

HW Assignment #1, Key Points + Notes

This evening you will have your first homework assignment, it is an example of an "Independent" Task 1 Question, and it should take you less than 2 minutes to complete. Keep in mind, during the exam you will only have 15 seconds to prepare your answer, and 45 seconds to deliver it, after your Task 1 Question is presented to you.

I will post the prompt/question between 16:55 and 17:05. You are expected to deliver your response as a voice recording in this group chat. I will offer everyone personal feedback in a timely fashion.

I will be paying special attention to the following aspects of your answer:

1. **Delivery:** How clear is your speech? Good responses are those in which the speech is fluid and clear, with good pronunciation, natural pacing, and natural-sounding intonation patterns.
2. **Language Use:** How effectively do you use grammar and vocabulary to convey your ideas? How well can you control both basic and more complex language structures? Did you use appropriate vocabulary?
3. **Topic Development:** How fully did you answer the question, and how coherently did you present your ideas? Good responses generally use all or most of the time allotted, and the relationship between ideas and the progression from one idea to the next is clear and easy to follow.

Now, without further ado...

"Choose a teacher you admire and explain why you admire them. Please include specific examples and details in your explanation."

Key Points:

- Identify the teacher, use one of the following:
 - Name
 - Subject
 - Simple description
- Clearly explain **what** it was that made them admirable.
 - This could be a specific action or event, a character trait, whatever, choose one, and...
- Explain **why** this made them admirable.

There are many, many ways to answer this question, **the important thing is that you communicate enough information about the person to help me understand why you find them admirable.**

A quick note on word choice... Instead of repeating a word, like "important", in your response try to think of some synonyms to use, like "meaningful". Using synonyms effectively is an easy way to boost your score.

Personalized Feedback:

For **Hanger** - Good work Hanger, you addressed the question well, answering it completely. Your transitions were solid, I especially like your use of "what's more" at the 0:33 mark and "all in all" at the end. That being said, please practice your pronunciation of "what's" because it almost sounds like you're saying "warts". Your delivery was smooth as well, I only noticed two significant pauses - a brief stumble at 0:11, and an extended "uhm" around the 0:25 mark.

Two final corrections: Do not say "English grammars", it's just "English grammar". And, instead of saying "She is pretty like a native speaker", you should say, "She is just like a native speaker", or "She sounds like a native speaker."

For **Violet** - Good work Violet, you addressed the question well, clearly explaining why you admire this teacher with great detail. The way you set-up your response, juxtaposing your thoughts and feelings about school before you met this admirable teacher with your thoughts and feelings about it after meeting her is brilliant.

Now, a couple of grammatical notes: 1) Instead of beginning with, "Teacher which I admire is", try, "A teacher that I really admire is", or, "The teacher that I admire most is". 2) Instead of saying, "she was the biggest reason for my first day to be a happy memory." Try, "She's the main reason my first day is now a happy memory." For bonus points, replace the word "happy" with "pleasant" - the raters should appreciate your attention to word choice. 3) Instead of, "before I have to go to school, I used to be afraid of it. I believe(d) that teachers were very strict and scary." You could say, "Before

I met her, I was afraid to go to school because I thought all of the teachers were very strict and scary." You could also try, "Before I met her, when I was a little girl, I was afraid to go to school because the teachers frightened me." And, 4) Instead of saying, "always carrying a big smile on her face", you should say, "she always had a big smile on her face", or, "there was always a big smile on her face."

For **Athena** - Good job Athena, it's a little long but you address the question well, and the pace of your response is good.

Here are my notes: 1) Don't start with, "Teacher I admire most is", try, "The Teacher that I admire the most is" instead. 2) Your voice was unclear around the 0:03 - 0:04 mark. 3) Instead of, "the first reason for choosing her", try, "the first reason I chose her". 4) Instead of, "she won't teach me", try, "she wouldn't teach me". 5) Instead of, "She consider touching the instrument without a good attitude to the music is a rude behavior." Try, "She even considers it rude to touch an instrument without a good attitude." 6) Around the 0:47/0:48 mark it sounds like you're saying, "which gives me the power of the strings." Instead, consider closing with: "She has given me the strength to believe in myself and follow my dreams."

For **Vince** - You addressed the question well Vince, I really like the personal example you incorporated about how your teacher offered encouragement when you were facing that one particularly difficult math problem. Your response was a little choppy, there were a few too many pauses and "uhms", but you can work on that.

