

# 16<sup>TH</sup> LABOR GAKUEN NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2014

Reading Marathon, Common English mistakes, Favourite Cafe, Questions to the Teachers

### Spring-Break Courses

#### 'Wanna' sound natural?

The aim of this course is to help students' speech sound more natural. The main focus will be on two pronunciation points; linking and weak forms.

Linking is the way two or more words join together in natural speech. Most students will know that 'going to' is shortened to 'gonna' and 'kind of' is pronounced 'kinda'. However, this course will show students that linking is used in almost every sentence native speakers make.

Weak forms are when sounds in words are not uttered. A common example of this is in the phrase 'want to'. Usually the 't' sounds are not said, thus producing 'wanna'

In this short course Students will have ample opportunity to practice through listening exercises, games and conversation.

**Dates:** March 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

**Time:** 10:00 – 12:00

**Level:** Elementary – Intermediate

**Limit:** 15 students **Fee:** 5,000 円

#### JAPANESE CUISINE

In this short course we will be talking about cooking. Japanese cuisine has recently been awarded UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status. Therefore it will be very useful to be able to talk about Japanese cuisine in English. We will be looking at how to explain Japanese ingredients like 'daikon' and how to explain some Japanese cooking methods so you can talk to foreigners about Japanese food and recipes.

**Dates:** March 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

**Time:** 1:30-3:30

**Level:** Novice – Pre-Intermediate

**Limit:** 15 students **Fee:** 5,000 円

### A brief history of English

Have you ever wondered where an English expression came from, or why people say certain words they do? Well, wonder no more! In this course we will look at the history of some popular English words and expressions. Students will learn where the words and expressions first originated and how they became popularized. From Shakespeare to French and German, expect some surprises! This is a great for anyone who loves English and would like to learn more about the world's most popular language.

**Dates:** March 28<sup>th</sup> & April 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

**Time:** 10:00 – 12:00

**Level:** Intermediate - Advanced

**Limit:** 15 students **Fee:** 5,000 円

### New Course

#### The Movie Class Reboot!

Now twice as long as before!

This course is learning English through movies and learning about movies in English. We will learn just how movies are made, who makes them and what messages they contain. Now twice as long as before, this course will be able to feature longer movies and students will have more time for discussion. The films will come from a variety of different genres and students will learn everything from natural phrases in a natural setting to specialised movie vocabulary. We will learn about the history of film, the messages and themes they contain as well as the technical achievements, plot details and of course classic quotes. We'll also look at how certain films have influenced popular culture worldwide. This course is a must for anyone who loves movies!

**Dates:** Second & Third Friday

(10 times from April 11<sup>th</sup> until September 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30

**Level:** Intermediate - Advanced

**Limit:** 16 students

**Fee:** 22,500 円 (includes handouts)





# Common English Mistakes

For each sentence, choose the correct answer. Then find it in the wordsearch below. The words can be in any direction (left to right →, down to up ↑, right to left ←, diagonal ↗ etc.) Check the notice board for an answer key and explanation (答えを掲示板に張っておきますので参考にして下さい)

1. My friend called (**while/during**) I was eating dinner.
2. There was a(n) (**happening/accident**) on my way home.
3. I (**challenged/trying**) a new sport.
4. He is a (**safe/safely/safety**) driver
5. I have (**ever/never/never**) been to Spain.
6. He is (**fun/funner/funnier**) than me.
7. I (**go to shopping/go shopping**) with my family every Sunday.
8. He (**told me/told to me/told**) I was fat!
9. Please (**teach/tell**) me your phone number.
10. My mother is a really good (**cooker/cook**).
11. I (**presented/gave/prepared**) a present to my sister for her birthday.

12. (**How/What**) do you think about the movie?
13. I (**got/met/had**) an accident last week.
14. I want to (**trip/travel**) to Okinawa

A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T	P	Q
E	V	A	R	A	F	E	T	R	I
A	T	O	L	H	S	V	A	F	K
G	F	U	N	N	I	E	R	O	V
S	O	H	S	P	A	R	O	O	G
A	W	S	H	P	C	C	E	C	T
F	H	<b>W</b>	H	O	C	W	E	A	R
E	A	<b>H</b>	T	O	L	D	M	E	A
T	R	<b>I</b>	E	D	P	O	Z	V	V
S	E	<b>L</b>	L	F	W	P	O	E	E
I	V	<b>E</b>	L	S	U	H	I	K	L
O	A	W	S	W	H	A	T	N	L
P	G	N	I	P	O	H	S	O	G

## Kris' favourite café: Le Petit Mec

Whenever I feel like some good coffee and 'real' French pastries, there's only one place I go; and that's Le Petit Mec. Located on Imadegawa St, about 200m west of Horikawa St. It doesn't look particularly special from the outside, but when you step through the door, it is like being transported to a café bakery in France. With its **subdued** décor and French radio playing in the background, it's a great place to enjoy one or two of their **mouth-watering** pastries.

