

Conversation Leaders: Cliff Schoff Regis Smolko Jon DeMartino
Students: Young Hye, Yoko, Hyun-ju and Jungmi.

Cliff arrived at 9:30 as planned and met with Young Hye for an extra half hour, since she has to leave at 11:30.

Jon asked Jungmi about her visit from her relatives. She was able, with the help of Hyun-ju, to tell us how they were related to her. She also told us they all drove to Niagara Falls. We asked about the other students and whether they get visits from family. Yoko's son and mother-in-law have visited her here. (Her 20-year old son lives in Japan with her mother-in-law.) Young Hye has family and in-laws in San Jose who visit her. Hyun-ju and her family travel to Korea to visit family several times a year. In response to a question about the foods they ate, she said eating out is very cheap and the food is very good so they had no need to cook.

Jon asked if anyone had heard any idioms or other phrases they didn't recognize since last we'd met. Yoko said she thought she'd heard an idiom on the news, when someone referred to North Korea's leader as a "smart cookie." She had figured out the meaning but wasn't sure if it was a positive comment or a negative one. Regis explained the term and Cliff added that calling someone a "smart ALECK," on the other hand, was *not* a compliment. Young Hye was happy to learn this new idiom, "smart cookie," because it's easy and she said she can start using it right away.

Jon handed out practice sheets that utilized nine of the idioms we went over last week. They wanted to work on the practice individually in class and then go over them. The sheet had nine sentences, each with a blank to be matched with an idiom from the list. Hyun-ju had studied the idioms at home and quickly went through the practice. Young Hye needed a little assistance from Cliff, and Yoko seemed overwhelmed at first but was helped by Regis and later, after Regis left for Bible study, by Barbara, another church member who had joined us to see if she might want to volunteer for the conversation group. When all were finished, we went around the table and each student read one sentence. Jungmi had been looking up words and filling in some of the answers and was able to read us the last sentence and to fill in the correct idiom.

The second practice sheet was a matching exercise using some of the medical terminology from last week's session. All students completed these rather quickly. They were asked if they liked having worksheets or practice sheets in class and all said they do. Jungmi listened and continued to look up some of the words in her e-dictionary. We discovered that she can read English and can write a little. Hyun-ju said Korean students study English in middle school. I've read that it's common for some students to be able to read and write English, because of classes in their home country, but to not be able to speak or understand the spoken word very well.

We handed out a page showing a diagram of the major organs in the body, including descriptions and functions. While these students know what the organs are and generally what they do, they don't know the English words and terms used, i.e., secrete, enzyme, gland, nutrition, absorb, etc. Each student read aloud about one organ. They asked a few questions and seemed to understand the terms well. They took the worksheets home.

We then broke off, with Jon and Jungmi going to another table and the three others remaining with Cliff and Barbara for general discussion. Discussion topics were taken from the two lists available in the folders. One list concerns their way of life in their home countries and the other was about flying and airlines. Cliff kept the students talking by commenting and asking questions.

Jungmi- (In the one-on-one with Jon) I brought a Korean/English picture dictionary for her to take home and look at. It's not very fancy but does have Korean words as well as their English equivalents and she seemed to like it. We looked through parts of the dictionary, identifying words in a picture of a house and yard. She knew the names of the primary colors I showed her on a Rubic's cube. I didn't present any other colors yet. We also worked on "position words" such as behind, beside, between, on, in, under, over and through. I brought some items from home and demonstrated by placing things in various positions to each other. The most difficult concept for Jungmi was "between."

We also worked on money, beginning with counting change. Jungmi knew nothing about American money so it was a good chance to get her started. We used all denominations of coins and a dollar bill to build various amounts. She caught on pretty well. She'll need review of this and then we can start with how they are written, ex., \$1.28, 25¢.

Next Class: Thursday, May 11- Marilyn, Linda & Cliff.

Yoko will bring a friend or two to class. One is at very basic level, like Jungmi, and Yoko asked me (Jon) if I could work with her friend as well as with Jungmi. I said I can, but told her there may be another former tutor, like Linda or Joyce, who would like to do it.

The students said they can't be here next Tuesday, May 16, because the schools are closed for Election Day.