

I don't like studying. I like to have fun, and I don't like to make much effort. But I do like speaking and listening. That's why I can speak English a little bit. Why can I speak English? Is it because my father is a foreigner? Some of you must think that. But my father is not a native English speaker.

I am a mixed race of Japanese and Italian. Although my father is Italian, he mainly speaks English at home. Of course, he can speak in perfect Italian, but he speaks only English at home with me. Why doesn't my father speak Italian with me? You must wonder. I've often wondered about it too, but I think I know why my father didn't teach me Italian. There are more people who speak English than Italian. My father thought that by speaking in English to me I would be able to communicate with more people and learn more things about the world. He was right.

If you had a father like mine, you must think that you could easily speak English too. However, it hasn't always been easy. When I was in the first grade of elementary school, I couldn't speak English at all. At that time, my father forced me to study English. Of course, I resisted a lot, but my father didn't give up and he continued to make me study English. That is the reason why I am able to speak in English to you today. I wish I had studied a little bit more so that I could speak even better English, but as you know, I don't like studying.

From my father, I have learned something very important about being able to speak a little English. That is that it is very wonderful to communicate with people from abroad. If you can speak and understand even a little English, you can get greater understanding of the world. My father knew this, and he wanted to open up the world to me.

I think it is wonderful to communicate with other people who speak English. Learning languages is not only about reading, writing, listening and speaking, it is about understanding. You get to learn about different people and cultures. This is why I have the feeling of liking English. My father has shown me that it is a tool which will help me to learn more about the people of the world around me.

Thanks to my father who forced me to study English, now I'm happy that I can speak English a little bit. I can only speak English and Japanese, and even though they are not perfect, I can communicate in both. Communication is the key. With communication I can make more friends and learn about them. That is fun and interesting. That is not studying. That is what my Italian English-speaking father has taught me.

11 番 藤澤フランジーニ 智輝

那覇市立金城中学校

Why My Italian Father Speaks in English to Me