Here are some more notes: 1) Instead of, "The teacher I admire best", try, "The teacher that I admire the most". You make this mistake at the beginning and end of your speech. 2) Instead of, "I am not good at math, and once he give me a math problem, but I didn't have any idea about it." Try, "He gave me a math problem once, and I wasn't very good at math so I didn't know how to solve it." 3) Instead of, "but he didn't critique me, but give me many confidence", try, "instead of critiquing me, he encouraged me to keep doing my best." 4) At the 0:33 mark, instead of, "in math learning", try, "in my math skills", or, "in my problem-solving ability".

For **Tesla** - Great response Tesla, your opening is strong, and I appreciate your use of "analogy" - that's smart word choice.

Here are a couple of notes: 1) Instead of, "patient to every student", try, "patient with every student" 2) I noticed that you struggled between 0:20 and 0:30, when you said: "Every question I have asked her, she will always explain it. Like, very in detail, and once she even used an hour." It would be better to say, "Every time I ask her a question, she explains the solution in detail. She is patient too, once she spent a whole hour helping me." 3) At the end, instead of, "it's more easy to understand", try, "it's easier to understand."

For **Zero** - Good work Zero, I like the way you compare your teacher to a big sister. Your pacing and intonation are also impressive.

Here are some notes: 1) Instead of, "Teacher I admire the most is", try, "The teacher that I admire the most is". 2) Instead of, "I don't know how", try, "I didn't know how." 3) Instead of, "there really are a lot of homework to do", try, "there really is a lot of homework to do." However, I would recommend cutting it to: "I didn't know how to study, or how to finish all my homework." 4) Consider restructuring 0:15 - 0:28, try something like: "I remember feeling overwhelmed when I entered junior high school because I didn't have a plan for my future, and I was having a hard time studying and finishing all of my homework." 5) Instead of, "told me her experience about herself at that kind of age", try, "told me about her junior high school experience". 6) Instead of, "I consider she", try, "I consider her".

For **Nathan** - Good work Nathan, you address the question well, answering it clearly and completely. Your speech also flows well, your only significant stumble is at the 0:04 mark.

Here are my notes: 1) Instead of, "shy boy", use, "shy young man". 2) Instead of, "I did not dare to hands up in class", try, "I did not dare to raise my hand in class". 3) Instead of, "if I answered the question with the wrong answer", try, "if I answered the question incorrectly". 4) Instead of, "with her smile and encouraging words she spoke out", try, "with her beautiful smile and encouraging words". 5) Instead of, "and my score has also increased", you can just say, "my score also increased".

For **Mark** - Good work Mark, but I don't believe that you thought of this in 15 seconds immediately after reading the question. That's okay though, I'm glad you put in the work to come up with a great answer ;) That being said, don't forget that the point of these exercises is to prepare you for an exam in which you will be operating in a limited window of time. Also, your use of "what's more" as a transition is excellent.

Here are some notes: 1) Instead of, "my math teacher in high school", try, "my high school math teacher". 2) Starting at the 0:21 mark, instead of, "to get some help, and always he can give the answers that I agree with", try, "for help, and he always steers me in the right direction". So, in this case, you would get huge bonus points for using "steers me in the right direction" - which means: "guides me towards the correct answer". 3) Instead of, "I remember I failed in the last test", try, "I remember when I failed the final exam."

For **Bob** - Your answer is good Bob. I like the way you contrast your expectations, "I thought I would have several classes learning how to hold the violin", with reality, "instead of that, she taught me a short piece of melody in my first class". However, just use, "instead", rather than, "instead of that".

Here are some more notes: 1) Instead of, "which makes me very happy", use, "which made me very happy". 2) Instead of repeating "a short melody" at the 0:28 mark, you can refer to the short melody as "it" -- "... I could play it for my parents". 3) Work on your pronunciation of "vivid", it almost sounds like you're saying "wivid". 4) Instead of, "have vivid examples for me to learn...", try, "uses vivid examples to help me better understand the music".

For **Andy** - Good answer Andy, you address the question well, and your conclusion is great: "found a way to make her perfect classes even better."

Here are my notes: 1) Instead of, "physics teacher in junior high", try, "junior high physics teacher". 2) Instead of, "she is really strong in her profession, which is physics", try, "she is a very talented physicist". 3) Instead of, "the students in her class can always gain much more knowledge, about physics, than in the classes of anybody else", try, "and her

students are always the most knowledgeable in the entire school, because she is an excellent teacher." 4) Instead of, "seeking for ways", use, "looking for ways". 5) Instead of using, "have been extremely perfect", to describe her classes (0:28), try: "are already seemingly perfect", or, "are already incredible". 6) Do not use, "she herself" (0:39), just use, "she".

For **Ada** - Your answer is good Ada, it's clear why you admire your math teacher, and I appreciate your reference to that one especially difficult time in your academic life (beginning at 0:23).

