

3rd Labor Gakuen Newsletter

Restaurant Reviews, Activities, Student Profile, Teacher's Information, etc.!

Second House Will French style restaurant

It's on the 7th floor so you can enjoy the quiet atmosphere and a fine view of Higashiyama from the windows. It is suitable for chatting with your friends or a small party.

Location: "Kanbaikan" on the 7th floor of Doshisha University.

Get off the subway Karasuma line at Imadegawa and walk 2 minutes north from Exit No.2. You can find a brick building on the left.

Tel/Fax: 075-252-0200

(You need a reservation)

Open: 11:30 to 2:00 for lunch

2:00 to 4:00 for tea

5:00 to 9:00 for dinner

Prices: Lunch costs 2630 - 3680 yen
(with hors d'oeuvre, soup, main dish, dessert and coffee)

Dinner prices are from 5250 yen

Hisae Hayashi

Tiem an Huong Viet Vietnamese food

The recommended dishes are
[pho ga]=chicken rice noodle
[banh xeo]=Vietnamese OKONOMIYAKI
and [goi cuon]=NAMA HARUMAKI
It's the same taste as in Vietnam!!

I want to eat it just thinking about it . . .

I love it!

The address is Higashinotouin west of Oshikouji street

Get off subway TOUZAI line at Karasuma Oike and it's 5 minutes on foot

Tel: 075(253)1828

Price of dishes: 1000yen-1800yen

Price of drinks: 700yen-1000yen

You had better make a reservation because the restaurant is very small!

MASAYO HOSOE

baku-baku

Japanese-style pub

Come with your classmates after your lesson!

Beer: 480 yen Other drinks: 500 yen

The first gulp is always the best!

Wide variety of foods from 300 yen

They use vegetables from Ohara, Kyoto.

Location: ...in our neighbourhood

South-east of Nishioji-Shijo (near the Keifuku train station)

Please unwind at this comfortable place!

Midori Terada

2ND LABOR GAKUEN ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION!!!

SATURDAY, JULY 14

There's still time to join the exhibition!

We also hope that many students will come to see their fellow students beautiful artwork!

You can see photos from the 1st Exhibition on the following website:

<http://iamagoo.smugmug.com/Japan>

Robinson Karasuma

Boulangerie Café and Dining
Kind of Italian

Originally from Kobe,
this is the first one in Kyoto.

They bake various breads and
you can eat as much as you want.

For example, there are breads
mixed with spinach,
pumpkin, cheese or fruit.

I recommend you have the lunch
with your friends.

The prices are between 900-1500 yen
(includes soup, salad,
main dish and bread!)

They have remodeled an old
Japanese-style house,
and it is very stylish and modern.

Lunchtime is from 11:00-3:00.

They also open for dinner from 5:00-10:30.

From Karasuma street, turn west at
Bukkouji street,
and you will find it.

Chie Torii



CAFFE VELOCE

Self-Serve Coffee Shop

It is very cheap but you can work slowly,
read books and study English.

Prices: Drinks 160-260 yen (Coffee: 160 yen)

Food: 130-240 yen (Egg-sandwich:190 yen)

It's a large place (seats about 130 people)
but very relaxed & cozy.

Located North of Kyoto-Station,
on Shiokouji Street (South of Kyoto-Tower)
About one minute walk from JR Kyoto-Station.

You'll love it!

Masakazu Masuda

YAK & YETI

Won't you try Nepalese food?

I like the Nepalese curry which is a
little spicy and the nan bread.

The lunch sets are composed of a
vegetable salad, rice, curry, nan and
other dishes.

C and D sets include chicken
and a dessert.

Prices are from 750yen to 1,200yen.

I don't know what's on the dinner menu,
but I have heard the owner was a chef
of a 4-star restaurant in Katmandu,
Nepal. So, I think you can taste really
good Nepalese food.

There are about 20 seats. The staff is
Nepalese. The restaurant always plays
Nepalese music, so the atmosphere is
nice and relaxing.

Located on the east side of Gokomachi
street north of Shijo street.

Yoshihisa Nakamura

Listening to the Internet

“How can I improve my listening?” is one of the most common questions we get from students. While class exercises are important, they often don't have the pace, pronunciation or casual expressions used by most native speakers. Students who are comfortable listening to a class CD or their teacher discover that when they join an English conversation outside class, they can't 'keep up' enough to join in.

