



Labor Gakuen Newsletter

Summer 2023



Hi everyone! Are you looking forward to the summer break? Any plans for a **wee** holiday? Are you going to **take in** any firework displays? Or maybe have a picnic in some **idyllic** spot? We all hope you can start the fun with our Beer Garden party! Book your slot to make sure you can enjoy meeting a bunch of students from other classes – hopefully it won't be **bucketing it down**! Saturday the 22nd of July is the day! **Be there, or be square!**

Wee – small, not big (Scottish word) / **take in** – visit an event or building while in a place / **idyllic** – perfect, ideal / **bucket (it) down** – rain heavily / **be there or be square** – if you miss the exciting event, you are not cool

Ex: When I was in Scotland I **took in** a **wee** castle on a trip to a whisky distillery. The castle was **idyllic**! Unfortunately, the rain came **down** in **buckets** later in the day.



Quick Tip: When you find a new word, try to write it down in a new, different sentence, like the example above. Also check for different ways to say it ('bucket it down' and 'come down in buckets' or different meanings ('take in' has many!))

Anyway, here are our special classes for next term.

As usual, we have some continuing classes and some new courses for you. If you have time think about taking a regular class and a special class. The different styles can really help you improve your English abilities!

So, what do we have? On Mondays, we have Judith's Japanese Culture class and Chris' American Play plus a new Tea Ceremony class. On Tuesdays, we have Robert's Kyoto class, the Book Club and a Listening class. Wednesday morning has a new class about Kyoto Guiding while the evening has the Media class and a new Business Class for Inter and up. On Friday the Debate class continues. Then there is Business on Saturday, and Setsuko and Yuko have some classes on Fridays and Saturdays too. So much!! Something for everyone, we hope!

Quick Tip: Watch videos at a slow speed with subtitles on and see if you can find any differences between the subtitles and what is said.

Did you know?

The day with the highest chance of rain in Kyoto is July 3rd. It usually rains 14 days out of 31 in July in Kyoto. Let's hope the beer garden party isn't on one of them!

Crossword: COLOURFUL

ACROSS

- 1 Baseball hats or bottle tops 47 Purple color and plant name
- 5 A color and a fruit 49 To ___ or not to ___?
- 9 Perform an action 51 Inquire, request
- 11 Country in the Middle East 53 One. Article for words beginning a,e,i,o,u
- 12 In other words (Latin abbreviation) 54 Glass building for growing plants
- 13 Person who chooses a candidate in elections 56 House made of snow and ice
- 15 Holiday in Japan in May 57 It's put in magazines and papers to sell something
- 16 Sports class at school (abbreviation) 58 You have two on your head
- 17 Opposite of old 60 Nintendo __
- 18 The __ of A 61 Hospital workers
- 19 Fermented soy beans 62 "That's one small ____ for man"
- 20 Garden

DOWN

- 1 Police officer (slang)
- 2 In the morning
- 3 One of many in a book
- 4 Wintery weather
- 5 Had more birthdays than
- 6 Hokkaido native people
- 7 Information about the world today
- 8 Equally across an area
- 9 The Titanic is now in the ____ of the ocean
- 10 Famous American black and white cookie
- 23 Friend, mate
- 25 Tear (paper or clothes)
- 27 Sweet potatoes
- 29 When the plane should land (abbreviation)
- 30 Have you ____ to Korea?
- 34 Big sales day in November
- 37 Irish word for Ireland
- 38 Oh, did I tell you? (Abbreviation)
- 40 Streetcar
- 42 Sphere, round object
- 43 Dine, chow down, consume
- 44 Satisfy

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- 14 Fuku____ prefecture 39 Work that must be done
- 17 Tidy 40 Stuff
- 21 Famous band from Sweden 41 French President
- 22 Trash, rubbish (not a common word) 45 Supermarkets that Justin often goes to / very long periods of time
- 23 The skin of a mikan or apple 46 Makes things less difficult
- 24 You take lessons at _____ Gakuen 47 Past tense of 'lay'
- 26 Guess based on information 48 In the past - a few days ____
- 28 Perhaps, possibly 49 Big brown furry animal. May be dangerous
- 31 ____ friendly - good for the environment 50 Finishes
- 32 Like 'madam', but for men 52 Chair or stool
- 33 A small salamander 55 Power to 'see' things outside normal senses, like telepathy
- 35 Spare ____: Popular meat dish with BBQ sauce 59 Short for 'regarding' in
- 36 When a car hits your car, there may be one

Vacation adventures

Well, it's summer time. Traditionally a time to go on vacation – school is out, Kyoto is too hot – a perfect time to escape your everyday life and get some new experiences!

