

I'm from Vietnam and I moved to Japan when I was eleven. I've been living in Japan for 4 years. The reason why I came to Japan is that my father was relocated here. So, my mother, brother and I came here to live with him. The problem is I didn't study Japanese when I prepared to move here. I couldn't speak Japanese at all. Of course, I couldn't read and write Japanese, too. When I came to Japan and started going to school, I just turned on quiet mode because I didn't understand what Japanese people were talking about. Until I was in 6th grade elementary school, I was bullied by my classmates. They bullied me because I couldn't speak Japanese. They said to me, "Why are you not speaking Japanese? Speak Japanese." "Your Japanese is strange." Also, one girl came to me suddenly. She said, "No foreigners allowed here. Go away! You do not belong here with us! You're disgusting!" I felt really discriminated and was so hurt by their words. I kept on thinking why they are doing this to me. So, from then on, I was afraid and didn't want to go to school.

Winter break came. I saw a video on Tiktok. It was a quote by Satchel Paige, a professional baseball player. He said "Never let your head hang down. Never give up and sit down and grieve. Find another way." After I watched it, I was so surprised because I thought he was talking about me and he was telling me to do something in my situation. So, I started to change my mind. I stayed at my room and started to learn Japanese and English for hours. I really did my best.

Months later, I could speak a little bit Japanese. My Japanese wasn't that good, but I was able to talk. I went to junior high school and I met my new classmates. They were friendly and they helped me a lot to talk. Yeah, I sometimes pass my classmates who bullied me in the hallways. But do you think I'm still afraid? My answer is no! NO! NO! NO! Because I found a way, so they can't bully me anymore, by studying hard. The next time that girl will bully me again, I'll be ready to face that challenge.

I have learned to be resilient and confident in my own skin. With each passing day, I became more fluent in expressing myself. I formed strong bonds with my new friends who became my pillars of support. Together, we navigated through the ups and downs of school life... facing not only academic hurdles, but also the occasional encounters with those who had once belittled me. Despite the bullying memories, I now carry no fear within me, for I have grown stronger and wiser, embracing a new chapter with determination and resilience.

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Never Stop Learning if You Want to Be Better