

## **A Detour isn't Failure**

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Hello and nice to meet you! My name is Daiya Kubo. I am in my third year of Ehime University. However, I am not like the other students. This is because I transferred from a vocational school to Ehime University from last April. I experienced many setbacks until I passed my entrance exam for Ehime University. My first setback was when I was a high school student and tried to enter a national university in my local area. However, I couldn't get a high enough score to get into my goal university. I wasn't good at studying any subjects except for English, but I didn't get a high score in English on university entrance exam. That I couldn't pass an entrance examination on the first attempt is the first setback in my journey. The reason why I was so defeated is that I didn't feel like waiting another year for a chance to pass.

However, I wanted to go to a national university because my brother went to a national university and I admired him. So I decided to enter a vocational school where I can learn English which is my favorite subject and I am good at. This school had a prep course for national universities. I believe this decision changed my life for the better. When I was at this school, I studied English reading comprehension and grammar as well as how to write a Japanese essay. I also studied American history. However, the second setback happened when I was there. I studied English as hard as possible because I needed some certifications, such as the grade pre-1 of the English proficiency test (Eiken). That level is valued as an indicator of English language ability. My score for the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) was about 700. The score was about the same level as Eiken pre-1. Although my TOEIC score had been increasing, I couldn't pass Eiken grade pre-1. Eiken was really difficult to pass for me. I had studied extremely hard to pass it for a long time but things were not happening the way I had hoped they would.

My entrance exam of Ehime University was in October so the next Eiken exam in July was the last chance to pass. I knew I had to do it. Indeed, I did not want to give up my dream of entering a university. If I would have given up on this goal, I would have been disappointed in myself for not following through. This motivation kept me going. Eventually, I was able to pass Eiken grade pre-1.

Thanks to these tests, I was able to enter Ehime University. Although it's been a long time since I got here, maybe I wouldn't have studied so hard and taken Eiken or TOEIC if I didn't decide to go to the vocational school. I'd like to continue studying English. At Ehime University, I am studying English linguistics and I am in a teacher training course of English. I am blessed with many wonderful friends. I'm glad I didn't give up. I am currently not exactly sure what I want to do in the future but I want to work while using English. Now, I am content with where I'm at and how much I learned from this experience, especially "A detour isn't failure".