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To me, Communication is the strange zone which holds both my greatest strengths and greatest weaknesses, something that most people might find strange upon their first impression of me.

Strengths-wise, I would say that I am quite proud of my ability to switch between the Casual Wesley, the motor-mouthed joker, and the Business Wesley, the (seemingly) confident presenter, depending on the context and the people I am speaking to. My natural inclination towards humour is also something I would consider a strength, as it tends to grab the attention of the people I’m talking with during a discussion with ease. Finally, looking at a situation from the other person’s point of view is something I believe I’m quite decent at, as it allows me to decipher their rough intentions, allowing me to understand and accept their opinions more easily.

However, the art of communication is something I struggle with as well, especially in terms of more personal conversations. My natural disposition leads some into getting quite tense around me, as my talking speed and large amount of gestures appear to give some the impression that I’m agitated or very tense (which makes them tense, which makes me tense, ad infinitium), something that I have been trying to work on. Other people find it difficult to grasp what I am saying due to how fast I talk, while another set of people end up with a wrong impression of me being arrogant due to my accidental tendency of using oversized English words. Finally, my biggest hurdle is amusingly tied to my strength, as my tendency to try to view both perspectives and be accepting of the opinions of others has the flip side of being quite nervous to disagree with the person I am speaking with, as conflict is something I steer clear of.

As to how these strengths and challenges came about, I still believe it to be heavily attributed to my childhood.

When I was younger, I enjoyed reading books quite a lot, similar to many Singaporeans during my time, as it was before the time when kids could just pull out the new iPhone9S. My preferred genre was Fantasy/Comedy, however, and many of them tended to be very heavy on language, along with nice touches of seriousness hidden by the absurdness of the plot. Combine that with a born extrovert who talks too fast, and you get a fast speaking boy who was able to find the humour in many things, but yet have a grasp on reality to understand when it is time to be serious, and how to transition into that state.

My parents also brought me up extremely well, with a focus on empathy towards others. I learnt about looking at things from the other person’s perspective from how my parents look at things from my perspective when we discuss matters, and learnt about the importance of accepting a new opinion over fighting over an old one from them accepting and supporting my decisions which go against their own decisions. So the strengths and weaknesses of being people-centric in a discussion ended up stemming from here.

In the end, I would say that my strengths and challenges ended up coming from the circumstances in which I went through and how I dealt with them at that time, as the lessons (and bad habits) were mostly a result of the choices I made when I was younger, such as the choice of reading more books over playing more video games resulting in my extensive vocabulary, but the lack of childhood experiences with old video games. And I would believe that my strengths and challenges would continue to change, as many circumstances will still occur, and I have many choices left to make.