

9th Labor Gakuen Newsletter

Summer Event & Quiz, Book Reviews, Classroom Listening, Crossword



The Labor Gakuen Beer garden Party

It was the big summer event that everyone had been looking forward to - the infamous Labor Gakuen Beer garden party!

I came early and just as I got close to Hankyu station dark clouds appeared and thunder roared and I thought 'Oh no, not again!' and sure enough it began to rain heavily. When I arrived at The Gion Hotel it was pouring rain and I remember thinking 'Wow, Déjà vu!' This is just like last year!

But nobody cared, we all just wanted to have a good time. Twenty minutes later, as more students continued to arrive the rain finally stopped and the party began! There were so many students (150!) all drinking and chatting that we teachers barely had time to talk to everybody! I must have visited every table at least half a dozen times! And it was a wonderful opportunity for all of us teachers to get to see so many students at the same place at the same time.

The students relaxed and chatted in Japanese with their friends and some of them made new friends with other Labor students from different classes. It was a great atmosphere. Some of the highlights for me included the beautiful view of Yasaka Jinja, watching Kris and Brooke on TV, the summer quiz, seeing the last of Gion festival parade and catching up with old students.

Finally, after several hours of merriment the party came to an end. Nobody wanted to go home. We were all having too much fun!

On behalf of all of the teachers and staff at Labor, I would just like to say a big 'Thank you' to all the students who helped make it such a memorable event.

I can't wait for the next beer garden party!

Mark (PS. The underlined expressions are useful, so please check in your dictionary)



Reading Marathon

Student Book Reviews



The Reading Marathon has been going for about 6 months now and some students have already read 12 books and received a Gold Award!!!

Congratulations!!!

We've been very impressed with how eager students are to read books in English and with the effort students are putting into writing book reviews.

Here are some of the book reviews we have received from students. Remember: your review doesn't have to be very long or written in difficult language – a simple review can tell the story and your feelings about it just as well! Enjoy!!!



Bronze Award

Book Reviewer: Mayumi Nishizaki (Intermediate)

Title: Earrings from Frankfurt

Author: Reg Wright

Level: 2

Plot: This book is a short exciting story.

A woman was worried about her younger brother because he has gotten her into trouble many times. One day an accident occurred again and he disappeared. But this time, the truth was that he found his boss was a thief and solved a crime in secrecy.

Opinion: I think this story is thrilling. It goes on quickly and unfolded as I didn't expect it to. In the end, it comes to a happy ending. But I wondered if I could believe in him or be as patient as she was.

Silver Award



Book Reviewer: Hironobu Kojima (Novice)

Title: Audrey Hepburn

Author: Chris Rice

Level: 2

Plot: The book is a biographical story of Audrey Hepburn. She was born in Brussels on May 4, 1929. She died in Switzerland on January 20, 1993. She was a very famous and successful actress, but she was not always happy.

When she was a child, she had an experience of war. She wanted to become a ballet dancer, but she could not be so. She wanted to be married to her first lover, but she could not do so. In 64 years she got married twice but she divorced twice. When she became pregnant, she lost her baby twice.

She appeared on the screen in about 30 movies as a star. But those movies were not always praised. For all these reasons, she was not a goddess, she was just an ordinary human being.

