



Learning Korean from someone who cares - Youseop

My Korean journey began when I was a little girl, and my best friend was from Korea. I grew up practically living in her household until I moved away. A part of me has always been fascinated with the Korean culture, the language, music and of course K-dramas. I started watching K-dramas and quickly realized that I hated subtitles. So, 40 years later this pushed me, along with the fact that my grandfather served in the Korean war, to want to learn more about him by learning Korean so I could understand the culture.

I first started with another teacher, who seemed very unstructured. He tended to use romanization, which confused me, and moved too quickly. He tried to teach me particles by week three before I fully understood the alphabet! I was beyond frustrated and reached out to Youseop in tears to talk to him about my experience.

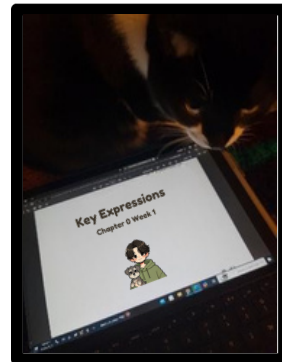
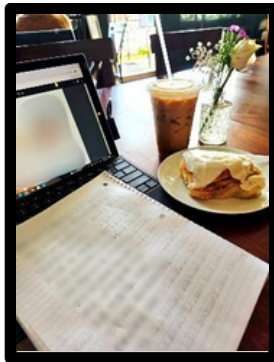
Let me back up a second. Several years ago, I became ill which caused me to have short term memory loss. Because of this, I am unable to learn the traditional method by books, or these “learn Korean quick in 30 days” gimmicks you tend to see around social media. Yes, you could learn the Korean alphabet in 30 days, but it will take more than 30 days to really begin building sentences and understanding that the Korean language isn’t just about memorizing the alphabet, it’s also about how to express the feelings of words.

Fast forward. I called Youseop and we discussed my frustrations of learning Korean under my prior teacher and how I was going to give up because it was such an awful experience. The prior teacher wouldn’t listen to the fact that I can’t learn like everyone else. Youseop not only listened but let me try out some lessons using his method to see if it was helpful. After one week of lessons, I was able to finally understand how to use the alphabet and the structure of how to make words.

Before I knew it, I was learning sentences with confidence and wasn’t afraid to tell him when I didn’t understand something. His teaching method was not about focusing on the Korean letters and trying to understand 100 vocabulary words but to focus on being exposed to the same words in different sentences. He basically was helping my brain learn a language the same way a child learns. By repetition, not memorizing, by exposure, not cramming too much at once.

I learned by mimicking him during class and videos. He wasn't worried about me pronouncing words correctly right off. He would correct me but also said "it's alright, it will come with time". Youseop was correct. He was more focused that I understood the word, not pronouncing it correctly. Before I knew it, I was correcting myself and making sentences on my own with him grinning in the background.

I loved his structure of having pre-class videos which had new vocabulary words, along with stories which used those vocabulary words. It was enjoyable to listen along with the stories and see the different ways to use the words in sentences. Before I knew it, I learned sentence structure, particles and the order of how to build a sentence naturally. It was fun and exciting when I'd come to the realization that something "clicked" and I finally understood why a sentence structure was a certain way. It was very helpful when learning past, present and future tenses as well. He later added lecture videos where he had conversations with other individuals and would invite me to join the conversation so I could learn how to have a conversation with people in Korean. He also provided a key expressions pdf that allowed me to see the new words I was learning written out, so I was not only learning by listening and speaking but learning by reading and writing. Youseop didn't expect me to write out the sentences to translate but with my memory loss this somehow helped me learn quicker. I have notebooks filled with writings from class. If you're going to learn a new language, completely immersing yourself in the language by listening, speaking, reading and writing, this is the best way to do it.



I am truly grateful for my experience with Youseop and his method of teaching. I was about to give up after a bad experience and was frustrated that many wouldn't listen to me when I tried to find out their teaching methods to see if it was a way I could learn. Funny thing is I used to speak fluent Spanish, and with his method, it seemed to unlock the part of my brain that was damaged from my illness. Before I knew it some of my Spanish came flooding back!

I took his class for around a year and a half and can listen to K-dramas without subtitles and understand most of it. Youseop was always there for me if I needed further explanation of something I wasn't quite understanding or most importantly he was there to encourage me when I was full of self-doubt thinking I'd never be able to learn a language with memory loss and at my age.

If you are want to learn Korean in a fun environment or have ever been frustrated by trying to learn Korean through other methods that just didn't work for you, please take a moment to check out Youseop and his program. He is an amazing teacher who will not only listen to you and your concerns but will always work on finding the best way for you to learn Korean and enjoy the process. Youseop genuinely cares about your experience while learning Korean, not about how quickly you learn it. He understands everyone is uniquely different and not everyone learns the same way.

