

The LLL SIG Newsletter

Coordinator's message

Tadashi Ishida

On January the 5th, I showed an American elementary school teacher around an old town in Tokyo.

She visited Japan for one month and stayed with thirteen different families from all walks of life such as a farmer, school teachers, artists, and top executives. She felt she got a well-rounded look at the family life in Japan.

One thing she could not understand was that everyone in Japan took at least six years of English yet so few people spoke English in relation to the total population, or would even try.

I have to agree with her that this is especially true for older people in Japan.

Asked by a commentator on "The Super News Anchor" of Kansai Television Station on January the 14th, I gave older people the following three recommendations as to how to become better English speakers.

1. Say the same English sentence as many times as your age.

For example, if you are 60 years old, you should say it sixty times. By doing so, you could develop a new memory even if you are older.

2. Do not try to memorize an English sentence quickly.

If you memorize it quickly, you will forget it quickly.

3. Do not try to speak perfect English.

Learning a foreign language is a never-ending process. Therefore, you will never learn English completely. So, do not despair if you are not a perfect English speaker, and also do not wait until you think you know it perfectly before you start using it. You can use a language if you only know a few words, and it is only through using it that you will improve your ability to use it.

All of the commentators on the television show agreed especially with my third recommendation above.

I would like to invite comments concerning my recommendations above from the other LLL SIG members. Thank you.

