Let’s sketch

In the Sept of 2008 I visited Berlin. All hotels in downtown were reserved out. So I went to a small hotel in a small town nearby Berlin. It was pretty good except one problem: the waiter and the waitress can’t speak English and I can’t speak Germany. How can I order? I thought and thought and found a solution: I draw what I want on a paper like this. **<show the picture>.** The waiter smiled and said “OK”. He understood me very easy. From that day I found drawing is a very good way for the communication. And I began to like drawing. Maybe it can’t be called drawing, it is sketch. I sketch in the meetings. I sketch when I have some ideas. I sketch when I did not know how to say. I found sketch is so good and it can solve many problems for me.

Sketch can help us in the company.

Firstly sketch helps us to express ourselves on the meeting. Sometime when we talk about some technical issues, I find sketch is more effective than words. We can describe a component with just a simple picture like this, **<show the picture>** but it will need more than 10 sentences to describe it clearly. Next time when you find something different to say, you can try to sketch it on the board.

Secondly sketch helps me to remember what other said on the meeting. A Chinese idiom says “a pen remembers more than a good brain”. When I do notes I found sketch is more effective than only text. When I sketch and text at the same time I receive more information and can connect them together. Later I learned the dual coding theory from Allan Paivio. In this theory our brains receive visual and verbal information at the same time. These form a complete picture in our brain. And this can provide more details. So I can recall and remember more from the sketch later.

Thirdly sketch makes me focus on the meeting and understand more on the speaker because sketch is more effective than text. When I try to text what the speaker said in, I find I can’t catch them and always los them. Mouth is much faster than hands. But when I sketch I found I can follow them. I can grasp the keys points and record them easily because sketch is more effective than text. And more I become more focus because my brain and my hands are working hard at the same time. I have no time to think other issues.

Sketch can help us in our daily life.

Firstly Sketch helps us to record our life like a dairy. But compared to dairy sketch is not so formal and more interesting. We can sketch our feelings, our stories, the happiness or sadness of the life. Yuzhou, an EZFM talk show host, published her dairy in a sketch book. **<show the book>** It is colorful, interesting and attractive. I finished it in just 2 hours.

Secondly sketch helps us to organize our thoughts and spur some new ideas. We can sketch our ideas, our thoughts before we write down. We can change the sequence and re-organize them easily by just drawing some lines. We can have the whole picture before we go down to the details. And maybe we can find some new ideas from this whole picture. Sketch has no limit on our imagination. We can draw anything as our will. We can draw a cat with 2 heads and they are quarrelling.

Thirdly sketch is easy and intuitive. Children can understand sketches before they can read. They began to sketch before they can write. My daughter didn’t like brushing teeth. So I sketch this picture to reminder her. **<show the picture>** It is more effective and interesting than words. Sketch is not painting. We do not need make it perfect and beautifull. We just need to outline the ideas. It will be OK if others can understand you.

Please put down your mobile phone in the meeting. And pick up a pen and a paper; sketch what you say and what you hear. Then you can find you remember more, learn more and benefit more. And please take a pen and a note book in your bag with you. Sketch what you feel and what you think. Then you find how interesting the life is.