



Labor Gakuen Newsletter

Summer 2022



It's summer time again. The rainy season has already finished in Tokyo and we have just had the hottest June on record. What crazy weather we are having! Do you think this summer is going to be **scorching** hot? Or do you think it'll be cooler than usual?

I'm hoping for some nice thunderstorms, because, for me, **there's nothing better than** the flashes of lightning and the **rumble** of thunder getting closer and closer. In England, my friend and I would sit in the garden watching the lightning and drinking beer until the rain suddenly started! Good memories!

Quick Tip: When you learn a new word or phrase in class, write it in a new sentence to help you remember it – don't just write the kanji and forget it...

Scorching – very hot weather / **There's nothing better than** – I really like it / **Rumble** – a continuous deep sound

"**There's nothing better than** a cold beer on a summer's day." "I'm so hungry my stomach is **rumbling!**" "It was **scorching** yesterday. Maybe 38C!"

Anyway, in this newsletter we'd like to introduce you to some special classes for next term. Hopefully there's something in here for you!

Next term we have quite a few new courses. If you have the time (and the money!!) it's a great idea to take a regular class and a special class. The different styles can really help you improve your English abilities!

So, what have we got? On Mondays, we have Judith's Japanese Culture class and John's American Play ('Death of a Salesman'). On Tuesdays, we have Robert's Kyoto class, the Book Club and a new Listening class. There will also be a Music class on Tuesdays – a busy day! Wednesday has the Media class and Friday will have a new 'conversation' class with no textbook plus Robert's Explaining Japan class. Then there is Business on Saturday, and Setsuko and Yuko have their classes on Fridays and Saturdays too. Anything sound interesting? I'm going to do all of them! (not really!!)

Quick Tip: Every few months go back to the beginning of the textbook and read through it all again. What have you forgotten? What can you remember?

Do you like summer? Does Japan have many summer traditions? Here are some summer traditions from around the world:

White Nights, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Did you know that St. Petersburg is the world's most northern city? In summer it has 'White Nights' to celebrate the almost constant sunlight. Events include live music, opera, ballet and fireworks.

Puck Fair, Killorglin, Ireland.

A 3-day festival in summer celebrates a story about a goat that saved a town. Apparently, an army was coming to attack the town and when the goat saw the army, it ran into the town in a panic, warning the townspeople of the danger. A goat is crowned 'King Puck' in the festival.



Ghost Festival, China.

Like in Japan and other Asian countries, in August, ghosts can enter the living world. Families in China worship their ancestors with food, money and entertainment. Many people also float glowing lanterns along rivers to guide lost ghosts back to their families.

La Tomatina, Spain.

Over 20,000 people gather in Buñol, Spain for La Tomatina. Thousands and thousands of tomatoes are thrown at each other in the streets. Before that there are also parades and paella contests.



Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland.

The Fringe is the world's largest art festival. There are more than 50,000 performances over three weeks in Edinburgh. There are circuses, musicals, comedy acts, exhibitions and much more. A lot of the events are free!

Quick Tip: Try listening to something in English on YouTube or similar. Listen for different things each time – main ideas, names, places, dates and times, verbs etc.

Do you have any plans for the summer? Will you go anywhere? Will you do anything exciting? Or will you stay in Kyoto and 'enjoy' the hot, humid weather?

Most people in England don't have air conditioners, so if it ever reaches more than 20C at night (very, very rare) it's a BIG problem. A few years ago in a heatwave the advice was to sleep in the bathroom next to a bath of cold water with wet towels hanging from it!!

Whatever you do, stay safe and don't get heatstroke! Have a good summer! And study English every day!!!!!!