

Good morning Ms Cheng, colleagues and students, before I start my sharing, I would like to ask you a question, what is your favourite subject? Is it the subjects that without examinations like HE or PE? Or is that your favourite elective subject that you are even considering as your future career? But among all the subjects, Mathematics usually isn't the one. To be honest, mathematics is never my favourite subject. It only reminds me of all the exercises which are impossible to be finished before the test, and the time when I was stuck in a difficult question during the examination.

But recently, I had read an article by a mathematician called Andrew Wiles talking about "What does it feel like to do maths", which inspires me a lot. In the article, he mentioned that we need to accept the state of getting stuck when we start doing mathematics. We don't get used to that and we may find it very stressful, even for people who are very good at maths. However, being stuck is part of the process and we have to accept it and learn to enjoy it.

It is really shocking when I know that a mathematician got stuck in maths questions, and that implies that being stuck doesn't mean that you are not talented. It is impossible not to be stuck throughout our life, in all aspects, no matter if you are talented or working hard enough or not. So instead of avoiding being stuck, what we need to do is to accept it. Difficulties are like monsters. They will be getting bigger if we find them scary. We can accept its existence, and try to treat it as a challenge. Instead of being panic and blaming yourself, we should learn from it and prepare ourselves bit by bit. Take a deep breath if you find it stressful, and come back to it when you are ready. I am sure you will be rewarded with satisfaction throughout the process.

That's the end of my sharing. Thank you.