

AN HOUR'S LIFE LESSON

The talk that was given by our guest speaker on Tuesday, December 2 2008 was interesting and illuminating to me. Mr. Thang Le, who is an American national born in Vietnam, shared a lot with us. He told us about his experience—not only about how he learnt English—but also about important life lessons. When the first time he came to America, he said, he was “nothing.” And now, he has proven himself and has become “something.”

What is the secret of his success? There's no secret behind it. The formula is always the same: determination and hard work. He said that all you have to do is to have strong determination to prove yourself. That's not easy, but Thang Le proves it. He couldn't speak English when he arrived in America as a refugee in 1975. He succeeded with hard work and a lot of effort, even though he had to dedicate most of his time to study English. The key is: don't be ashamed to practice speaking English, even if you are wrong. You'll learn from your mistakes. Your English skill will become better and better as you keep practising English. In addition to that, he said, don't hesitate to ask somebody to help and to teach you how to speak correctly.



Thang Le is a good example of a non-native English speaker who now can speak English fluently. I think, if he can do it, why can't I? He encourages us to speak English more. It's for your own good, he said. Once you can master English, it will give you a great deal of advantages because English is a universal language.

Moreover, he also suggests us to open up our minds to the world outside. There are still so many people who are not lucky as you, so that you should really respect and value the life you have now. These are Thang Le's lessons of life. His life experience have inspired me and motivated me to do better in life.



I think this kind of short lecture should be conducted more in the future, because it is very important and useful for us to learn from someone else's real life.

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(Pls refer to Pg 15 for IELTS Class Picture)