

## Learning English through Workplace Communication An unforgettable experience

It's the BEST EXPERIENCE that I've ever had.

Last year, I went to New Zealand for working holiday with my sister during the gap year. We decided to gain some life experience and working experience before we go to the university. We were so lucky that the school accepted our application so that we can have a chance to widen our horizon.

Before we went to New Zealand, we contacted a lot of farm owners for requesting a job. Most of them were nice and wished to offer us a job and we chose to work on a sheep farm. After arriving at New Zealand, the owner drove us to his farm and introduced our work.

We were responsible for feeding the sheep, walking the sheep and milking the sheep. We had to wake up at 6am in the morning. After breakfast, I had to bring the sheep out from their fence and walk them for 3 hours on the meadow on sunny days. If on rainy days, I brought some corns and grasses to the fold that next to the cottage we lived. I usually milked the sheep after lunch.

However, never will I forget the experience on the last month before I left New Zealand. That was a simple day that I fed the sheep. Suddenly, I heard an ewe moaning. I asked the owner if he understood what's happening. He told me that the ewe was giving a baby and required me to get some hot water and scissors for the baby's birth. When I looked at the process of birthing, I felt the amazement of life and dropped my tears due to the touching moment.

After taking care of the sheep for a year, I understood some more habits of sheep and I think I'm mature enough to take care of animals. Besides, New Zealand is not a hustling and bustling city like Hong Kong. We can enjoy the fresh air and live with the animals leisurely. Nonetheless, I must admit that it was quite routine to do the treadmill everyday. Although it was boring to look after the sheep every day, I enjoyed looking at their growth and looking at them to give birth. Besides the sheep, talking to the farm owner was my priority as his mother language is English. After communicating with him for a year, my listening and speaking English improved a lot. This helps a lot on my studies in the university.

Never will I forget this experience, the memorable and unforgettable experience. I hope everyone will have the chance to try one and learn from it.