

## **How I became a Tri-linguist**

If there was one single significant experience that changed me and my life view, it would be my unique language-learning experience, which has made me a tri-linguist: Chinese, English, and the language of mathematics.

### **Language 1, Chinese: Native Speaker**

I was born in China and grew up in three different cities where I learned Mandarin, Cantonese, and other local dialects. Eventually, my family moved to Shenzhen, a city in southern China, arguably the most successful Special Economic Zone as China's open-door policy proceeded.

Through family connections, I gained opportunities at a very young age to be exposed to China's manufacturing industry when the world's factory started to be recognized. Interested by the international trade business, I started taking internships with various companies, including with an apparel manufacturer and an electronics-technology firm. Through working as an apprentice, I have not only grasped basic corporate finance knowledge, but also begun to understand the business language in the Chinese context.

Another experience that helped me mature was my work with a charity group, helping vulnerable groups of people. For example, I spent four years with a disabled child, in a peer-adviser manner, assisting him to complete his elementary school work. This taught me something beyond just oral language—communication and love.

### **Language 2, English: Aim-for-Perfection Speaker**

I viewed myself as an English speaker when I started high school in the United States. Being a quick learner, cultural shock had passed quickly, leaving behind only excitement and my eagerness to learn. I transferred from a religious to a private school, and I experienced America's advanced technology, freedom of thought, and corporate desire to make a difference. In school, I picked up phrases and slang by talking with local students.

In addition to the way Americans speak, I think the way Americans think. The best example was my performance as a salesman in an exhibition in XXX YYY. During this exhibition, my job was to attract American buyers for a Chinese manufacturer. The capability of speaking both Chinese and English led me to dozens of orders. For the first time, I started to realize that I am able to bridge bilateral business between the two countries and make an impact.

### **Language 3, Mathematical Language: Enthusiastic Speaker**

It seems that I was born with Mathematics in blood. In a problem-solving class when I was in China, I started serious training. The harder a problem was, the stronger a feeling of satisfaction I gained when I had conquered it. All math-related subjects—physics, computer science, and economics—are my favorites. Several mathematics prizes I won in competitions have given me both the confidence to pursue a degree in a quantitative field and the aspiration to explore more in college.

### **MIT: My Dream School**

M-I-T: These three letters have been marked on my desk since three years ago when I started considering college applications, and they have occupied my heart since I began learning every single detail about the school. The superb technology-focused curriculum and the unparalleled academic atmosphere have been driving me every day to work harder to become qualified for this dream school. Now I believe that I am ready for all its challenges and to realize my dream.