

software as something cheap or even free to help sell their hardware.

Interviewer: How did you learn English?

Masa: I listened to AFN (FEN back then) every morning. I watched a movie video with its English subtitle on. But that helped me listen, not speak. You need to actually speak English to get better at speaking.

Interviewer: What else did you do for English?

Masa: I studied for TOEFL and GRE to go to an American graduate school. With a master's degree, one could easily get a working visa in the U.S.

Interviewer: How did you survive in your graduate school?

Masa: It was tough. I used to sit on a chair of the first row in every class so that I could ask questions to the teacher without hesitation. I was nervous to speak English loudly over other heads. I was not confident with my pronunciation.

Interviewer: Did you finance yourself or did you get a financial aid from your school?

Masa: It's not easy for a foreign student to get a financial aid because the U.S. government prohibits cheap labor. I paid all

the bills myself with my savings, which I earned by working for 6 years in Japan.

Interviewer: Did it pay off?

Masa: Yes, indeed. I knew that I needed English skills. I burned my bridge by leaving my company, moving to the U.S., and getting a graduate degree.

Interviewer: What would you do differently if you had a chance?

Masa: I would start my English practice early, like in primary schools. That was not an option when I was a kid, but now it is quite possible in Japan. The rule of the game has changed, and we have better tools to practice English like DVD, YouTube, Wikipedia and Skype. Internet is full of such resources.