

Me vs English Test

My journey to New York started last year. It was a normal morning and the sun was looking beautiful as ever. I was sitting in the living room scrolling through memes. That's when I got a call from my friend Mike whom I haven't talked to in about 5 weeks, asking me if I am free I should get to him and help him to get a flight. "If this is plunk am not having good day man," I said, But he was deadly serious. I was confused but I got up quickly and took the bike and went to meet him at the store. He was standing aside the road chatting i said "Amakuru" we both loughed, i realized he cut off his hair i started taking things serious then . We bought a lot of hody and jackets since he was planning to get there in winter. It took us a long time to finish shopping. At the end of the day I asked him to later tell me how he did that.

After a week he took flight, I Facetimed him and asked how he caught that opportunity and I wanted to try out too. He told me about a company that wanted to help students who just graduated from high school to pursue their lessons abroad. They only have to do some English tests, "ngwiki," I interrupted. He continued, They do many applications and if you manage to succeed you get a scholarship. At that time I felt deterred because I knew since high school English was not my favorite course. On the other hand, I have always wanted to study abroad, especially in the United States where there is a diverse culture. I sometimes imagined classrooms filled with students from different cultures, accents mixing in the air, and conversations that would teach me as much as the textbooks. I had to try and see what I would go through.

Filled with confusing emotions, Gervais went home and told everyone about that opportunity. My family told me if I liked it I should do it. One thought came to mind "why don't you do it before you change your mind" and another one saying "why are going to through all this what would you do if this fails after all the effort and time you gone spend on this." I was confused that i didn't even realize when i fell asleep. First thing in the morning, I applied before the war start again in my head. I was excited to hear from them. The next day, I asked to join the meeting . Ofcourse i went there early, i had feelings i would get lost looking for place so i left early to be safe . As planned i didn't miss the place but i was last one to reach there. In the room there was 12 young man sitting and a woman who was giving briefing. She said that we have a duolingo test in the coming month. In the meantime, there would be weekly tests and if they saw that we weren't prepared we would be eliminated. Suddenly, my excitement packed its bags and left. I felt scared because one month did not sound like enough time for me. I knew I had to find other ways to prepare well and fast or else second thought would win.

I started by creating an account on the Duolingo website and watched many videos on youtube. I also practiced with the sample tests posted on the website. Whenever I felt tired, I would watch movies (konosuba), since it was my hobby, and somehow it made my learning

become easier. I told myself I was studying, but honestly, it felt like the most enjoyable homework ever.

The first week just went by so quickly that I didn't understand how it was already over. I went to the office for my first test. It was an interview. I was not prepared for it all. The person interviewing me asked me what I do. Why I want to study in another country? Those were the things I understood clearly. After that the interviewer kept talking. I just nodded like I understood, inside I was translating at 2% battery and it was very hard.

That moment made me realize my English skills were not very good. So I started practicing English every day. I would talk to my brother in English and before I went to sleep I would replay my day in English low volume mode. It was me starring and my ceiling. I would learn two new vocabulary dairly. My English skills started to get better and I felt confident.

I went to the test and the interview was really good this time. The interviewer was easy to understand. I went home feeling happy that day. I kept using Duolingo to practice. My scores started getting better. When it was time to take the exam people were taking it whenever they had time. I was not sure if I was ready. Then I scored 125-130 three times in a row. And I thought that was a sign. I called my friend . Said we should take the test together. I used his computer because mine didn't have power and I didn't bring my adapter. Just before the test began, I stared at the start test button like it was a horro movie scene. I clicked, survived, and went home completely exhausted.

Two days later, I got an email saying I passed the test. I was so happy to hear that. Then my friend called me and said he was in trouble. Duolingo burned him out, accused of cheating. I felt bad for him. What really happened was that he logged into my account since the previous day I was the one who used the computer in the exam and the information did not match so they thought he ws cheating. I was worried that I might be the reason he did not pass. So I sent an email to Duolingo. Told them what really happened.

Luckily they understood what happened and he was given a chance to do the exam again and he passed the English test too. Now, when we talk about that day, I like to tease and say he was scared that he couldn't even remember that the account was not his. That whole experience made me see how much pressure can make things feel impossible to be possible and how surviving it feels amazing.