



Labor Gakuen

Summer 2024 Newsletter



What's Your Summer Plan?

Apart from keeping cool, of course!

Are you planning to go anywhere? Or will you stay in Kyoto in all the humidity?

Maybe you will go to a beach somewhere? Or maybe Tokyo for some summer shopping?

Or are you going to see a firework display somewhere?

Whatever you are doing, we hope you have a good time, stay healthy, and, obviously, study lots of English!!

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What's New at Labor?

NEW AND CONTINUING COURSES

We have a few new courses for the autumn term.

One is a grammar class on Friday afternoons. We will be focusing on some of the harder structures, like relative clauses or conditionals.

Another new course is a come-when-you-like class on Wednesday evenings. There will be 9 lower and 9 higher level classes covering a range of topics and structures. You can come to one, some, or all of them! It's up to you.

One more new class is a Travel in Japan course, where you can learn useful facts about Japan to help you talk to tourists and foreigners about travel in Japan.

Continuing courses include the Book Club, Business, American Play, Tea Ceremony, Discussion, News, TOEIC, Listening and Robert's Japanese Culture courses, together with Yuko and Setsuko's classes.

And finally, Robert has two short courses in the summer break and we also have four short courses in the level check season.

Hopefully there is something for everyone!!

Justin's Summer Memories

When I was young I used to *mess around* on my bicycle all the time. I would spend the days with my friends *zooming around* the paths and fields of my village. None of us had brakes or lights on our bikes and we would *do them up* ourselves - we changed the wheels, changed the gears, swapped saddles and so on. It was sunny until around 9 pm

'Used to' - For talking about habits in the past and past states.

"I used to live in England."

"I used to have a computer."

"I used to play computer games."

'Would' - For talking about past habits, but not past states.

"I would ride my bike all day."

~~"I would have a dog."~~

~~"I would live in a village."~~

to mess around - to be playful, not serious

to zoom around - to move around quickly

to do something up - to repair something and make it look nicer

in summer so we would be out every evening.

But on rainy days we would play computer games. Small home computers were becoming popular at that time. We used to play a game called 'Elite', but we also wrote programs to make our own games. I made a game like 'Donkey Kong'. It took ages, but was fun.

I didn't really do much else. Actually, there wasn't much else to do in the countryside, except take the dog for a walk. I didn't use to get the bus into town very often because it was expensive and there wasn't much to do in town either - I wasn't interested in shopping and the first McDonalds only opened when I was 17.

And the weather? Well, 30C was a VERY hot day! And night times were always cool. Actually it didn't rain so much - usually a quick shower for 20 minutes, but sometimes there were thunderstorms, which I loved. That was the only time it was humid...

Do you have good memories of your summers when you were young?

