

My name is Defeng You. I would like to thank Midland Adult Education Centre for giving me this opportunity to improve my English and encourage me to join this diverse society.

Two years ago, I was a newcomer and like most immigrants English was a big problem in my daily life. During that time I used to feel nervous speaking English with other people, because I was afraid to make mistakes in grammar and pronunciation. In addition to that I felt depressed and awkward because I worked as a computer maintainer in China yet I am unable to follow a simple instruction in English. Sometimes I thought, am I going to work with Chinese only for the rest my life in this country?

These difficult times went by with me for a period of time, until I joined the ESL class at Midland Adult Education Centre. When I found that I was able to express myself In English, I applied for the Customer Service course at the same centre. I have learned a lot in these classes as the lessons are very interesting and teachers are very patient and enthusiastic. They taught me grammar and new words from newspapers and ESL Texts. They also corrected my mistakes and pronunciation patiently while giving me chances to explain my opinion through class presentation. I feel that they are like constructors in my mind who are building my confidence.

Furthermore, I have learned lots of extra knowledge in these classes, such as the story of St. Patrick's Day, the interesting things in Groundhog Day and the origin of Croissant etc. These lessons made me understand Canadian Culture which I enjoy. By attending Customer Service Class, I have learned how to talk with customers, work at a store and deal with customer problems and complaints. These knowledge and skills have helped me get a job in this country, and I really appreciate it.

Now, I got a job at Canadian National Exhibition Casino as a dealer. It is very good opportunity for me to get experience and use my English to converse with many kinds of people every day. I feel very excited and satisfied.

Finally, I would like to recommend new immigrants who are seeking ESL classes and Customer Service to apply for the courses available at Midland Adult Education Centre.

DEFENG YOU