



Mayuko MATSUOKA

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**Language Facilitator(English)
ファシリテーター**

English/英語

Name / 氏名

MAYUKO MATSUOKA

Home country or region / 出身国・地域

Japan

Languages I speak / 話せる言語

Japanese, English

Academic specialties / 専門

Educational Psychology, Language Education

Hobbies or interests / 趣味・特技

I enjoy outdoor activities. Recently, my family and I have been spending many weekends by the sea. We own a camper and enjoy traveling and spending time outdoors together. I also have four Miniature Schnauzers, and I am involved in dog rescue and rehoming activities with a breeder.

How I learned foreign languages When I was a student /

学生時代どのように外国語を学習したか

I did not grow up in an English-speaking environment. My parents did not speak English, and I had very little exposure to the language as a child. I still remember getting a vocabulary question wrong because I thought "garlic" meant "potato"!

I started learning English seriously in junior high school. I became fascinated by its sounds and rhythm, and I often practiced reading our textbook aloud with my friends while walking home from school. By my third year of junior high school, I was participating in an English speech contest.

My first experience abroad was a language program in New Zealand during my first year of high school. My English was still very limited, and there were many times when I wished I could express myself better. That experience made me realize how powerful language can be.

Learning a language can truly open up your world. It allows you to express your feelings, understand other people, gain new information, and experience perspectives that you might never encounter otherwise. For me, language is a key that opens doors to new worlds.

A message to students learning foreign languages / 外国語を学ぶ学生へのメッセージ

You do not need to grow up speaking English or be good at it from the beginning. I certainly wasn't! Language learning begins with small steps, mistakes, curiosity, and the desire to communicate.

English has opened many doors for me, but what matters most is not speaking perfectly. It is being able to say what you think, understand what others are trying to tell you, and connect with people beyond your own familiar world.

I hope you will use this program not only to improve your English, but also to discover what new doors the language can open for you. Enjoy the process, make mistakes, and keep communicating. I look forward to learning with you!