

Volunteers: Cliff* Libby Jon

Students: Young hye, Hyunju, Yoko, Rainbow, Marie, Jing sun, Natalia, Guosheng, Xi lin

Discussion Topic: **Newspaper article**

Listening/Pronunciation Practice: **A Shot in the Arm (level 1) and
(repeat) Cell Phones at Work (level 1.5)**

The students took turns reading about the latest hurricanes from an article in the Easy Read News. When we asked if anyone had prepared a topic from a news article, only Yoko had done so. She told us about the article in the September News about Elon Musk, his ideas that would revolutionize many things in our daily lives and his desire to save the world from extinction. Yoko is a big fan of Elon Musk but Hyunju said she read some criticisms of him, saying he is a dreamer.

We had a coffee break a bit early because Jon had to leave and wanted to work on pronunciation a bit with several of the students.

After the break, Cliff provided idioms for discussion.

Rainbow, Guesheng, Natalia and Jing sun all chose to come to listening/pronunciation practice. We started with a new, level 1 story, *A shot in the Arm*, about a visit to the doctor.

Natalia had the most trouble, which is understandable since she is so new to English. Natalia told me today that she does not learning by reading but by listening and speaking. Unlike the others, she did not study reading and writing English in school. So the discussion and the pronunciation exercises are valuable to her. Hearing the correct sentence structure, when we use the stories, may also help her to form better sentences. (I don't know; it's just a theory I have.)

Natalia has to leave around 11:15 to pick up her daughter, so it would be helpful if we could keep the smaller groups we intended, for both discussion and pronunciation practice, unless there are very few people there, as there were on Tuesday. That way she would have more opportunities to speak and also to work on listening and pronouncing words. This also is better for Guosheng and Rainbow, who need more time to think of what they want to say during a discussion.

I also used a story I had used previously with this same group, *Cell Phones at Work*. I don't think it was any easier for them this time but this is a long process, of course.

Guosheng worked on the "L" sound at the *end* of words, which is difficult for him. Most of the students miss hearing the endings, pronouns and articles much of the time. In this group, Jing sun was the best "listener." Before they left, I gave them each a four-page illustrated list of words that sound alike and we will discuss it next time to find out if some of the words are new to them.