Become a global TM with Aspire's Micron Moments!

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, BUT LET'S LEARN HOW TO DESCRIBE IT!

In this Micron Moment, we will be covering phrases to help us explain past experiences or situations.

EXAMPLES

Giving an explanation

✓ ...due to...

✓ It seems that...

✓ The reason being that...

✓ It came about because of...

Linking the narrative

✓ It wasn't until...that...

✓ Luckily...

✓ And/But then...

✓ What's more...

✓ Despite...

Time expressions

✓ While/When...

✓ At first...

✓ After that...

✓ As time went by...

✓ In the end...

Encouraging more information

✓ So, what did you do?

✓ What had you done?

✓ And what did (she) say?

✓ What happened (next/then/after that)?

✓ That's understandable

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Summarizing the narrative

✓ That was when…
✓ So that was the first problem…
✓ All in all, …
✓ It really surprised me (but it worked).
✓ I was extremely disappointed.

EXAMPLE DIALOGUE

Mr. Smith is explaining a work situation in Japan.

Smith: There was one situation I remember while I was living in Japan. You know I went out there to help with an engineering project at Fab53?
Jim: Yeah…
Smith: Well, I was responsible for a team of semiconductor engineers, a great team. We all got along very well. However, as time went by, I noticed that things weren't being done that I'd requested them to do so.
Jim: Oh?
Smith: Yes. If I asked someone to do something and they said "Yes", but it wasn't done. That was when I was aware there was a problem.
Jim: Go on…
Smith: At first, I thought it might be a language problem.
Jim: Well, that's understandable.
Smith: Yeah, but it was actually nothing to do with language. And it wasn't until I talked with my boss that I realized what was wrong.
Jim: What did you do?
Smith: Nothing. I told my boss what had happened, and she explained that there were two problems…First, my team didn't want to refuse my request due to respect for my seniority…but also, they didn't want to start a disagreement if they couldn't do what I wanted.
Jim: I see. So, you mean, they didn't want to show negativity towards you by saying "no"?
Smith: Exactly, after that, I was a lot more careful in what I asked my team to do and how I phrased the requests.

YOUR TURN!

Let's narrate past experiences in the following situations.
Here are some ideas for situations:
1. A misunderstanding in the office.
2. A misunderstanding due to culture differences.
3. Your idea!

Click here! for more advice and techniques for Meeting English!

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