

university preparation

A note about the transcripts.

This is a transcript of exactly what the speaker has said. It is important to realise that spoken language is different to written language. When we speak we often make grammatical errors. We also tend to repeat ourselves, and to use short words or sounds like "um", "er" or "ah". These sounds are called 'fillers' because they are used to fill in the gaps while we're thinking of what to say next. These sounds are perfectly normal in spoken English. You probably use similar fillers in your first language; however they may be different sounds. In this transcript you'll notice that the speaker has used some fillers and that in some places the sentences are not always grammatical. This is often because the speaker is thinking about what to say next, or changes her/his mind in the middle of a sentence.

Transcript - Lela

I'm studying tourism and hospitality in La Trobe, and I have been studying here about four years now. And I come from China. Um, I come here with my parents and then we immigrate here, so I got my grandma and other relatives here, so I have a very big family here.

First days at university

Um, the first time I start to the University, cos, um, the place is, like, I don't know the place, so the school is very huge. You need to get the map to search where, you, your lecture is, especially those short code. You know, in here they usually put the short code for where you need to go, for example, Donald Whitehead building they just put, um, DWB, and then you just don't know where is it. So I start to search from the map, and then go to search for the place, and then by the time I get to the lecture it's already 15 minute late, so I feel bad to get in, and then disrupt them.

The first few weeks, I will try to search for the Asian group of people, to get along with, so I can ask them some question about the study and then, you know, have some, meet some friends. And then but I found that La Trobe is not that much, um, Asians, and they are not, like, some of the Asian is come here for a long time, so they still bit, like, Aussie, Aussie, so, and then I just have no choice to get into the, like Aussie group, so I just start with some girls to ask them one or two question, and then, but I find that they're pretty nice, they are help, you know, when you ask them are always kind and nice to you, and then explain very slowly. They understand that your English is not very good, but, they still have time to explain it to you, and then, teach you the things that you got a problem with, so I find that very good with them.

Difficulties facing a new student

Few things I find that is difficult, the first is list.., um, during a lecture at is hard to listen for the teacher what they say. I have no idea what the lecturer says in front of me. So I tried to, um,

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find some, something to record it, but, um, once I record it, I go home. I still can't understand what the lecturer says. So it takes me more longer, to, like, get to know, like, about two weeks, I know that, how, like, why the lecture speak very fast. And you can't stop them. And I feel bad to ask questions, cos, lecturers is happy to listen if you got any questions, like, show up your hand, and then ask the question, but I feel embarrassed to ask the question so I didn't ask anything, and either that I can't understand, so I just stop myself.

Also I find that the, um, people is not like high school. Cos I study in high school in here to do, but the people are in the class, but the whole class about 20 people, is easy, easy to know everyone. But in here and, when the time you get into the lecture hall, and everyone sit down, after that finish, everyone just go, you just don't know when to start with looking for friends, or, you know, or to ask other people things, so, that's another things I feel difficult.

On my first two years of my study I didn't speak to the lecturer at all, and then, because in China, the culture, um, reasons, so I found that, um, only the student not doing very good in school, that would speak to the lecturer, and that, um, those student doing good, they don't need to speak to the lecturer, and they don't need to get help from the lecturer. So I didn't speak to the lecturer at all in my first two years. And then later on I found that if not speak to the lecturer, there's a bit of problem in here, cos you can't understand, that, pretty good, and then you still need to get help from them.

It has been difficult, for writing essays, cos, the grammar is totally different with the Chinese writing, so I need to, um, like, write the way, that correctly is not easy. There's another difficulty for writing essays, cos, the source, um, like, you search from the library or some other place, is huge. And then how can you finish the reading in, like, a short period, is hard. So, um, so, it need to be summarised the, um, source, takes a bit time, and then you, you need to use your own words to expand the source you got, is another difficulties.

Advice for new students

The advice I give to the student to write an essay is like, um, they need to, not reading the whole, like, whole books. They need to search the main things they needs from the books. Not every books they just grab it, and then they thought "that's important". They need to read it carefully, to choose which is the right source to use in the essay. That would be more quicker in the, um, like when they're doing the assignments.

I found the La Trobe website they provide a lot of information about the University, and a lot of different, like, different sources. If they want some class, um, time, or like, school map, also, um, unions, some activity, everything can search from the website. I think that before come to school, go to the website and search first, and then, you get a bit of knowledge, and then start the school will be easier, yeah.