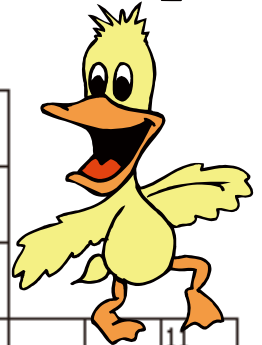
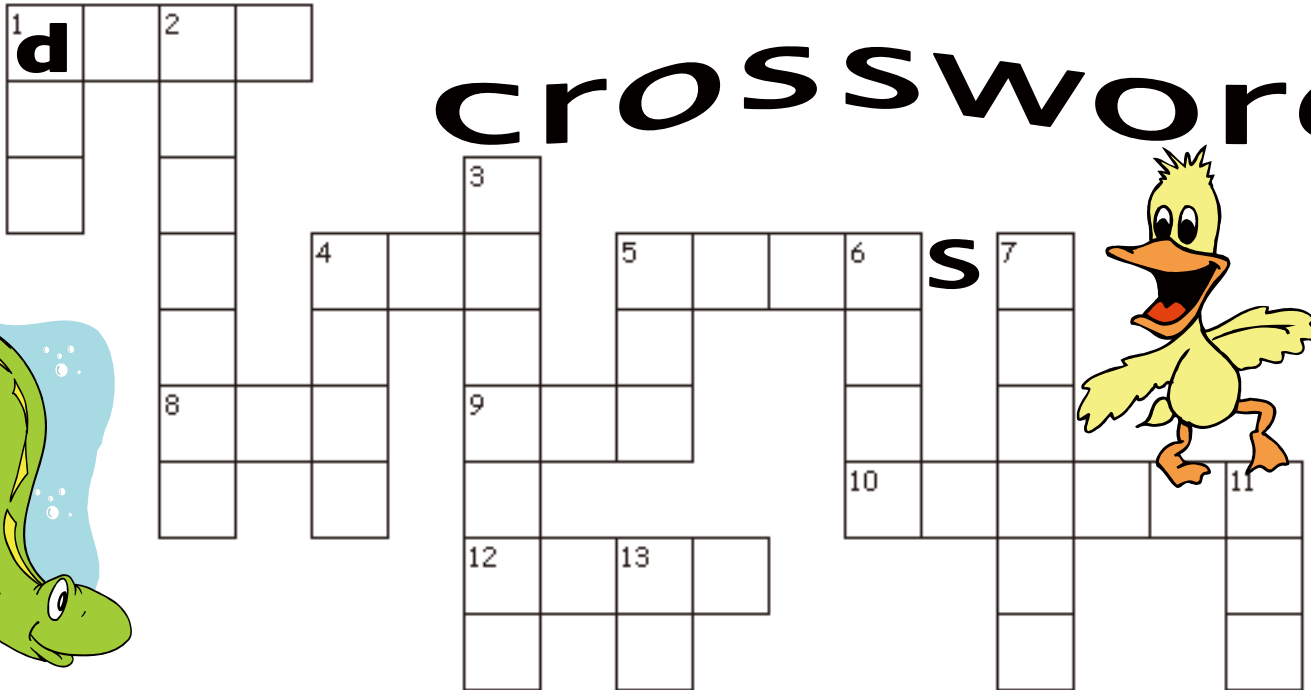
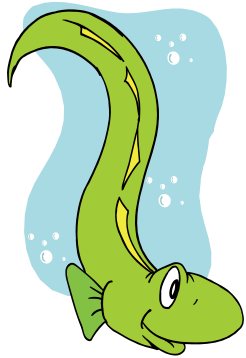
Opinion: This book is very interesting and I learned many things about Audrey Hepburn. The first time I saw Audrey Hepburn at the movie theater I was sixteen. I went there with my friends. The name of the movie was "My Fair Lady". We were very impressed with it.

This book says that My Fair Lady won eight Oscars, but Audrey did not win one. I found out the reason was that Hollywood felt sorry for Julie Andrews. Julie Andrews was the heroine in Eliza on Broadway, the most successful theater musical. But she was not selected for the movie My Fair Lady.

I cannot forget my first impression of My Fair Lady, but I like Roman Holiday the most of all. This book says that Roman Holiday made Audrey world famous. This book taught me many things about Audrey Hepburn.

Animal idioms

crossword



Across

1. A **sitting** (???) is an easy target, _____ a person who is easy to deceive.
4. A person who has a **(???) in their bonnet** has an idea which constantly occupies their thoughts.
5. If you **kill two (???) with one stone**, you succeed in doing two things at the same time.
8. A person who is not to be trusted is as **slippery as an (???)**.
9. Two people who fight or argue are **like (???) and dog**.
10. "She left college feeling that the **world was her (???)**."
12. Doing something **till the (???) come home** means that you'll be doing it for a long time.

Down

1. When hung over, trying the **hair of the (???) that bit you** can help.
2. If a person rushes about **like a headless (???)**, they act in a disorderly way.
3. He's a really proud person. He's **as proud as a (???)**.
4. To **take the (???) by the horns** to deal with a problem directly.
5. If something moves **like a (???) out of hell**, it moves very quickly.
6. The Betamax video is **as dead as a (???)**
7. "Hold your **(???)!** Don't rush into this without giving it careful thought."
11. To say "I **smell a (???)**" means that you think something is suspicious.
13. To **cry (???)** is to call for help when you are not really in danger.

Answers

Across: 1. duck 4. bee 5. birds 8. eel 9. cat 10. oyster 12. cows
Down: 1. dog 2. chicken 3. peacock 4. bull 5. bat 6. dodo 7. horses 11. rat 13. wolf



Listening Like A Child

子供のように聞いてみよう

Children learn language by listening. A child discovers every new word and grammar structure only by listening. Listening properly is a key to becoming confident with any language. Every child can do it, and so can you. Did you know that your class listening activities copy how children listen and learn language? Let's explain:

1. Why do we have quizzes? 聞き取り演習には、どうしてクイズがありますか？

Listening questions are not tests. The questions are to make listening *easier*, because they focus you on information you need, not every word. Think of a child listening to his parents discuss his birthday party. He will NOT ask himself 1) "what are my parents saying?" but 2) "what time is the cake?" The child will definitely answer question 2, and be unable to answer question 1. *So listen like a child: don't try to understand everything, just answer the questions.*

2. Why do we check our answers in pairs before listening again? I don't have the answer!

どうしてクイズの答えをペアでチェックする必要がありますか？

Again, this makes the second listening *easier*. If the child doesn't hear what time the cake is served, she will definitely ask. If a child is unsure of the time, she will ask another child. If both children have the same answer, their language confidence is improved. Everybody is happy; no-one is wrong. Checking our listening is a natural part of conversation from an early age. *So listen like a child: check your answers by using the Classroom English handout.*

