

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Conversation Friends Notes

Class # 89

Students: Yun young, Mika, Rainbow, Hyunju, Yoko, Jing
Volunteers: Joyce * Charlotte, Jon

Joyce began by briefly talking about the Palm Sunday Service at the church.

The volunteers took turns reading the letters from ESL students on page 4 of the EEN. Students chose to either read along or just listen.

Joyce had written the “bold” words on the board for explanation and discussion.

The first letter dealt with knowing someone’s age by their looks. We discussed that for a few minutes and then Joyce passed photographs around and students and volunteers guessed the ages of the people pictured. The two words, “disabled” and “pregnant” were discussed and explained.

The second letter was about a job “detailing” cars and we explained the word “detail” and its use in this context and others.

At one point Jing mentioned she will have dental surgery to have wisdom teeth removed and how difficult it was for her to understand the dentist’s explanation. She brought her husband in and the dentist then spoke even faster. She really couldn’t understand him. We discussed the words, “anesthesia” and “anesthetic,” since she wasn’t sure how they were pronounced or the exact meaning.

Rainbow wanted to know when to call 911. She has had occasions when her husband was away and she had heart issues but knows she can’t speak well enough to call 911 and be understood. We discussed her problem for a few minutes and then took a break.

Following the break we decided to role-play calling 911. Jon was the operator and most of the students practiced calling with problems about health, fires or accidents. It might be a good idea to do this again and to even let the students take turns being the 911 operator so they can practice asking the questions and better understand what the operator needs to know. The questions asked were:

What is your emergency?

What is your location?

What is your name?

Is the person awake?

Are they breathing?

Are they bleeding?

Are they having pain?

Do they have any medications?

The students enjoyed the practice. One of them couldn’t recall her address when asked, indicating how stress can make you go blank. This is especially hard for ESL students.

Before we left, several students were talking with Rainbow and planning to help her to call her PCP for an appointment. She had thought she could see her PCP only once a year.

One student asked if you pay for having an ambulance come and we explained that many municipalities have a plan you can pay to join and that some health insurance companies may cover ambulance services. We suggested they phone their insurer and ask about coverage and also check with their municipality about membership in an ambulance plan.

One of our new students, Mika (MEE ka) was a nurse in her country and was able to add some ideas to what the 911 operator might suggest you do when you call.

It was a good discussion about a topic that is important to everyone. It was obvious that more medical and emergency-situation practices would be valuable.