

Volunteers: *Cliff, Charlotte, Ruth, Sister Sage, Sister Simmons

Students: Hyunju, Yoko, Jing sun, Natalia, Guosheng, Younghye, Satoko, Xi Lin

The Discussion topic today was “Weather and the Seasons.”

The Story-Pronunciation Lesson used “Gloves, a Must for Foodworkers.”

Notes from Cliff:

We began by going over and sometimes discussing Weather Idioms, idioms that used weather terms but most were not about the weather. The students took turns reading the idioms, some of which raised questions or caused discussion. That exercise only took about 40 minutes, so we began to discuss the questions on weather, climate and the seasons. We talked about typhoons and hurricanes, highest and lowest temperatures (both in degrees Celsius and degrees Fahrenheit) in their countries, Pittsburgh’s weather conditions, and what sorts of climates existed in their home towns or cities. After that we stopped for the break (10 minutes late).

After the break, part of the group went with Ruth and Charlotte for pronunciation practice and the rest stayed with Cliff and the LDS missionaries to continue talking about climate and seasons. We finished up at 12 noon.

Notes from Ruth: Pronunciation exercises:

Charlotte and I did the pronunciation exercise with Guosheng and Natalia. I thought the pronunciation method was good, having them hear us speak it first, then them speak it, then them read it. We were able to catch errors immediately.

I was sitting next to Natalia in the large group discussion, and she definitely had a higher comfort level using words she wasn't sure of when she would say it to me first, then repeat it to the group after I confirmed what she was trying to say was correct. I wonder if those of us helping should be sure to spread out and sit among students a little more. That might also help with correcting pronunciation errors, with us making the correction immediately, but quietly so we don't embarrass students.

Guosheng had no idea what a taco was. Natalia explained it was 'Mexican food' and Guosheng just said, "Oh, okay, it's a Mexican thing!" Those two seemed to work together well, interacting with each other comfortably and talking directly to each other.

In particular, the small size of the group today gave Guosheng a bit of a comfort level with speaking. Interestingly, Natalia told Guosheng that she could understand him much better when he spoke slowly. I also noticed (and told him) that when he read, I could easily understand what he was saying, perhaps because it forced him to speak more slowly. He commented that he got nervous when he was just talking, so would speak faster. He did seem a little more confident than last week.