So you need to practice more listening outside class, to native speakers talking in a natural way. But how? The answer is at home – on the internet.

As you know, the internet is full of 'audio-visual' English – videos, movies, radio, music... and is hence a fantastic resource for students. So, to help you start listening, we surfed the net for this guide to some of the best sites.

But first, some teacher's advice: If you follow these basic ideas for self-study, you will soon improve both your comprehension and comfort when listening to native speakers:

HINTS:

1. Enjoy your work! Enjoying the content is vital if you want to understand it. If you are not interested in the news, don't listen to it! If you love dogs, choose something about dogs.
2. Don't overdo it! 15-20 minutes practice at one time is enough. Don't sit in front of a documentary for 1 hour, just because it is 'better' than half an hour. It isn't! You will end up practicing NOT listening when you get tired.
3. Do ACTIVE listening. Don't just sit there waiting to understand. Get a pen and paper and write down key words. After you listen, write a sentence or two about some important or interesting fact you heard, then listen again to check. Then listen again for more detail.

NEWS

The BBC has a great site for English learners. Go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/multimedia/index.shtml> - and then go to “Watch and Listen”. There are lots of interesting, short listening clips (lots of human interest too), with listening quizzes and scripts, made by professional teachers. Good for Pre-Intermediate and Intermediate students. Also, this site has graded news stories that you can read and listen to at the same time.

If you want “American English” (i.e. a US accent) go to CNN – <http://edition.cnn.com/> - and click “watch video” – but there are no quizzes designed for students.

YOUTUBE and GOOGLE VIDEO

<http://www.youtube.com/>

<http://video.google.com/>

You can find almost anything on YouTube and Google Video, which are sites with millions of videos made by people and organisations all over the world. We suggest you:

- a) type your hobby into the search window e.g. skiing, dogs, tennis. Explore....
- b) Watch video clips of your favourite English-language singers or bands. Hint: download the lyrics too and use them to help you.
- c) Search for the topic you are currently studying in the textbook.
- d) Type in 'Japan' and see what crazy foreigners are saying about you!
- e) If you have a favourite TV show in English – ER, The Simpsons – you might find old episodes here.

DAILY LIFE

Video Nation –

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/videonation/>

Short clips of British people talking to the camera about their daily lives, organised into categories like “Relationships” “Home” “Travel”. A wonderful slice of life.

MOVIES, ANIMATION and DOCUMENTARIES

<http://www.lingual.net/lingualproductitems/index.php>

This wonderful site is compiled by two English teachers. It is full of short movies, documentaries and animations made by all sorts of people around the world, with English subtitles, and study hints. A great place to practice listening to movies.

LESSONS ONLINE

The Australia Network Learn English site

<http://australianetwork.com/learnenglish/>

has a suite of different online programs for learners. One of them – “Living English” - is made for elementary students, and has video lessons where you can practice typical travel and daily life situations. Highly recommended. Others help you study IELTS, and Business English.

Mo-an (a wooden cafe in a forest)

If you ask us what's the most beautiful view we've seen, we'll definitely answer "It's the view from the windows of Café Mo-an."

As you climb up Mt.Yoshida from Yoshida shrine and walk down a little in the direction of Ginkakuji-temple, you can find a nice wooden two-story cabin, which is the cafe called Mo-an.

If you visit Mo-an, you will be impressed with the views from its window. They are absolutely fascinating. You can look at 大 on Mt.Daimonji among a lot of trees before your eyes from one side of its windows. And from the other side, the city of Kyoto can be looked over in the distance. You could enjoy the greenery of the forest over a cup of coffee or tea. The dishes which the courteous master cooks are yummy!! I'm into its homemade cookies. If you come from Kaguraoka street, you can find the signboard of Mo-an (300m from Imadegawa street). Go up long beautiful stone steps, and you can see the two old tea houses of Mo-an on this side. In here, they hold a tea ceremony once a month (on the first or second Saturday). You will find it comfortable and relaxing. Don't worry about manners. Prices :
Cake and drinks about 1000 yen

Lunch 1260 yen ~

Meiko Kimura & Noriko McLane

Nakamura Tokichi Cafe

~ Japanese Sweets Cafe ~

There are various kinds of Japanese sweets made with matcha, as well as light meals.