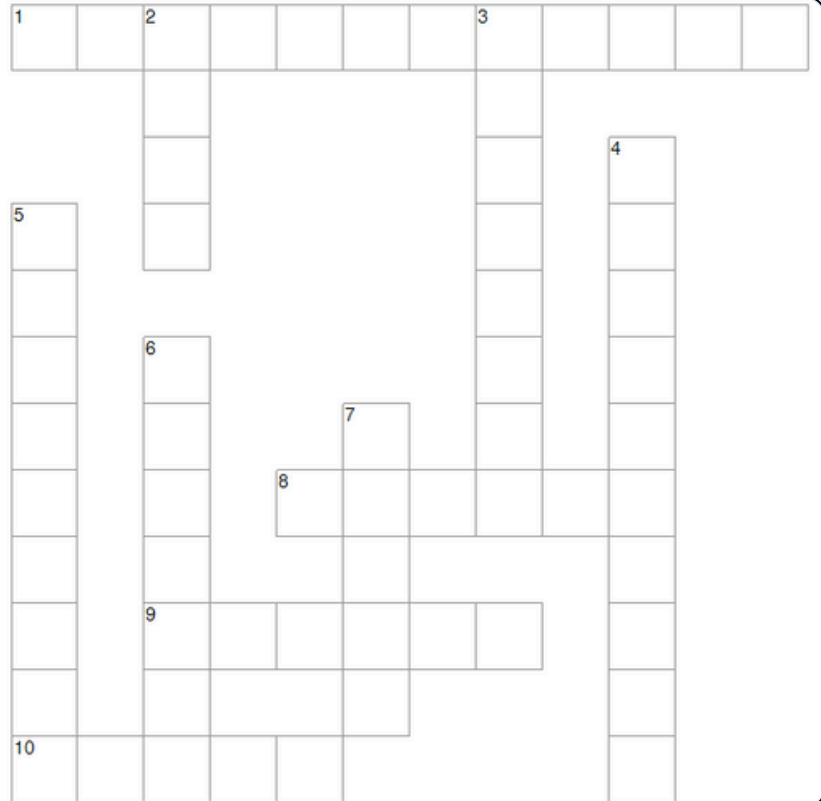
summer in Japan

ACROSS

- 1 Summer celebration in Kyoto (4,8)
8 Summer kimono
9 Popular activity in summer in the mountains
10 Popular Japanese dish

DOWN

- 2 Buddhist holiday in summer
3 Star festival in July
4 Rooftop place to go in the evenings to drink (4,6)
5 Colourful sky spectacle in summer
6 Summer destinations in Japan
7 Hot and steamy weather in Kyoto in summer



Beach Vocabulary

Many people go to the beach in the summer to enjoy the sea and good food, so here is some vocabulary for beaches. Do you know all the words?

Seagull	The large grey and white bird often seen at beaches
Boardwalk	A wooden path along the beach. There may be shops along it
Shore	Where the sea and sand meet is the shore
Coast	All the land that is next to the sea/ocean
Driftwood	Pieces of wood on the beach that were in the sea a long time
Dock	A structure that goes from the shore into the sea. Boats stop there
Pier	A pier is bigger and longer than a dock
Lighthouse	A tall building with a big light to show boats where land is
Tidal pool	A rocky area where sea water stays when the tide goes out
Sandcastle	Children often make castle shapes with buckets of sand
Life preserver	You may wear it to keep your head above water if you can't swim
Lifeguard	A person whose job is to keep people in the sea safe
Snorkle	You can use this pipe and goggles to swim and look under water
Coral	It looks like stone and is made of thousands of small living things
Tide	The rise and fall of sea water every day because of the moon

Can you remember what these are?



1. When I was at the beach, a _____ landed near me and stole my snack!
2. The Great Barrier Reef in Australia has lots of beautiful _____.
3. The _____ at Venice Beach in Los Angeles has lots of great shops and cafes.
4. My friend got into trouble swimming in the sea so a lifeguard threw him a _____.
5. There were two old fishing boats moored at the _____.
6. I bought a _____ so that I could swim and see the fish swimming in the coral.
7. When I went to Izumo in Shimane I saw the famous _____. It's tall and white.
8. When I was walking along the beach, I found a piece of _____. It was very smooth.
9. My son found some small fish and a starfish in a _____ in a rocky area.
10. When I was a child I used to make a _____ with a bucket and spade.



Beer Garden Party



We had a great time at the Beer Garden Party this summer. I think everyone got to speak to the teachers and staff for a while and we certainly enjoyed talking to all of you!! Luckily, the weather was nice so we could enjoy our time without worrying about rain! It's getting a bit expensive nowadays, but there was a lot of choice for food and drinks. So, a big thank you to everyone who came! And we hope that if you have time next year, we will see even more of you at the beer garden for more summer fun!

Have a great summer! If you are going travelling somewhere, we hope you have a great time. If you are staying in Kyoto, try not to get too hot! And we will see you in September for the last few weeks of term. Hopefully you will have some interesting stories to tell!!

