

THANK YOU

I was about five years old when I had the first contact with the English language, it was at primary school where I learnt the basics: the colours, the numbers, some verbs... With my limited knowledge, those words were easy to remember. Therefore, I needed little effort to pass my exams and rarely did I study to pass them. Those rare words, without knowing why, appealed to me. At secondary school, along with Physical Education activities, English remained my favourite subject. Once I had finished my secondary studies, I had to join the Military Service and my life changed completely. Since then, all of my efforts were focused on passing a competitive exam in order to get the job I wanted.

Years passed, and it was in 2007 when I started to work in Coín, when I learnt that a new Official School of Languages was going to be opened at Licinio de la Fuente secondary school.

The Official School of Languages was free, you didn't need to attend every class, it was close to my house and my job allowed me some leisure time. So, there was no excuse, it was a new opportunity that came knocking at my door so as to re-take an issue I had always liked; to be able to understand and to be understood by speaking this international language.

I directly started in the third course after passing the second course exams on my own. At the beginning, I was full of insecurity and doubts, the listening and speaking activities, all of that was new for me. Fortunately, our teacher was very supportive and wanted us to achieve the best results, encouraging us to do our best throughout the course. Intelligently, she improved our weak points. I can still remember her cries forcing us to be awake at half past four in the afternoon, "COME ON, IT'S MONDAY, COME ON!!!..."

Once you have passed the third and the fourth course, you might have got certain skills, to a certain extent, such as speaking with a wide range of vocabulary, using complex grammar rules and listening to English recordings. It was wonderful to start to understand the pieces of news in the newspapers, reporters from all over the world, listening to the radio, or even the famous BBC on television. New points of view were given to me by means of this mass media. From time to time, when I talked to such

English people at work and we got to understand each other, it filled me with satisfaction and I thought that it was worth all my effort and time reviewing again and again. What is more, during a period of time I was obsessed, spending all my spare time studying, reading and listening to recordings or radio stations.

Obviously, it has been hard, with many difficult situations to deal with, and time and willpower as the only way to face them, because, as everybody knows, “where there is a will there is a way”. In fact, the important thing is not to give up your purpose, that way you will be almost unstoppable.

At this stage, I sincerely feel relieved, since, although I realize that learning English will last my whole life, I am reaching my target little by little. At the moment I am meeting English native speakers who are looking forward to having success in learning Spanish too, that way I practice English and resolve difficulties more frequently.

Having said this, and taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to say THANK YOU to some people like my classmates, whom I will not easily forget. We have been together in this adventure along these years, sharing chats, questions and nerves getting ready to take our exams. People I also learnt with and whose friendship I strongly desire to maintain at least for having coffee every now and then.

I especially would like to say THANK YOU to that person, who every afternoon welcomed us very kindly and encouraged us before our exams, even asking me about former students. She knows who I am talking about.

On the other hand, I would also like to say THANK YOU to the school's authorities for always thinking of new ways to help us progress with extra activities like writing competitions or conversation clubs.

Just to conclude, I could not finish this writing without mentioning and saying THANK YOU to my teachers, who have really been very instructive, helping and advising me in a very accurate way, to achieve these challenges. Teachers who I consider more than capable and qualified to develop their job, full of energy and optimism, because as Cicerón said, “IF YOU WANT TO LEARN, TEACH”.