

## Mio's Class Description

I am currently taking a private general English lesson course. It's only been about 5 months since our first class, but I feel a great improvement in my English. I lived in Canada for 3 years during elementary school but had not kept up with my English so much. I wasn't even confident enough to have conversations. However, by speaking more English and participating in class activities, my skills improved dramatically.

I plan to enroll in a university abroad, so we first prepared for the TOEFL examination. I had taken the TOEFL examination during my third year of high school, but I hadn't studied English at all since then, so I wasn't sure if I could attain a higher score at all. Despite my concerns, I was surprised to find that my score had actually risen from 82 to 96!

Tammy teaches me strictly. She corrects my English from language usage to punctuation. The class is of high quality, and I also have a lot of homework to do. I am always presented with a challenge. This is possible because Tammy and I have a close relationship and a bond of trust. I always do my best, and she knows my level of understanding very well (better than I do myself.) But Tammy herself is not a strict person at all. We have personal chats, read funny articles, and our class always has a happy atmosphere.

I highly recommend this class for someone who really wants to improve their English and is extremely serious about it.

Mio



For those of you who are planning to study abroad, you need to take the TOEFL examination, at least once. The Paper-Based TOEFL (PBT) focuses on listening and reading comprehension, and writing structure and expression, to which there is an additional essay, the Test of Written English (TWE), which is required for a writing score. The Internet-Based TOEFL (iBT) consists of four parts: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. You want SOMEONE teaching both English and test taking tactics to you simultaneously, whether you are taking the PBT (with or without TWE) or iBT. How to relax while studying as well as studying for such a grueling exam is another issue you want to seriously consider.

One of the courses currently in session is extremely successful – if you agree with me that Mio, my dear student, achieved not only a 96/120 but was at the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile on her latest iBT exam! However, if I describe TOEFL as a “grueling” exam, my courses are just as “grueling”. I assessed her English writing, listening, and speaking (non-colloquial) skills, and from there, we started from scratch and worked uphill. She told me where her goals were; I was, and am, just a guide in helping her to achieve them.

Mio responds in a singular and intelligent way to the content I bombard her with in class and in her homework. Since I snow her down with it and our classes are chock full of information, I *make sure* that every second is as enjoyable as can be. I KNOW students do NOT learn anything when they are bored with classes or class material. Humor articles and opinion editorials work just as fine as textbook material, though I use novels and TOEFL tactic textbooks as well as my handmade worksheets, exercises, and SAT vocabulary workbooks, of course! It’s just a matter of how to maneuver entertainment on a mature, intellectual basis.

Finally, as Mio also kindly wrote, I am a strong believer in trust and firm companionship between the teacher and student. Mio trusted me enough to allow me to get to know her well so that we could work on such an intensive level. I also keep myself opened up towards her so that she feels comfortable telling me whenever she has trouble with an assignment or the load of it. There is a reason behind every tardiness, forgotten homework assignment, or out-of-the-blue excuse from any student, and I need to know what it is before I start breathing down someone’s neck...which I end up not having to 96% of the time. Good English education is based upon the trust and bond between competent teachers and dedicated students – and that is the foundation of my overseas preparation course.

Tammy