

## Autobiography

### Introduction

I was born in Taiwan, and both my parents are Taiwanese, but due to my father's occupation as a professional diplomat, I had the opportunity to travel and live around the world as a child. I have lived in Uruguay, Panama, The United States - New York, Reno, Poland, Taiwan, Honduras, and Malaysia (averaging about 2 years per country). Although it was hard getting used to the drastic changes caused by moving every 2 to 3 years, I had the chance to experience different cultures, people, religions, weathers, and languages. These experiences built up my ability to adapt to different cultures and most importantly my native-like language skills in four languages, English, Spanish, Chinese, and Taiwanese. During my stay in some countries, I studied in local schools, but mostly in American schools where English was the main language of instruction. I grew up with racially diverse groups from around the world.

So who am I? I am a multicultural, international, Quadra lingual, Taiwanese that has a passion in teaching languages.

### Deciding my Career Path

Upon high school graduation in Honduras, I decided to go back to Taiwan to sharpen my Mandarin skills also to attend my bachelor's education at Chung Yuan Christian University. I majored in International Trade. During my sophomore year, I started teaching English at a cram school and realized how much I enjoyed helping others to improve their English. It was rewarding to see students progress, improve, and become motivated under my instruction. I loved my job and realized I needed to learn more about English teaching. So upon graduation, instead of going for a MBA, I decided to pursue a master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language at the University of Nevada, Reno.



Mary's Nativity School in New York, USA



American School of Warsaw, Poland

## Brief Teaching Philosophy

During these two years, the master's in TESOL program taught me methodologies, approaches, and theories that have changed my views of teaching. I strike a balance between teacher-centered instruction and student-centered instruction to help students achieve communicative competence. I also understand that student populations differ; therefore, we as teachers must accommodate the needs of the students and be open to new teaching methods.



MA TESOL Graduation, NV, USA

## Teaching Experience in the United States

I also learned a lot of hands-on experience through my jobs in Reno. In the daytime, I worked at the Intensive English Language Center as the director's assistant. My main job was to assist the director with projects and administrative work including, but not



My students at Truckee Meadows Community College, NV, USA

restricted to topic classes, class list and schedule arrangements, grades, test proctoring, events, pool search, NIC and was also in charge of the Student Representative Meetings, the Conversation Partner Program, and publication and circulation of the Intensive English Language Center Newsletter. In the evenings, I was an ESL instructor at the Truckee Meadows Community College Adult Basic Education Program. I planned lessons and taught English as a second language to High Beginning Level and Advanced Level Adults, focusing on the CASAS Competencies. On the weekends I tutored the TOEFL iBT to a lady from Iran. My main emphasis was to help her pass the speaking section of the TOEFL iBT. All of these teaching related jobs have taught me valuable experience and helped me realize how much I loved the education field.

## Teaching Experience in Taiwan

Upon graduation, I felt it was my duty to come home and bring everything I have learned in the United States to the students in Taiwan. So I came home and luckily got a job offer as a full-time lecturer for the Language Learning and Research Center at National Chiao Tung University. I currently teach Practical English Writing to juniors and seniors, Academic

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English Writing to master's students, and two English Listening courses to freshmen students. I also assist all National Chiao Tung University students with English related inquiries during Writing Consultation Hours. This work experience has taught me a lot and continues to teach me invaluable knowledge about teaching and the needs of EFL Taiwanese students.

During February 2008, my family and I also published an English grammar book, *The Grammar Rules of Thumb*, a book that we've been working on for the past three years. The book is accompanied with a website ([www.amstarcreative.com](http://www.amstarcreative.com)) where students can watch exciting teaching videos of each chapter, discuss grammatical questions on the forum, and download extra material to help them grasp grammatical knowledge. We strive to make grammar learning more enjoyable and understandable.



As you can see from my professional background and experiences, I am a passionate and dedicated teacher whose goal is to make a difference not only in students' language ability, but also in their lives.