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Spanish has always been an intimidating subject for me. The amount of dedication required to learning the language, or any language is a very daunting task. I took Spanish back in high school maybe 8 years ago, and to be honest it left me with a distain for the language. After I left school, and entered into the workforce however, I wish I had paid more attention. I was 18, and often in charge of primarily Spanish speaking individuals. Through a environment of immersion, I actually ended up picking up quite a bit of Spanish, but it was never properly spoken. This was my main weakness during this class. I assume that I had picked up a lot of bad habits by just knowing enough to get my message across to my coworkers.

I overcame this weakness by purely studying. And to be honest, I still need to work on a lot of it because some things I say out of habit and I say before I can process how to properly say it. Through studying charts for the IR, AR, and ER verbs, as well as things like ser forms, I am slowly breaking bad habits. I think that my best work fully shows the improvement I have made by showing what I would call proper sentences.

Most importantly, I have regained the ability to communicate with my crews at work. I am a project manager for a remodeling company and am again in charge of people who do not speak my language. I was extremely nervous to attempt to speak Spanish around them because I was worried they would find it disrespectful. I was completely wrong. Once I told them that I was a student taking Spanish, they were excited for me, and help me along the way. I have learned more about them, where they are from, how many siblings they have, dogs, cats, and what life for them is like back home.

I often have to ask them to slow down when talking, and still need help with a translator, but I feel that I have gained a little more respect out of my guys. The ability to communicate, and grow closer, and become a better leader for my coworkers is proving to be invaluable. We can make jokes, laugh, and what they really love, which is talk about food.