First, try the "Namacha jelly " (green tea jelly using fresh tea leaves and served with ice cream and azuki beans paste)

Prices: 620 yen -

It is located on the Byodo-in omote sando, the approach to the temple Byodo-in in Uji city.

Also, one of its charms is the chance to see the passage of the seasons, view the cherry blossoms of spring and red and yellow leaves of autumn, from the cafe which was built about 200 years ago as the villa for a merchant. You can enjoy both the traditional and modern, delicious Japanese and Western sweets.

website : <http://www.tokichi.jp/byodoin>

Akiko Mori



Aussie English Quiz

Have you ever been to Australia? If you have, you may have heard some words or expressions that are unique to Australia: 'Aussie English'. Take this quiz and see if you can guess the meaning of the following words used in Australia:

1. If someone invites you to a '**barbie**', they are inviting you to

- a. a bar to drink beer
- b. a doll exhibition
- c. a barbecue

2. If someone offers you a '**tinny**', they are offering you

- a. some food
- b. a can of beer
- c. tin for your roof

3. If someone asks: "What are you doing this **arvo**?" it means 'What are you doing ..……?'

- a. this afternoon
- b. this weekend
- c. this summer

4. In Australia, a '**cuppa**' is

- a. a cupboard
- b. an Australian animal
- c. a cup of tea

5. If someone is '**yapping**', they are

- a. talking a lot
- b. crying like a dog
- c. doing an Aboriginal dance

6. If someone tells you: "I'm **fair dinkum**", it means "I'm ..……."

- a. very hungry
- b. an Australian
- c. telling the truth

7. If someone asks you to bring your '**esky**' to a picnic, they want you to bring your

- a. cooler box
- b. picnic umbrella
- c. sun cream

8. If someone says "That was good **tucker!**" it means they enjoyed

- a. the football game
- b. the meal
- c. the movie

9. In Australia, if you have a '**sickie**', it means that you

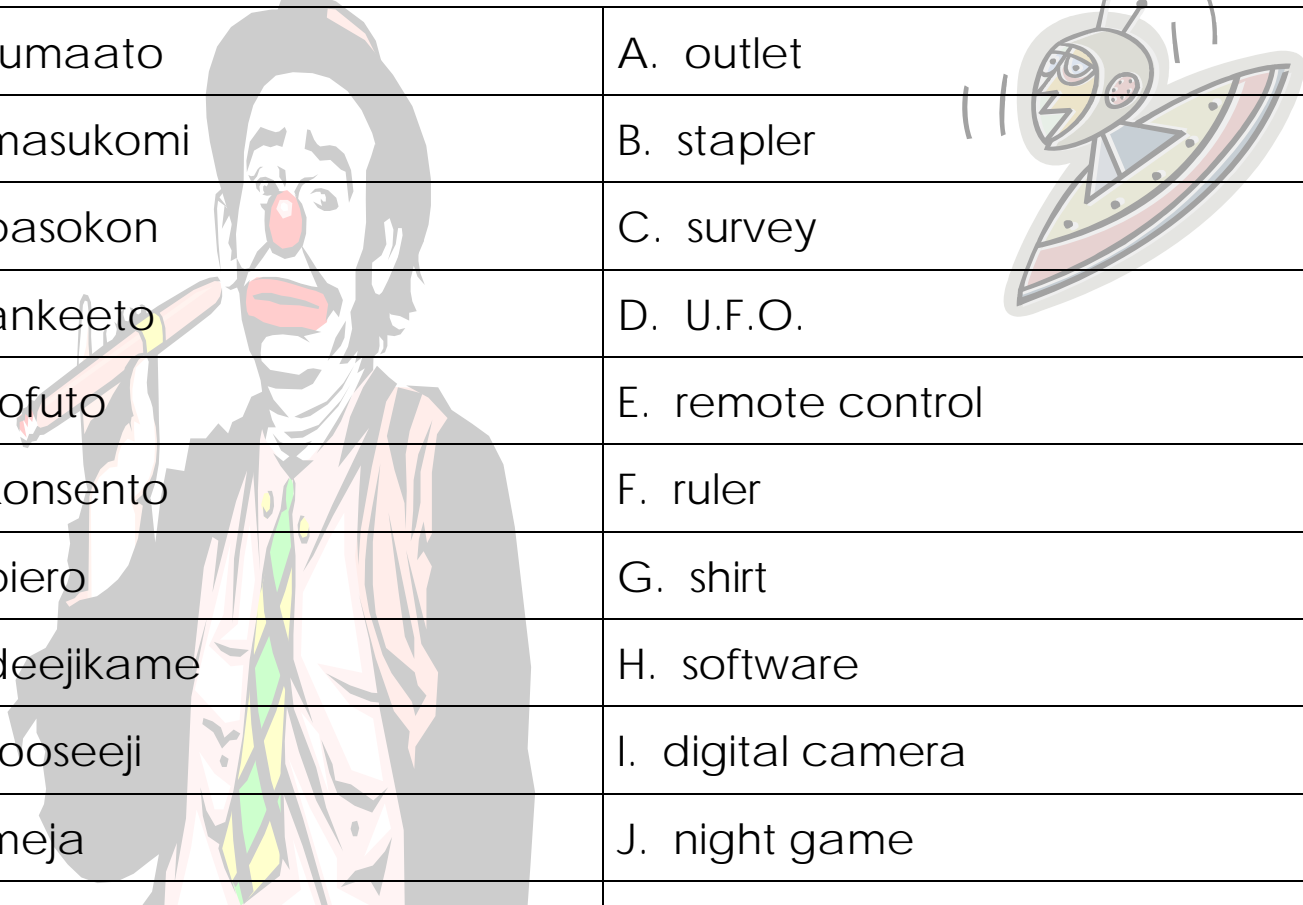
- a. have an old surfboard
- b. need to fix your computer
- c. take a day off work due to illness

