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Life will be extremely dull if one is never faced with difficulties and challenges, which is especially true to me. I will never forget that day when I was in elementary school when I stood on the stage in front of the judges speechless, shivering with embarrassment in an English speech contest. As a student who always scored high in English exams, it should have been easy for me to deliver a speech. The outcome, however, was totally beyond my expectation. Not until then did I realize that I was merely good at writing, rather than speaking, in English. Since then, my passion for learning English had been diminishing. Noticing my depression, my homeroom teacher, Ms. Hong, who was also an English teacher, decided to help me

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get through the difficulties. She offered to practice English speaking with me after school. I was reluctant to take part in it then, since I found no hope due to the frustration; however, Ms. Hong's encouragement and passion soon persuaded me into it. It was quite tough in the first couple of weeks. Nonetheless, sparing no effort in practicing with Ms. Hong, with much emphasis on pronunciation and fluency, little by little, I found myself better in English. Finally, it was the next year that I tackled the challenge of the English speech contest once again and won first place after I conquered my fear.

It is needless to say that I learned plenty of lessons during the experience. First of all, we can never be satisfied with our performances. Instead, we should put every effort into finding our weaknesses and keep shooting for the stars. On top of that, practice makes perfect. Oftentimes, we^{will} encounter a substantial number of difficulties in lifetime. Nevertheless, nothing can't be overcome with tenacity and fortitude. Then comes the most valuable lesson. I am grateful to Ms. Hong for her constant help. If it hadn't been her, I could haven't learnt to deliver a speech fluently, and more importantly, learnt the above-mentioned lessons. And hopefully I can pass down her spirit to encourage others in the future.