3. If I ask a question, does it interrupt the lesson?

私が質問をすれば、授業を中断してしまいますか？

No, in fact asking questions shows that you are listening! Think about when you read a child a story - if they ask lots of questions about the words and characters and pictures, you know they are learning. If they are sitting silently, they are probably bored. Teachers know that the students who interrupt the lesson are learning the quickest, and those sitting quietly are learning much less. *So listen like a child: interrupt the lesson, ask questions about words, and shout out "what was that?" or "why did he say that?" as often as you like!*

4. If I get the wrong answer, am I a bad student?

答えを間違えるのは、悪いことですか？

No. Is the birthday child 'bad' if he mishears the time for the cake? No, but he will cry if he gets no cake. So it's up to his parents and friends (teachers and classmates) to help him understand, and get some cake in the end. Which is why we have quizzes, peer checks, and question times. But if he has the wrong answer at first...who cares?

So listen like a child: focus on getting the cake, not on getting 'the right answer'.





Gold Award

Book Reviewer: Kayo Kondo
(Pre-Intermediate)

Title: Martin Luther King

Author: Cobeen Degnan-Veness

Level: 3

Plot: Martin Luther King was born in 1929 in the American South. He became a Baptist preacher. But he wasn't just a preacher. He had a dream. He wanted blacks and whites to live together happily.

But in America in the 1950s and 1960s people were not equal. King led peaceful protests against the government, and won change for the blacks of America. But he was murdered in 1968.

Nowadays, on November 2nd, Martin Luther King Day is a very special day for most American people.

Opinion: "...I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood".

When I was a high school student, I had to memorize this speech in my English class. In those days, I didn't understand that the speech was deep and great.

This book encouraged me. I knew King worked from Gandhi's book and his ideas. He never gave up and he protested peacefully. He was murdered, but his dream is going to be realized.



Bronze Award

Book Reviewer: Shigeo Mizutani

(Upper/Advanced)

Title: Nothing but the Truth

Author: George Kershaw

Level: 4 (Intermediate)

Plot: Hu is a 17-year-old female student at an international school in Bangkok. She intends to become a doctor because her father wants her to. She has a problem with her English teacher, Mr. Stanyer.

Mr. Stanyer fabricates the results of her exams in order to offer her extra English lessons for fees after school. Hu is not able to refuse his offer because she has to get good enough exam results to go to medical school. Hu doesn't want to tell her father the bad exam results and disappoint him. That's why she keeps it secret.

But at last she tells the school counselor and her parents about her problem. Hu and her parents are called in to the principal's office. In the room are Mr. Stanyer, the school counselor, the principal and the chair of the Board of Governors. Hu and Mr. Stanyer tell their different stories in front of them. Which story will they believe?

Opinion: The highlight of this story is that Hu and Mr. Stanyer confront each other with their different stories in the principal's room. Hu is put in a hard situation being questioned by the principal, but finally it turns out that what Mr. Stanyer said was totally lies.

The situation was increasingly tense and I was thrilled. He was actually an unqualified teacher and forced a few female students to take improper photographs. As the principal stood up for Mr. Stanyer, I could enjoy imagining his disappointed face when he knew the true story.

Finally, I have to add an important piece of information, which is that after she had the problem she shared it with one of her classmates. That led to a happy ending. Hu would realise how important it is to have friends and ask for advice when she runs into a problem.

Summer Quiz

This quiz was held at the beer garden party on July 24th and the winning team was

'The Shigeru Team'..... Congratulations!!!

Why don't you try the quiz yourself?



1. What is beer usually made of? Name three ingredients.

Answer: _____, _____ and _____

2. Which country do beer gardens come from?

Answer: _____

3. How old is beer? Circle one answer.

Answer: 1000 years old 3000 years old 9000 years old

4. Riddle: What only comes once in June and once in July, but twice in August?

Answer: _____

5. Riddle: What dresses up in lots of clothes in summer, but wears nothing in winter?

Answer: _____

6. Riddle: Why do birds fly south for the winter?

Answer: _____

7. Shakespeare Quote: *Shall I compare thee to a summer's _____? Thou art more lovely...*

Answer: _____

8. Popular Song: *Summertime and the living is _____.* The fish are jumping.....

Answer: _____

9. Swedish Proverb: *A life without love is like a year without _____.*

Answer: _____

10. English proverb: *Make _____ while the sun shines.*

Answer: _____

11. When is the summer solstice?

Answer: _____



12. A period of warm weather which sometimes happens in early autumn is called 'an _____ summer'.

Answer: _____

Answers

1. water, hops, barley (sometimes wheat, rice or corn)
2. Germany
3. A beer made from rice was made in China 9000 years ago.
4. The letter 'u'.
5. A tree.
6. It's too far to walk!
7. day
8. easy
9. summer
10. hay
11. Around June 21st in the Northern Hemisphere.
And around Dec.21 in Southern Hemisphere.
12. Indian