

Good afternoon everyone

When I arrived in New Zealand for first time, my biggest ambition was to be able to control my English like my own legs and arms. I saw international students speaking English as well as kiwi and I thought “wow how cool that is”. Even I knew it’s not easy to speak English well. It has been extremely hard work to get to the level I am at today.

I really appreciate to all the ESOL teachers for teaching us English, as well as looking after us really well. However without my homestay, I couldn’t bring my English skill. International students spend most of time with their homestay family so they have such a big influence to English skill. For example, I had funny accent with the word which has “L” and “R” in it. One day, my homestay found out about that, since then every word I pronounce wrong they correct it for me. It maybe started as making fun of me however because of this I can pronounce them without thinking about it. Additionally when I was in car with my homestay mother, she said

“If you don’t start conversation within three seconds I will punch you”.

I know it sounds like she is being mean to me but actually she wants me to have conversation practice with her. Now I think what they have done is really important to me.

So I would like to ask all homestays to do such things. If you don’t really talk to him, ask them to watch movie with you. If you do talk to him, you correct English for them and I also want to ask all international students to try to be part of family. I’m sure they will treat you as member of family.

Maybe, I’m not right person to say this but I really mean it. Finally again, I would like to thank all the homestays for taking all the International students as well as all the teachers for helping our School life.

Thank you

Written by  
Yohei Osada, Japan

