

An Interview

Masa: So you want to know why I wrote this book?

Interviewer: Yes. Let me represent our readers and ask you questions, too.

Masa: I have seen many good Chinese and Indian engineers here. Silicon Valley won't function without them. But I saw just a few Japanese ones.

Interviewer: Is that because Japanese engineers are happy in Japan?

Masa: Yes, to some extent. However, there are not many Japanese engineers who speak decent English in Japan. That limits their scope.

Interviewer: I know that Japanese students spend 8 years for studying English in schools. Why do they have a trouble speaking English?

Masa: They learn reading and writing from Japanese teachers. It is based on the old model of reading books to

get foreign knowledge and writing a letter to communicate with foreign companies. That simple model no longer works.

Interviewer: What has changed?

Masa: You work with English-speaking people today. Even in Japan, your teammates may be non-Japanese engineers speaking English. Your boss may be an English-speaking foreigner. IT industry has a lot of such global companies.

Interviewer: What is a good way to learn English for such engineers?

Masa: Practice. It is like a sport. Use it or lose it. We need to immerse ourselves into an English world. Not memorize, just practice. Repeat what an actor or actress says until you get it. A DVD is the best teacher for your input practice.

Interviewer: What made you learn English?

Masa: My motivation? I wanted to work at an American software company because Japanese companies saw