



June Interviews

Interviewee: Aina

Capacity: Club Member

Hello Aina, how are you today?

Hello, I'm good and you, how are you?

I'm fine thanks for asking. We're here to interview you as a member of the K-Reading Club. To start, can you please introduce yourself?

I'm Aina. I've been studying Korean for three years and I enjoy listening to Korean music and different activities on the outside. I joined the server some time ago to help with Korean improvement.

Why did you choose K-Reading?

I wanted to improve my speaking skills since I am not confident talking in Korean yet, so I thought it would be a good idea just to try and be a member of the club to gain more confidence in [my] reading.

How did you find out about the club?

I needed another activity to complete the quota since I didn't have a lot of time, due to things like university, etc. I decided to have a look at which clubs were there. I don't know how it started, but I had a look at the general post of the K-Reading Club and I thought that it was really interesting, so I joined.

How long have you been in the club?

Since I didn't have a lot of time, [during university] I couldn't attend a lot of meetings so I don't really remember the exact date, but it's been more or less three months.

Before joining the club what expectations did you have?

My expectations were really high. I was like, "Okay, let's see what happens, and what I learned", but what I heard about the club was like, they encourage



reading activities, they were really kind and offered some guidance. So they provide feedback with your pronunciation and I thought that it would really help me. My expectations were to try to participate a lot and learn new words or have a good time there.

So now that you've been in the club for around three months, have the club expectations been met?

Yes, absolutely. I'm a really shy person, so in the beginning, I was like, "Okay, I want to participate", but I don't know if I should, because it's been difficult for me to talk. Still, I felt really comfortable and I tried to participate more and more. The feedback that they gave me was good, so I tried to practice a lot.

How has your overall K-Reading club experience been so far?

I think it's been great. I don't think I would ask for anything more, the club is just really good. It encourages me to participate more. I feel really safe talking there, I am usually not the talkative type. So, it was a great experience, and I got to meet the people that I met there. They are super nice and it is just an amazing experience overall.

How was your reading before you joined the club?

To be honest, since I've been practicing my reading skills for a long time while being focused, it wasn't that bad. I did improve on the flow of the language, intonation. Also, some consonants were really hard for me to pronounce due to my native language, but I think it wasn't bad. Although, I definitely needed the practice.

How is it now?

I haven't been reading a lot and I've improved a lot. It really helped me, especially the different techniques that they provide. I think that now I have a good reading speed and some of the problems that I had with some consonants have improved. Some problems that I had still persist, but they have improved

Have you opened mic during some of the meetings ?

Yes! I tried to participate in some of the meetings.



How was the experience?

The first time, I was really nervous. My voice was really shaky and I'm sure it was really terrible but although I felt really anxious, it was comfortable as well because of the atmosphere that 'people don't judge you, so it's okay you can talk'. From time to time, I still get a little bit nervous, but that's how I am.

How is the atmosphere?

It's great, for real, they are kind. They give advice when you talk and when someone reads they are like, "You're good, you're good" and that's really good. I have trouble speaking outside with people in Korean, but this club is a safe space.

What do you love most about the club?

I really like the different texts they bring for us to read. We read textbooks, interviews, letters, etc. So, I really like the content, it's really good.

How much has this club helped you in terms of Korean learning?

It definitely helped with increasing my reading speed, my pronunciation and understanding the meaning of the stories, the letters, etc. I also learned a lot of new vocabulary. It's really hard for me to memorize vocabulary but with the different activities, I have memorized a lot.

Are the assignments difficult?

I don't think they are difficult. They are according to your Korean level, and I like that the assignment has different levels, so each level has a part to do. I think that's really good because people that have a higher Korean level can practice more with these kinds of homeworks or assignments. Also [so that] people that are beginning, don't get too anxious or stressed with the assignment because maybe they don't know how to do it, so I think they are not complicated, but they are good for you to practice.

Do you have a favorite assignment?