10. If an Australian tells you to '**take a load off**', they mean

- a. sit down and relax
- b. clear the table
- c. help them unload the car/truck

Answers: 1. c 2. b 3. a 4. c 5. a
6. c 7. a 8. b 9. c 10. a

Katakana / English Matching Exercise

1. sumaato	A. outlet	
2. masukomi	B. stapler	
3. pasokon	C. survey	
4. ankeeto	D. U.F.O.	
5. sofuto	E. remote control	
6. konsento	F. ruler	
7. piero	G. shirt	
8. deejikame	H. software	
9. sooseeji	I. digital camera	
10. meja	J. night game	
11. sharupu pen	K. slim	
12. naitaa	L. part-time job	
13. arubaito	M. personal computer	
14. ufo	N. mechanical pencil	
15. hotchukisu	O. sausage	
16. rimokon	P. clown	
17. shatsu	Q. mass communication	

Café “Tabi-Tabi”

“Sanshi-suimei” is the description of the beauty of Japanese nature: green mountains & clear water. Even though Oyamazaki is a typical place to see this, it wasn't noticed by people living in Kyoto or Osaka because there were few places for sightseeing. However, for the past decade the number of people who get off at Yamazaki or Oyamazaki station has been increasing. Why? They enjoy not only hiking but also seeing Monet's “Water-lily” at the Oyamazaki Sanso Gallery, and drinking free whisky at the Suntory Oyamazaki Distillery. Also a few people, including me, have a peaceful time at café “Tabi-Tabi”.

It stands just in front of JR Yamazaki station. Although this café recommends 4 kinds of tea; Earl Grey, Assam, Darjeeling and Ceylon; and curry rice, I've never ordered these. I always choose iced coffee, but I don't think it's special. I wouldn't complain if the staff served Doutor's Iced Coffee sold at the convenience store. I like the atmosphere inside and outside of the café. Wooden chairs, tables and floor make me imagine I'm in a log house. The mild lighting is enough to relax and read books.

The view of Tennozan-mountain and the fresh air are also nice. How about sitting on the terrace and inhaling the air of Oyamazaki instead of exhaust fumes? About 420 years ago, Oyamazaki was an important battle field for the leaders of Japan. Hideyoshi Toyotomi and Mitsuhide Akechi fought each other and a lot of people died. Now I can't find the any trace of this at all because Oyamazaki has become such a peaceful place.

Recommended menu
Coffee 380 yen
Breakfast 450yen~
Curry rice 680 yen
Lunch combo 800yen

Tel: 075-957-9180
Open 7:00~7:00
(Sunday &
holidays 8:00~6:00)
Closed Every Monday



Takayuki Seki

Student Profile: Katsuhiko Oku



Retired high school teacher (taught German history for 37 years!)