Once I've got a seat, I like to read a book or just enjoy the atmosphere. If I were to recommend one dish, it would be the black currant tart; it's perfection on a plate.

**Mind**, it is only open from Friday to Sunday and on national holidays. Seating is also limited.



Note: Check the noticeboard for the meaning of **words & phrases in bold**.

ご注意：記事にある太字の単語や表現の意味を掲示板に張っておきますので参考にして下さい！



# NEW!

## 2014 READING MARATHON



We have new GOALS for the Reading Marathon this year:

**BRONZE 25,000 WORDS**

**SILVER 50,000 WORDS**

**GOLD 100,000 WORDS**



When you borrow a reader from the Labor library (or another library), check on the back how many words are in the book. After reading it, write the title, number of words and a short comment on the **2014 READING MARATHON** form in this Newsletter and give it to your teacher. Your teacher will then check it and stamp it for you. Then you read another book.....

\*このニューズレターの **2014 READING MARATHON** 用紙を使って参加して下さい。

The idea is to quickly and smoothly read a lot of books that you can easily understand, without using a dictionary. This is called **Extensive Reading**

「多読」= 辞書無しでも十分に理解できる易しい英語の本を楽しく、早く読むことです。

This is a great way to improve your English skills because:

1. You can see expressions in a natural context and learn different ways to use words that may not be taught in textbooks (多読によって自然な文脈の中で使われる表現に出会い、その言葉が表現の中でどのように使われているか、教科書を超えて知ることができる。)
2. It increases your vocabulary. Since you have a chance to see words and grammar forms over and over again, you can naturally acquire how to use them and be able to predict which forms or words will follow in a sentence (多読は語彙を増やします。大量の本を読むことにより数多くの単語や文型に何度も何度も繰り返し出会うため、その使い方が自然に身についてゆき、次にどんな語句や文型が来るのか予測できるようになります。)
3. Your reading speed will increase so you can read more smoothly. As language comes to be processed automatically, this leaves more room to store other aspects of language in your brain (多読によって、読書の速度が上がり、より流暢に読めるようになります。その結果、[脳内における]言語の処理がより自動化され、脳に他のことを記憶する余裕が生まれます。)



本をたくさん読んで英語を上達させよう！

Reference: English Reading Foundation

[www.erfoundation.org](http://www.erfoundation.org)



# Teachers' school life!

## BROOKE

1. I was good at geology and Japanese (and terrible at maths).
2. I wanted to be a Japanese teacher in Australia.
3. We usually played soccer, or went to the beach in summer.
4. Yes, my mother made me.
5. I loved soccer, soccer & soccer.

## JUSTIN

1. Geography and physics.
2. An architect or an English teacher in another country.
3. I delivered newspapers and then watched TV, played computer games or rode my bicycle.
4. None at elementary school. 30 minutes a day at high school.
5. Nothing really. Rugby and cross country running were OK. I hated football and cricket.

1. What school subjects were you good at?
2. What did you want to be when you were a kid?
3. What did you do after school?
4. Did you do a lot of homework?
5. What sports did you like?



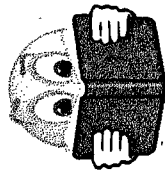
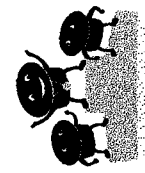
## KRIS

1. I was good at art. I also liked maths, but I didn't study very hard.
2. At first, a 1500m runner. Later on I wanted to be a painter.
3. Football and playing with friends. From the age of twelve I delivered newspapers.
4. Not really, I should have, though.
5. I liked all sports; I played in nearly all the school teams.

## MARK

1. I was good at sociology and English Language.
2. I really wanted to be an actor (and an astronaut too!)
3. Played a lot of football with my friends.
4. Some (I should have done more.)
5. Of course football (I still do!)



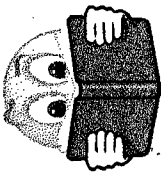


**BRONZE 25,000 WORDS**

**SILVER 50,000 WORDS**

**GOLD 100,000 WORDS**

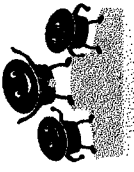
Date	Title	Level/Series	Word Count	Summary or Comments (About 3 sentences)	Teacher's stamp
(例) 1/04/2014	Alice in Wonderland	Level 2 Penguin Readers	7,693 words  Total: ○○○○○ words	This story is about a young girl and her strange adventure in Wonderland, where there are many weird creatures. I enjoyed reading about the different ways Alice became bigger and smaller. My favourite character was the Mad Hatter because he was very unique.	
			Total: _____		
			Total: _____		
			Total: _____		
			Total: _____		



**BRONZE 25,000 WORDS**

**SILVER 50,000 WORDS**

**GOLD 100,000 WORDS**



Date	Title	Level/Series	Word Count		Comments (About 3 sentences)	Teacher's stamp
				Total:		
				Total:		
				Total:		
				Total:		
				Total:		