Notes: Questions and teacher's answers

**Q:** What other languages can you speak and write proficiently?

**A:** Besides English, I am also proficient in Spanish and Chinese languages. I have practiced both languages while teaching in here in the U.S.

**Q:** In your experience, are there any additional benefits of being bilingual? Which are these, if any?

**A:** Knowing two or more languages opens a lot of opportunities for students and professionals. There are more opportunities for students who can speak and write in English. I am a good example for I have been able to work in different settings because I can speak English. I am calling upon my students to be encouraged to learn the English language for many opportunities is awaiting.

**Q:** How do you manage an ESL class?

**A:** Managing such a class requires a lot of patience. These are students who have difficulties getting instructions and expressing themselves in the English language. Thus, it requires the teacher to be as patient as possible to allow every learner to learn. Besides patience, it is also important to use different teaching styles and visuals to reinforce the text.

**Q:** What does it take to be a top-notch ESL teacher?

**A:** Passion is a very crucial element when it comes to ESL teaching. One has to be passionate about it to overcome all the challenges. Remember teaching an ESL class has a lot of challenges that if one is not passionate, he/she might give up. Also, one has to be empathetic in the sense that one must have the ability to understand students when they are frustrated and encourage them to keep going. Moreover, it is important to be proactive and patient.

**Q:** What is your motivation for teaching?

**A:** It is rewarding and fulfilling to see an ESL student excel in different areas of life that require one to be an English speaker. I find happiness when I see one of my students make great strides in English-dominated world. Also, I am passionate about making a difference in young people's lives, and teaching allows me to do so.

**Q:** What’s your current ESL class like?

**A:** My current class is comprised of Spanish and Chinese students. These are foreign students who have challenges accessing ESL teachers in their countries of origin. Most of these students are very bright but they face a major challenge transitioning to the English language. For a long time, these students have lacked adequate learning environments in their countries. Also, learning resources, including ESL teachers, are limited in China and Spain. The only place where they get to learn real American English is here in the U.S.

**Q:** What community resources are available in your community to help ESL students?

**A:** In their countries, resources are limited to just a few ESL teachers. Even schools which offer special teaching for ESL students are limited in China and Spain. However, the available schools are beginning to invest more in teaching aids and hiring more ESL teachers. Also, many English-teaching institutions have started to spout in China and Spain where most of my students come from.

**Q:** What would you say is the biggest obstacle to ESL teaching and learning?

**A:** I would say lack of adequate ESL teachers especially where most foreign students come from. Also, some schools do not create a conducive environment for ESL students, and this is very unfortunate. There are also challenges in accessing adequate teaching materials. On the part of students and parents/guardians, there is a bit of laxity and lack of commitment.