



# CPC Nūpepa

## My second language learning experience

My first exposure to English was when I was a junior high school student. I really enjoyed studying English because I had been so much into American culture by that time. My English grade was good (only English!) through high school and I without doubt chose to go to college that focuses on English education. Funny enough, my goal at that time was to speak English fluently like “American”! I studied so hard and fortunately had a chance to study abroad. At the school I was attending, I was so overwhelmed by the learning environment I had never experienced. I was thrown into the English-only immersion environment and expected to participate discussions in every class and give presentations every other week! My stress level increased and I finally came to the point where I couldn't say anything in class and completely forgotten by classmates.

One day, I had a chance to talk with the “best” student in class over a cup of coffee at a cafe. His intelligence was high enough to make him able to have a long discussion with a globally well-known professor in class. I admired not only his deep knowledge about his specialized field, but also his English communication skill that made it possible for him to express it freely. To me, his English was always perfect. However, when I saw him ordering a coffee and repeating himself to make his order understood by the worker, I found myself feel better. Why? I'm not sure. I just realized that English is my (our) second language anyway. No matter what you do, you can't change this fact and we can't be a native speaker and, most importantly, we don't have to because we are not!

After I realized this, I somehow gained more confidence in my English. This is my English. I study it very hard and this is what I have. It is hard to explain this feeling, but I started to feel more attached to my English as if I really owned it. At the same time, I learned that “HOW you say it” is not so important, but “WHAT you say” is more important. Besides anything else, studying hard is the most important thing. However, having confidence in your English is as important as studying hard. It seems very simple, but it took me a while to realize it. After I realized this, I became more comfortable to speak English and could participate in class. Language is alive. It means there will be no ending for language learning. I'm still learning every day and will never stop it!



**Yuka Nishimoto is the Managing Director of CPC. She has a Master's degree in Second Language Studies from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and has lived in Hawaii for ten years.**

### Next issue:

- ✓ **Survival English workshop**
- ✓ **Introduction to Hawaii workshop**
- ✓ **CPC Field Trip**



**Introduction to Hawaii workshop**

CPC's first introduction to Hawaii workshop was held on October 15, 2014. Students learned some quick facts about Hawaii and Local culture. The next workshop will be held on November 12!

### English Phrase of the Month

**"No wonder"**

**Meaning:** Used to express understanding

**Example:**

A: Why do you look so stressed?

B: I have two tests and a presentation tomorrow!

A: No wonder you seem so tired and stressed.

### Pidgin Phrase of the Month



**Pono (noun)**

**Meaning:** Righteousness

**Example:** In order to be happy, you must try to live pono

### Upcoming November events:

- ✓ 11/5: Open Conversation
- ✓ 11/7, 11/14, 11/21: Language exchange
- ✓ 11/8: UH Volleyball
- ✓ 11/12: Introduction to Hawaii workshop
- ✓ 11/26: Survival English workshop