Married with 1 son and 1 daughter

Katsuhiko has been studying at Labor Gakuen for 4 years. He is now an Upper-Intermediate student. His hobby is mountaineering. He decided to study English to help him communicate with mountain guides and travel agents he meets through his many mountaineering travels.

Katsuhiko started hiking in Japan about 25 years ago. His first major trekking experience was in Pakistan, in 1994. Seeing the beautiful mountains inspired him to want to climb to the top of the mountains. He has fulfilled this dream many times since then. He has climbed Mont Blanc in France, the Matterhorn in Switzerland, Mt.

Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and many other famous peaks. The highest mountain he has climbed was Mt. Shishapangma, in Nepal, in 1999. The peak of Mt. Shishapangma is at 8,070 metres! (Mt. Fuji is only 3,776 metres). The entire trip took over 2 months, but upon reaching the summit, he and his climbing partners were only able to spend 15 minutes at the top. From the top he was very moved by the incredibly beautiful sunrise. Despite not being a religious man, the view made him feel

compelled to give thanks to God for the opportunity to see this amazing view. It was a life-changing experience for him. Since that day he has climbed 5 other peaks in foreign countries, many mountains in Japan, and is an active member of the Japan Alpine Club. Katsuhiko enjoys climbing for many reasons, including learning about the mountains and weather, map reading, overcoming personal challenges, and strengthening his mind, body and soul. While traveling and climbing in many foreign countries Katsuhiko communicates mostly in English!

Mr. Katsuhiko Oku is an inspiration to people of every age, to go after your dreams and never believe that you are too old to do something.

*“Climbing requires courage.
It gives us a feeling of accomplishment.”*
Katsuhiko Oku

Mark Thompson in Italy

Question: So, what have you been doing in Italy?

Well, for my first four weeks and I relaxed and enjoyed trying out the many varieties of *Gelato* and Pizza here. After that I started looking for a job.

Question: And did you find a job?

Yes, in May I started teaching Japanese children in a Junior high school in Milan.

Question: Teaching them Japanese?

No, teaching them English and that's fun but very different from teaching in Labor. And I'm teaching at an international school 3 days a week. I'm hoping to start working full-time at the international school in September.

Question: And how is life in Italy?

It's great, it's very different from Japan, and my life has been very busy. Milan is not as beautiful as Kyoto but there are lots of exhibitions and concerts. The people that you make friends with are warm and friendly and there are lots of wonderful restaurants. Unfortunately it's also very expensive here and the tax is high.

Question: How are you finding married life?

Wonderful, Mari and I live in a small apartment and we are both working. Mari's job is only 5 minutes walk from our apartment and we live very close to downtown. In our free time we have picnics in the park and enjoy going out in the evening. I'm really enjoying married life.

Question: Last question, do you miss Japan?

Sometimes, and I miss the students too!

Meet the New Teacher

1. Why did you come to Japan?

To be perfectly frank, I first came to Japan in 1997 to make money! I was broke and living in Melbourne and I wanted to go home (Perth) with some savings and some teaching experience, so a friend advised me to come to Japan for a year. I stayed for three, met my current wife and the rest is history.

2. What are your hobbies?

I read widely and write my own stories when I get the time. I like playing music, but these days it's usually just a get together with friends every week or so to play drums or guitar.

3. What do you most like/dislike about Japan?

I like the food, the antiquity, and sitting in old wooden cafes looking at the moss. The thing I dislike the most is asking someone something in Japanese, and they answer to my wife!

4. If a student was going to visit your hometown what advice would you give them?

Bring a hat and sun cream.

5. What has been your strangest experience in Japan?

Once I went camping beside a lake in the woods north of Kyoto. In the morning I heard people outside the tent and stuck out my head to find about twenty people in full Edo-era dress – kimonos, topknots, fans - standing in my campsite. At first I thought I was seeing ghosts, then a guy rolled out a cable, and said they were trying to shoot a Samurai drama right where I was camping.

6. What advice do you have for students in labor?

In my opinion, students in Japan study English too much, and don't use the language enough. So my advice: don't come to class to 'study' English, come to class to use your English!