I remember one that involved a K-Drama script. We had to record ourselves reading our favorite K-Drama scene and it was really fun to do it. First we have to choose our favorite K-Drama and scene, and then just try to act it out. I like reading, so it was really fun!



Do you receive feedback from the assignments?

Feedback... *[thinking]* I may have received feedback, but to be honest, I don't really really remember right now. Because last month I was excused. So it's been a while since I've done an assignment.

Do you want to receive feedback on assignments?

Yeah, that would be great. Though, it would be more work for the club leadership and maybe they don't have the time to do it because there are a lot of club members, but I think that will be great. It doesn't need to be an elaborate feedback but correcting noticeable mistakes would be great.

What do you love most about the club?

In general, I like the atmosphere of the club. The good atmosphere, good content, and good people, etc, everything contributes to the good atmosphere. I just love how the club is built.

Is there something you would like to see them do in the future?

I have to think about it. I don't know if they have done this before, but I think I would like the involvement of more scripts, and maybe some lyrics too. I will be happy with everything that the club will bring.

What is a fun memory you have from your time in the club?

Oh, I remember reading K-Drama scripts was fun as we were trying to act out the script, so we put in the intonation and everything and it was really fun to see and we laughed a lot too with some of the scenes.

Can you name something you've gained from being in the club?

I think I gained a ton of confidence because when I compare myself from where I started to myself now, I can see a drastic difference. It's not only for reading in Korean, but in general. The club has helped me a lot in speaking with people here on the server. For example, now the interview was really hard for me at first because I was like, I don't know if I will be able to do it, but all this confidence is here, so I think that's the biggest gain.

How do you like the club leadership?



I think they are really good. I know Psyche (@psyche.x) is also there and I only had meetings with Darcy (@definitelynotdarcy), so I cannot talk about a lot, but I think the relationship is really good. The meetings are fun, the activities they bring are good as well and they are punctual. I don't have anything bad to say about the club [*laughs nervously*].

What are the meetings like?

I think they are really interactive. Usually we start with a Kahoot! with the words that we learned in the previous meetings. It's just a game where you have to remember the word, so it helps to practice the new vocabulary and memorize it. After that, sometimes they have a little bit of explanation about rules or the level of speeches, I think [that's what] it's called in English. I've been in there for two months only, so in the first one we talk about the phonetic rules and in the other one, about speeches. Afterwards, they introduce content for us to read. We all like to read with our mics on. We try to understand what they are saying and refer to the English translation just in case there are people who can't understand. I understand it and they also give a little feedback when you speak which is really useful. Moving forward, they introduce new words for the next Kahoot! and I think it's really good because it helps you build speed and also expand your vocabulary, which is necessary. So it is a good way to introduce all these things in the meeting.

What is something that we wish to improve about K-Reading?

There are a lot of people in the meetings and sometimes people want to read but they don't have time to read it. So, I think instead of one person reading a bit of text, it will be better if a person reads one or two phrases. This might be good if there are a lot of people in the meeting and they all want to read. Also, sometimes the meetings are really short, like just an hour long, so there's not a lot of time to read.

Would you recommend other ^{oㅏㅓ} KSG members joining this club and why?

Yes, absolutely! Anyone and everyone should join if you want to improve your reading skills. And also, as I said before, you learn a lot of vocabulary, you can meet new people who are super nice and it's a great experience, so I recommend everyone to join.



Do you have any words of encouragement for your fellow K-Reading Club members?

Yes! I want to say that while starting, it's difficult to gain speed or pronounce the words, etc, but, as you continue reading and reading and reading, it will become a lot easier. And although, an important thing that we have to have in mind, the more confidence you have, the better you will be able to read or just to speak in general, tested by and on myself. The more confidence I gained, I could, maybe not pronounce, but I could express with my voice. So, it is just time, confidence, work and practice, practice, practice. So just keep practicing and you will be able to do it.

Thank you so much for the interview Aina, we wish you the best!

Thank you for the interview, I had a great time here!

