

Volunteers: Charlotte\* & Ruth,\* Libby, Jon

Students: Hyunju, Yoko, Guosheng, Marie, Yuka, Rainbow, Jing sun

The Discussion topic today was “Medicine and Healthcare”

We used story, “**Calling in Sick**” in Group “A” for listening and pronunciation practice

For the first half of the class, we all stayed in one group. Charlotte & Ruth provided a diagram of the body for them to label, a list of phrases useful in making appointments, and We discussed healthcare in America vs. healthcare in their home countries. In all but Shanghai, residents do not have a PCP; they see whichever physician is at the clinic or hospital when they get there. Some people are starting to make appointments online to see specialists but for everyday issues, they just take a cab or walk to the clinic. Healthcare in Korea is government subsidized and the people pay a small amount each month for the insurance plus a small amount for the visit. The government tried to turn health insurance over to private industry but the idea was defeated by election. In China, too, people just go to the clinic when they need to. Hospitals have Emergency Rooms but clinics do not. To see a “famous” doctor or specialist, they need to make an appointment a few weeks ahead of time. No referral is needed.

After the break:

Group B- We talked about questions the office would ask when you called for an appointment (“Why do you want to come in?”); how to describe symptoms (this is something they all said was difficult), things it was very important for them understand, like allergies, and prescription medications. We also talked about being sent to get blood taken and X-rays. Charlotte showed them her medic alert bracelet, which fascinated them.

Group A- Yoko chose to remain with the “B” group. She fears Yuka will not speak English if she (Yoko) is present. Also, Yoko is getting much better at jumping into the conversations among the most fluent students. Ruth related after class that Yoko contributed very well today.

The “A” group used the story, “Calling in Sick,” for listening and pronunciation practice. Guosheng’s main problem in listening is not hearing the articles, pronouns and endings of words. He has problems with making the sound differently between “her” and “hair” and with the long O sound in “comb.” Yuka did much better today and missed a few of the same things as Guosheng but not as many as she usually has. Her pronunciation was clearest of the three. Rainbow had a hard time hearing the flow of the words and could not easily repeat back several words in a row. Then each of them read the story out loud so they could see the words as they said them. All did much better this way.

I then gave Yuka an Easy Read Newspaper from September, which Guosheng and Rainbow already have, and asked her to read the first half of one of the letters-to-the-editor out loud, one sentence at a time, while the other two did not look at the paper. She reads very well and was a taskmaster at correcting the others. ☺ Then Rainbow read a few sentences of the same letter before class ended. I promised Guosheng he can read first for the class next time. It may have helped to see the words as they heard the others struggle to “hear” them. They liked turning the tables and we’ll try it again.