Here are some notes: 1) Instead of, "the one of them I admired is", try, "the one I admired the most is". 2) At the 0:11 mark, say, "BECAUSE he is very kind and friendly". 3) Instead of, "I always ask him questions, both about study and daily life", try, "I often ask him questions about my daily life, as well as my studies." 4) At 0:20, instead of, "with a big smile and patience", try, "patiently, with a big smile". 5) Instead of, "I still remember the time I felt struggled every day because I have too much pressure", try, "I remember when I was really struggling academically because I felt so much pressure". 6) Instead of, "give me many useful suggestions", try, "gave me some great advice".

For **Cecilia** - Good work Cecilia, you address the question well, but your answer is a little short.

Here are my notes: 1) Instead of, "chemistry teacher in junior high", try, "junior high chemistry teacher". 2) Instead of, "for one, he would give out a detailed lecture note, that summarized by himself, which provide a great help to curriculum." Try, "first of all, he always provided detailed lecture notes, which were very helpful". 3) Instead of, "from another aspect, he is pretty charming", try, "he is also charming and funny". 4) Work on your pronunciation of "formula", it's not clear. 5) Around the 0:30 mark, I think you're saying, "is offering a reason to help us to remember knowledge better". It's better to say, "is the reason his students seem to have better memories".

For **Jackey** - Good work Jackey, you address the question well, and it's clear why you admire this teacher.

Here are my notes: 1) You open with: "Wow (or while, it's unclear) I do have a teacher who is really important to me, and I really, very admire her..." Instead, try saying, "There is one teacher who has been a great positive influence in my life..." Then move, "I really admire her", to the 0:14 mark, where you can say: "Here are some reasons why I really admire her." 2) Around 0:22 it sounds like you're saying: "In adversely, she taught the student from time to time until the student get the key to the trouble." It would be better to say something like: "Whenever one of her students is struggling with a problem, she will work with them until they solve it." 3) Instead of: "Secondly, she is very humorous. Everybody loves her class, so you will never get bored or sleeping in her class." Try: "Secondly, no one ever gets bored and falls asleep in her class because they love it, and she is very funny." 4) Work on your pronunciation of "reason"

For **Horace** - Great answer Horace, the structure is good, and it flows smoothly from point to point.

Here are some notes: 1) Instead of, "no matter how well you do in math class, he will give all the students equal treatments." Try, "he treats all of his students equally, no matter how good they are at math." 2) Around 0:22-0:23 you repeat the word "patient", you don't have to do that. Just say "carefully" instead. 3) Instead of, "he will even spend more than one hour to answer your question", try, "one time he spent more than an hour helping me with a problem." 4) At the end, instead of, "because of all the reasons above", try, "those are the reasons why".

For **Winnie** - Good effort Winnie, I like the way you compare your favorite teacher to a "mother", a "sister", and a "friend".

Here are some notes: 1) From 0:06 - 0:08, you say, "Why I love her? There is the reason." Try this instead, "Here are some of the reasons why I love her." 2) Slow down a little, you're speaking too fast, and focus on enunciating each word clearly. It's difficult to understand you at times. This was noticeable when you said "favorite" at the very beginning, don't forget about the hard V sound. I also couldn't understand what you said right after that, "my favorite teacher is my ??? teacher at my middle school." 3) Leave out the details about her short hair and lovely smell. And, just so you know, it's better to say, "she smells lovely", rather than referencing her "lovely smell". 4) Instead of, "when we face difficulties, she just like a mother

taught us”, try something like this, “she was always there for us, like a second mother, when we were going through hard times”. 5) Instead of, “and then she have an emotion question, with our friends, she just like a sister. Have chat with us, and tell us how to do that.” Try something like, “whenever we had questions about relationships, or were fighting with our friends, she was there for us like a big sister, offering sympathy and advice.” 6) At 0:28, instead of saying, “she have good characters, she dare to fight for herself, even when she face somebody have higher position and parents”, try something like, “she has good character, and she stands up for what she believes in, even in the face of adversity.”

For **Echo** - Great work Echo, it’s clear why you admire your math teacher. Your pacing and intonation are good. Please learn how to upload an audio file because this is much more difficult to analyze, I can’t pause and rewind this message.

Here are some notes: 1) Instead of, “there are two reasons why I think so”, try, “and here are some of the reasons why I admire him”, or, “there are two primary reasons why I feel this way”. 2) Instead of, “every time I meet a difficult problems in math, I will go to ask him, and he is very patient to answer me”, try, “whenever I am struggling with a difficult math problem, I know that I can go to him for help. He is always patient and kind.” 3) Instead of, “illustrate them in an easy way”, try something like, “he uses illustrations, that are easy to understand, to explain complicated mathematical concepts.”