

Challenge is the key

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I'm afraid of challenges. I may make a mistake. I may regret it later. We all fear challenges. However, there are more to challenges than fear. Challenges increase our options. They are the keys to open doors to new experiences. If you are interested in something, go for it! Don't let your fear hold you back. Have I made mistakes? —Yes, sometimes. But I don't regret trying. I obtained valuable experiences, relationships and new perspectives. So the next time you're afraid to try something, maybe you can take a leap of faith too.

What do you feel when competing with others? Initially, fear. That's what I felt taking part in the International Contest of Innovation. In this contest, we used MEMS to create products. MEMS is a technology that connects electronic and mechanical components on a single device. This sounded interesting, so I applied for a place in the contest. Production was a continuous process of trial and error. The product worked on some days, but didn't on others, so my teammate and I discussed how to make it better. Thanks to our hard work, we won the chance to compete in the international competition. I was so nervous because it was my first time making a presentation and answering questions in English at such an event. However, I tried my best. I also looked at the products made by teams from other countries, and we had a discussion about their products. By doing so, I learned of many innovative ideas which hadn't occurred to me. People in different countries have different ways of thinking. It would've been an experience I couldn't have obtained if I hadn't challenged myself to compete.

What do you feel in an unfamiliar environment? Initially, fear. That's what I felt studying abroad. It was my first time to go overseas alone. To overcome my fear, I set my mind on being proactive. Opportunities to study abroad don't come along very often. This was my chance to visit different places and experience different cultures. I also pushed myself to talk to my new classmates in English. I knew I wasn't good at doing so, so I began with greetings. Eventually, I realized that my friends could understand my English, even if it was imperfect. Communicating your thoughts is more important than using correct English. By challenging myself to study abroad, I broke out of my shell. Now, English is one of the many tools I can use to express my feelings.

Are you a student at KOSEN? Yes? —Well, you're in luck. KOSEN provides you with many opportunities to challenge yourself. Spending five years at the same school can become boring when you don't try anything new. That's why you should be proactive. Go for it when you're interested in something. Challenging yourself will help you broaden your horizons. Don't hesitate to seek out a new you.