



As adults, we all experience a lot of pressure with regards to our career paths and how we transition from our life as children and students into life as working professionals. A lot of people get stuck in the daily grind with jobs that bring them little to no reward other than the monetary. It's easy to feel trapped when you have rent and car payments. It's easy to just accept it and take one on the chin, saying "that's just life." But, that's a defeatist approach to life and the careers we pursue to fill our days and our pockets. There is an inherent drive in some of us to do something different and exciting; to be remembered as something special. Thinking this way might put you on the verge of something resembling a nervous breakdown and maybe it should, because it is the right of everyone to find a life that feels meaningful and leaves them with genuine happiness; the problem is, most of us do not.

*But why diminish your soul being run-of-the-mill at something? Mediocrity: now there is ugliness for you. Mediocrity's a hairball coughed up on the Persian carpet of Creation. - Tom Robbins*

A job without direction left my life feeling vapid and devoid of meaning, and that is what brought me to Asia. I left home not really knowing if teaching English would be something that I'd find pleasure in, but I knew I'd be somewhere else, seeing new things, and that's all I wanted at the time. Fast forward a year and my life had changed in many ways for the better. Not only had I found that I enjoyed teaching and working with children, but I discovered that living a life abroad had not at all left me feeling like I'd set myself adrift with no hopes of recovery, but quite the opposite in fact; it felt right. Not only was I happy, but I also felt financially stable and secure in my new life in Asia. When I'd left home a short year earlier, my plans were to be abroad no more than 2 years, but 1 year into my time away, and I knew that I was headed down a different path than originally planned.

I left Korea with new aspirations and a new job in Thailand, a country I always dreamt of visiting. After a few months of teaching in Thailand, I found myself developing and growing as a teacher. The classroom and professional environment was much different than what I'd become accustomed to in Korea, and although I faltered in the beginning, I grew and adapted.

After some time in Thailand, I was offered the chance to become a head teacher and help supervise our other instructors. Things really seemed to start falling into place and this motivated me to start taking teaching more seriously. In the time since I took on the role as one of the head teachers, I've gained other qualifications such as a CELTA and am currently getting my master's degree in TESOL. Becoming a manager gave me the chance to really look at teaching as a craft, which is continually experimented with and refined; it motivated me to be better.



Super English gave me the opportunities to find myself as a teacher, as well as a professional through flexibility, creative freedom, and responsibility. The last 2.5 years in Thailand, working with SE, also put me in the highly rewarding position to help new teachers find their own place in the classroom, and hopefully, a career in education as well. I've been able to work directly with the administrators in our Thai school and with our English teachers to improve our English program and turn it into something I'm proud to be a part of. Training, supervising, and working alongside our diverse group of teachers has been one of the highlights of my very young teaching career and a key turning point in its development.



While school was in session, I fell into a *day-to-day* life here in Thailand, but it always felt rewarding and meaningful to me. I formed relationships and memories with students, co-workers, and locals, with whom I will always share a fondness. The *day-to-day* isn't as such when you enjoy what you do and where you are on each of those days. Since I left home nearly 4 years ago, I've changed and grown a lot. Teaching abroad, and more specifically, teaching with Super English in Thailand, has shown me that instead of taking a "that's just a part of life," attitude towards work, I can be passionate about what I do. My time teaching abroad has also given me the opportunity to travel to 16 different countries in Asia and visit unforgettable places, in turn educating and maturing me while finding a confidence in myself I'd never known.

I will always look at my time with Super English as a turning point in my adult life. After leaving S. Korea, with a year of teaching experience under my belt, I thought teaching might be a possible career path. Now, after teaching for nearly 4 years abroad, most of that time being spent in Thailand, I can look at my time with Super English as the time when I realized I'd be a teacher for life. I'll be taking a lot with me, physically and emotionally, when I leave Surat Thani. But one of the most valuable things that I'll be taking with me is the professional experience and clear career goals I have now gained while working with Super English. When I think of all of the opportunities and positive changes provided to me over the course of my time here, I know I'll always keep Surat Thani, Thailand, and my time spent working with Super English close.

