***RIWI.*** *03, 2024*

**GATES CLAN**

*David Francisco Blandon Mena*

*English class. Test 01, ‘Script for Audio recording’*

**PERSONAL INFO**

Greetings. My name is David Francisco Blandon Mena, I am 19 years old, but I will be 20 in May, so let’s say I am already at the “second floor of life”. I am from Medellin, Antioquia, which is a place located in Colombia. However, all my roots are from a department called Choco, from the same country, and these roots attach me to a really beautiful and hardworking collective known as afrodescendants.

Right now, I am not only a student from Clan Gates, in Riwi. I am also studying a third semester of my career in the ITM, named Technology on Software Development. And, in addition to that, after completing my studies about programming, I am going to start another profession, which is Crossmedia Design.

I had worked for a time in a bilingual call center, but nothing else. To be real, I feel like I haven’t work in life. However, I have a really big ideals and expectations.

Since a young age, I been moving on visual arts environments, with the intention of dedicating my life to this field, and more kinds of creative productions. I like drawing, but also video, music, fashion, digital content, architecture and literature. I am not a person of one thing, I really like expanding my horizons, and that’s the reason why I am here, at Riwi.

I really think I can mix art, design, and technology, in any of its forms: videogames, 3D animation, AI, or even a common application or web page… And build my life project from there.

**MAIN MOTIVATION FOR LEARNING ENGLISH**

Basically, my main motivations for learning English are two. First, to expand my range of communication and employability. As English is defined as an “universal language”, it works perfectly; like a net that connects individuals, communities, and artworks. We could think that it is only useful for understanding American ways, for example, but it can also be helpful to barely start a consequent interaction with someone from ANY place in the world, and that is really powerful. Now, also we all know that markets abroad the country are mostly from English speaker companies, exchanges or projects, and it’s really important to be prepared if someday you have the opportunity of collaborate with one of these. Second at all, I am a person that really enjoys from knowing other cultures and having access to different kind of information, specially art. The more I can get, the best for me, so since I am a teenager I been on my own process for learning English.

**BIGGEST CHALLENGES**

The biggest challenge for me has been the formal consistency. I worked a lot in four skills since I was in high school. It started as a goal for obtaining the best grades, and then, it became part of my life. Unwittingly, I start thinking in English… and I enjoy it! And sometimes, I want to watch a multimedia content, and for some reason I just chose the subtitled version, instead of dubbed. I practice English all the time, because I like the language and what it offers, but all this practice is informal. I am not really consistent with formal practice.

My mind says “You already know it”, and the big problem with any second language is that is not enough with knowing it today. Formal practice is crucial: grammar, structures, vocabulary, phonetics. Without that, the knowledge weakens. I would say that “I still got it”, but that is not enough. With time I started losing my fluency and fast-production, so I really want to go back to that level.

Finally, this is maybe for wearing headphones my whole life, I don’t really know, but occasionally I just don’t hear. It happens to me when Spanish, and English is not the exception. When I am listening with headphones or in a controlled space, it is pretty easy, I am really perceptive; but for opener environments, sometimes is difficult for my ear.

**PREFERRED STYLE**

My learning styles would be visual and auditory, but because of what I explained in the previous one, mainly the first one. I am a person of Expression, so I am used to learn with art resources like music, films, images, animation, architecture, videogames, plays from theater, or dance, and some other artworks that exist. I am someone really perceptive and observant. That is what helps me to get a better understanding of something, even more than handworks or a laboratory.

When I am learning or analyzing something I picture everything in mind, the possibilities and impossibilities, I relate it with other disciplines, perspectives, cultural resources. Indeed, sometimes my mind goes so fast that I can reach it. I am good at exact sciences, but human studies are the thing I actually live for, and especially when there is something artistic attached to it.

For example, now that I am at coding and programming, I thought it would be more difficult, however, it is being pretty understandable for me, and I think that a determining factor for that is the color design of code. Indeed, you change the theme of my Visual Studio Code, and for the first 5 minutes it is a shock for me.

**RESOURCES**

Anything made up by a designer, artist, filmmaker, or even popularizer and influencers. Certainly, not everything is trustable. Some information could mislead you, so at first I have to make sure is okay to inform myself with that specific content. However, I would say that is the funniest part, because you get to reflect a lot about the different ways to understand a matter and allows me to enrich my perspective from global and particular scenarios.

