

Conversational English: Wednesday, October 5, 2017. Class # 26

Volunteers: Jon,\* Cliff, Libby

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

The Discussion topic was **“My Neighborhood”**

In Group A, we used the stories, *New Shoes* and *A Sick day* to practice listening and pronunciation skills.

We began with discussion of what their neighborhoods look like. Most live in housing developments not far from the church, where there are sidewalks and large homes. Two of them live in different townhouse developments in Wexford. Hyunju’s townhouse community doesn’t have a playground but there is a large open field where anyone can play. Yoko said she meets some of her neighbors walking her dog but since her dog doesn’t get along well with other dogs, she apologizes for him a lot. In the last development she lived in near here, ten years ago, there more activities, like progressive dinners. She liked that and would like more interaction with her American neighbors. Guosheng and Jing sun live on the same street in a development with a lot of Chinese residents. Their neighborhood celebrates Chinese holidays together. Rainbow told us she never locked her door when she went out for her daily run in the mornings but two of her neighbors were recently robbed of Chinese valuables when their homes were burglarized so now she locks her doors. Guosheng said his home in China was in a tiny village where the same families had lived for over a hundred years. Everyone in the village had the same last name. Jing sun lived in an apartment in China and said everything was so crowded and very noisy. At six a.m., the day starts with traffic, people talking, dogs barking, etc.

Marie told us she lives in a townhouse and recently got a new neighbor who is also Korean. She was able to help her neighbor the night before class by watching her children during a family emergency.

After coffee, Cliff distributed the Easy—Read newspapers. For next Thursday’s class, they will each be prepared to tell the group about one or two stories or letters in the paper. We told them to prepare two stories in case someone else chooses the same one.

We then gave the group the choice of pronunciation practice or working on idioms and some new English phrases. Guosheng and Rainbow wanted pronunciation practice so we went to the library.

Cliff’s group went over some idioms related to neighborhoods and also a list of English phrases related to sports.

For pronunciation, we used the story method and I read the sentences from *New Shoes (level 1)*. Next, I gave them each a list of minimal pairs comparing short i with the sound of long e. I selected random words from the list and had them point to the sound they heard. They both seemed to be better at hearing long e than hearing short i, but have trouble making the long e sound. I had them accentuate the mouth shape of long e and they were saying it a little better. Then I let them take turns reading the sentences in a second story, *A Sick Day (Level 0.7)*. I stopped them to correct pronunciation and they stopped each other whenever a word or syllable was missed.

We rejoined the group and everyone helped us to clean up and put tables and chairs back in place.