Have you ever been on an adventurous vacation? Have you ever been somewhere that made you feel worried or scared? Do you have any stories of staying in strange places?

I thought I'd tell you about a trip I made a long time ago. I was travelling in Indonesia and some backpackers told me about an island called Siberut. They said you could trek through the jungle and stay with the local tribespeople, the Mentawai. It sounded interesting so I joined a small tour. There were 10 of us, and we took a ferry to the island. After lunch, we got into dugout canoes with outboard engines and went up the river for a few hours. We soon left the town behind and the jungle got thicker and thicker. We saw a few people fishing in dugouts, and women by the riverside washing clothes. Our engine had problems, but we finally arrived at a small village. We had a two-hour trek to



reach the place we would stay. At first it was easy to walk, with a nice dry path, but after 30 minutes we were really in the jungle. The ground was so wet that the path was made of tree trunks that had been cut down. If you fell off, you landed in a lot of mud! We saw giant centipedes and dangerous biting ants. We arrived at a small river. There were two ways across – throw your bag over and wade across, or cross the 'bridge' – one wobbly 4m long bamboo pole! We all waded across! Finally, we arrived at the place we would stay. It was a single hut in the jungle. There were chickens and pigs living under the hut. The hut was made of

wood and had one large room. In the middle of the room was a fire and some pots for cooking. Around the walls there were lots of monkey skulls (after the tribespeople ate the monkeys they displayed the skulls to thank the gods for the food). The family didn't need money, so we paid them with sugar, salt, tobacco and rice. After dinner (rice, vegetables, eggs) we slept on mats on the wood floor. It wasn't very comfortable! Apparently, a large snake crossed the room while we were sleeping! After breakfast we all jumped in a river to wash but there were leeches so after



washing we used a cigarette lighter to get them off our bodies! And the toilet? Hide behind a tree and use a stick to keep the pigs away. That day we learned how the family made spears and poison arrows for hunting, how they made clothing from a tree, and how they did their tattoos. They also showed us some plants they used for medicine. The next day we said goodbye and went back. Two of us decided to cross the river on the bamboo pole. We were following a local woman carrying a big bag, and she just walked across, so we did, too. Easy! It was an amazing trip and I would recommend it – as long as you don't mind leeches, biting ants, crazy pigs, snakes, and getting wet and muddy!

Dugout canoe - 丸木舟 outboard engine - 船外機 centipede - ムカデ wade - 徒渉する
wobbly - ぐらつく leech - 蛭

Kanpai!

Here are some phrases you can use when out drinking!! Of course, we don't recommend that you drink too much, or too often, or too noisily. But, if you do have a drink with friends, you might be able to try one of these!

- Drink like a fish – *can drink a lot!*
- Dutch courage – *when you need a drink before you ask someone on a date*
- Hair of the dog – *an alcoholic drink you have the morning after drinking a lot.*
- Drink someone under the table – *you can keep drinking when others give up*
- Hold/Handle your drink – *ability to drink without getting too drunk*
- A stiff drink – *high alcohol drinks, like whisky, rum, vodka etc.*
- A round of drinks – *one person buys drinks for everyone at the table*
- The drinks are on me! – *I'll buy you all drinks! (Something I would never say!)*
- To nurse a drink – *drink very slowly (usually so you don't get drunk)*
- To get hammered – *to get very drunk*
- Pick your poison – *ask someone to choose the drink they would like*
- Toasting language – *Raise a glass to .. / Let's drink to .. / I'd like to make a toast to ..*
- Kanpai! – *Bottoms up! / Cheers! / Down the hatch! / Here's to you! / Here's mud in your eye!*

We hope to see many of you at the beer garden party! It's always fun and you can meet people from other classes. The teachers walk round and spend time on each table and we don't teach you any grammar!! It's on Saturday the 22nd July so get your ticket soon!!

And here are the answers to the crossword! It is actually quite difficult. A lot of crosswords have one or two difficult words that aren't common. In this one 'sate', 'Eire', 'dent' 'aeons', 'orb' and 'newt' are probably new for most of you.



Coming Soon: We are planning to have a 'comments box' in the waiting area in the future. If you have any comments about the school, your class, the building, and so on, you will be able to leave a comment at any time.