For listing the resources in a more specific way, I would highlight two, which are my preferred ones:

1. Listening music. I remember a webpage called “LyricsTraining” that used to help me a lot when I was younger, cause a song sometimes is even faster and more incomprehensible than common English speaking; and additionally, there you got rhythm and melody attached to it, so it made the journey of practicing easier for me. Probably, I will start visiting that webpage again.
2. Then, we got audiovisual content. From movies and series, to a PewDiePie video. Those, had really helped a lot, for improving my listening and reading (for subtitles); but also, for thinking and speaking in English, because I am used to analyze, theorize and simply talk, while I am watching a content. By now, I only do it with myself, because I normally don’t have someone to be with me.
3. Improvisation. Just that. For speaking and writing, is the best, for me at least
4. Finally, I am not a big fan of academic resources, because I already know a lot about structures, redacting, grammar, and that things. However, I also recommend these, specially articles. The fact is that it is a really good strategy to “formally” read and not get bored. Now, as I recommend articles for its variety and facility to be found, it also could be something less formal, as a comic, a short novel, or storytelling, which is like reading… but with your ears.

**HANDLE MISTAKES**

Because of the fast and vast is my mind, I became a really anxious person, and also a little bit perfectionist. This is pretty good for doing a project, because thanks to your personality you can be ahead of mostly everything… but when you can be ahead, and something out of your plan occurs, it is pretty frustrating.

Committing mistakes or not being able to avoid something you didn’t want to happen, sometimes, can be translated into an imposter syndrome. However, with time I learned how to handle with these feelings, and right now I have a system that is really helpful.

1. Calm down. If you are full of emotions, you could think of something bad for your own self-esteem, and that one can’t be harmed because of a mistake.
2. Reflect about what happened. Travel to the past, until you identify the actual root, and answer the main 5 questions: what? when? where? how? and who? These will help you to understand the problem and answer the wondering you been on, since the first step: **why?**
3. When you get the “why?”, the next step is to define a “now what?”. Sometimes that last question is accompanied of some learnings, and sometimes as well, there is no learning. As I heard someday on a SITCOM called “The Office”, not always is there a whole meaning behind something wrong. Sometimes you just fail, and that’s okay.
4. The final movement is to **forget** what doesn’t contribute. We are really used to get the learning of “how to do it better”, but also keeping the image of “what happened wrong”. This image in your memory, will only lead you to *punish* yourself constantly… so yes, you won’t do it again, but at what cost? We tell ourselves that an image of our failures is a reminder that helps, but it actually hurts more, than improves. The actual reminder is the **learning**, the reflection you had. Not the **image**.
5. After all this, just keep on going. Keep on.

**STUDY TIME DISTRIBUTION**

As I explained in the “biggest challenges” question, this defined distribution of time for studying had been always my problem. However, I think I had found a way I been thinking about the recent weeks. In general, I am going to study in a dynamic way, which won’t make me feel like I am carrying a heavy weight when practicing English.

Having in mind the English knowledge I got, I think the perfect way is to formally practice short periods of time, some grammar, some vocabulary. Around 30 minutes a day. And then, practice in more informal, but for me productive and attractive, way. This one, would be done by combining it with things I am interested on. For example, an evening to watch “Parks and Recreations”, which is a Tv show I only found in English. I can enjoy from a good comedy content, while practicing my reading and listening; and also the productive skills, specifically speaking and thinking.

**SPECIFIC GOALS FOR LEARNING ENGLISH**

1. To formally practice English at least one and half an hour, daily
2. Maintain the habit of consuming content in English, every time I can
3. Improve my fluency and fast-production when speaking
4. Learn more vocabulary particularly for programming and coding, until I can *“defend myself” (an expression, directly from Colombia. Let’s say it like that)*

***P.S:***

***1 I tried to change and expand some of the things I said in my Audio Recording, because I preferred not to read the script. Instead of that, I wrote a draft with some key words, and the audio was mostly improvised. I did it this way because I noticed that improvisation helps me a lot to improve my production skills.***

***2 I apologize for making an audio with long times. I did not really remember the maximum duration for the audio, and mine reached 10mins. When recording things, it is always difficult for me, because I get obsessed with it and it ends up taking me hours to finish a work. So because of that I cut my anxiety, I did some takes, and this one was the shortest and best one.***