficulty and need. Victory belongs to those who face challenges and stand up to fight to the last moment. In fact, every year quite a few students from the Continuing Division successfully transfer to our Day Division. Some outstanding students even would like to take courses offered by the Day Division. Learning is life-long and you should never waste any chance that you have been given.

Before I end my talk, here is the quiz. What are the four secrets I just mentioned this evening? **1. Open your heart. 2. Try learning by doing. 3. Build friendship. 4. Don't give up easily.** Thank you for listening.