# Title

English, Leadership and I

# Body

## Introduction

At the last meeting, TM Shishido introduced himself that he was a fat boy. In contrast, I was very skinny when I was a boy. It is very difficult for you to imagine it from my current shape.

How skinny I was? My parents worried that if wind had blown I would have been blown away.

Now, even a typhoon cannot beat me.

Today, I would like to introduce myself and how English and leadership are helping my daily business

## School Days

When did I start learning English? It was a fourth grade in elementary school. My mother offered me several kinds of lessons. Swimming, Soroban, Calligraphy (Syuuji) and so on. Among those, what attracted me the most was English.

I had studied at the nearest English school and had enjoyed learning English. One day I came to know that there was a very good English lesson program on NHK Radio. It was “Kiso Eigo.”

The program was so nice and my grandfather came to my room every morning and listened to the program together. Without his help I am very much sure that I would have quit after three days.

Thanks to the program, I got confidence to learn English at junior high school.

Do you think it was good for me? No. The confidence brought me a serious side effect. What was it?

“English lessons in junior high school were very boring!!”

So, I started reading comics during the English lesson

Sometimes, my sheet was just in front of the lectern, but still I read comics in the same way. If I had been a teacher I would have beaten me.

The time had passed and I started my career as an IT engineer.

## My Career and English Reading

It was 1999 when I started my career as an IT engineer at the small IT company.

At this time I have improved my English reading skill.

Why could I improve my skill? The reason was the project I was first assigned to. It was:

* Develop IT solution using Internet technology with only two people, I and my supervisor. But both of us were novice to the Internet

“How crazy it was?” I could not understand why my boss thought the brand new engineer could succeed the project. But English reading skill helped me a lot.

There was no sufficient technical document in Japanese .However I could succeed the project. Because I could get enough information from English websites and books.

## My Carrier and English Writing/Listening

After several years, I moved to second company which is a global IT consulting company. And I had a great chance to improve my writing and listening skills

There were internal mailing lists to have technical discussions in English.

I joined those mailing lists and share my knowledge as much as possible. As a result, I got a chance to attend the internal technical conference held in United States.

What impressed me the most at the conference was not a technical one but attendees from all over the world. I met French, Italian, Indian and so on.

Every non-native speaker had their own dialect and it was hard to understand. However they were so confident.

From this experience, I learned that the most important point is what I speak, not how well I speak. If audiences are interested in the topic, they will listen to me even there are some small mistakes.

## My Career and English Speaking and Leadership

Now, I am at the third company and assuming a project manager role.

My boss and most of my colleagues are Indian.

And as a project manager, I need to lead my team to achieve business results.

Therefore, the challenge in my career is to improve my English communication and leadership skills.

On February, I attended a seminar and the instructor said “You can improve those skills. But you need a practice. And toastmaster is the best to practice those.” That’s why I joined the club.

When I was preparing the script, I came to know that my boss was used to be a toastmaster. He saw my toastmaster manual put on my desk and agreed that toastmaster is a good way to practice skills I need to perform my job.

In this way, I have developed my English skills and I am willing to improve those through toastmasters