

Mao Kimura

Professor. Mary Cudahy,

EWRT 1A

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## A Challenge Makes a Life Change

I chose ~~an~~ <sup>the</sup> 18th-floor button and arrived at an unfamiliar place. The bright orange sign saying ~~“EC San Francisco”~~ <sup>greeted me and</sup> gradually appeared to me as I walked toward the entrance of the language school. One of the teachers <sup>^</sup> said, “Welcome to the school! You will have a good ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup> moment with us here.” Since it was ~~the~~ <sup>my</sup> first time ~~for me to live and entered~~ <sup>entering a</sup> a school in a different country, her words were just pressure for me rather than encouragement. I ~~recall~~ <sup>recalled</sup> that I ~~would like~~ <sup>wanted</sup> to go back to my country as soon as possible. ~~However, it was only that I did not~~ <sup>At that time,</sup> know ~~yet~~ <sup>I spent in</sup> how significant the days ~~spending on~~ <sup>being</sup> language school would be for my growth. Especially, ~~having been~~ <sup>being</sup> an ambassador of the school taught me the importance ~~of the~~ <sup>overcoming</sup> ~~challenge.~~ <sup>the language barrier.</sup>

I graduated from high school in Japan in March 2019. A month later, I stepped into America for the first time in my life and started to study English in a language school in San Francisco. The first two months of school ~~were~~ <sup>felt</sup> like half ~~of a year~~ <sup>interacting with new people</sup>. It was much longer than I had expected. Firstly, it took me a long time to get used to ~~a new human relationship~~ <sup>People not being able to understand what I was saying</sup>. The ~~environment of not having been able to speak Japanese~~ <sup>environment of not being able to understand what I was saying</sup> put stress on me. Even if I spoke to them, there were many times when they did not understand my English. Whenever I faced those situations, I lost my confidence to make ~~a friend~~ <sup>new friends,</sup> and there was ~~me who did not enjoy~~ <sup>leaving me unhappy with life.</sup> my life.

June 2019: Three months have passed since I entered the school. I can say that I had not found enjoyment in life yet. However, at the same time, I felt impatient. ~~That is because~~ <sup>At this point in time,</sup> ~~My~~ <sup>My</sup> English skill had not only improved ~~for~~ <sup>s</sup> but also ~~I~~ <sup>I</sup> had a few friends that I could count ~~on~~ <sup>on my</sup> by.

explain this!  
It's a good opportunity  
for us to hear what  
you thought or  
felt

hand. It was just then that I saw a poster that promoted ambassador recruitment in the bathroom. It shocked me strongly <sup>by the time</sup> and ~~when I noticed~~, I had already applied.

A week later, ~~five new ambassadors including me~~ <sup>I and five others</sup> were selected and started work.

Their work was similar to the ~~school~~ <sup>student</sup> government, and it varied from welcoming new students to leading a school activity. All the tasks were hard for me, but I did not want to ~~escape~~ <sup>give up</sup>. So, I

started to overcome my anxiety to interact with people by imitating the behaviors of other ambassadors. I spoke to various people from over the world ~~beyond the difference of age~~ <sup>all of various ages</sup>. I used body language ~~x~~ and I kept smiling. ~~Continuing this routine~~ <sup>After enough practice,</sup>, I gradually got used to talking with others in English, and I could even correct mistakes that I had not noticed until I spoke.

August 2019 ~~It was~~ <sup>the complete opposite of</sup> the month that rang the ending gong in my days of the language school. The last month of the school was ~~inverse~~ <sup>like time went by quickly</sup> when I had entered the school. I felt ~~times~~ <sup>were extremely short</sup>. So, I recall that the morning of my graduation was nothing special.

However, when I was called ~~my name~~ <sup>an announcer</sup> by a ~~moderator~~ at the graduation ceremony, saying,

“Mao Kimura. Congratulations. You were an ambassador and contributed your energy and work to the school. We are proud of you!” When I heard it, the satisfaction that I could not express by words rose to me, and at the same time, it was a moment of being ~~admitted to my~~ <sup>recognized for my</sup> efforts. In the early days of ~~enrollment~~ <sup>enrollment</sup>, when I ~~escaped from~~ <sup>avoided</sup> making an effort, I did not know

that the challenging spirit would bring gifts. I could enhance my confidence in speaking English, activeness, and even have ~~friends that I could no longer count by hand~~ <sup>more friends than I could count by hand.</sup>. ~~Then~~ <sup>more comfortable</sup> if I had not applied to the recruitment of a school ambassador at that time, I would have ended ~~the~~ school without those memories and growths.

“The key to life is accepting challenges. Once someone stops doing this, he’s dead,” according to Bette Davis, American actress ~~of the film~~ <sup>in the film</sup>. From birth to death, people face many difficulties and troubles. It is easy ~~not to make a challenge to fill the pleasure of a moment~~ <sup>to avoid challenges to make the present more comfortable</sup>.

doing so does help you grow.

However, ~~it does not give any lesson to the people.~~ Therefore, I could learn the significance of challenge in my experience and make it bright by myself.