

15TH LABOR GAKUEN NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2013

Beer Garden, Common English mistakes, Favourite Things, Questions to the Teachers

Autumn-Break Courses

Guiding at World Heritage Sites in Kyoto

Hi, I'm Justin and I'm running this 2 lesson special course. It's in the evening so all you busy workers can come along. In the course we will look at language that is useful for showing a visitor around Kyoto. We will practice things like "Please follow me", "I'm afraid you can't take photos here" and "On your left you can see the Zen Garden." We will also practice passives (It *was built* in 1651). Finally each person will show their group round a famous Kyoto site using a map and pictures.

Dates: Tues Oct 1st and Tues Oct 8th.

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Level: Elementary/Pre-Intermediate

Limit: 15

Fee: 5,000 円



Internet Course

Every year the English dictionary includes over 1000 new words. Many of these words are terms used on the internet. If you love to learn new English words and have an interest in the internet then this course is for you.

If you enjoy visiting English websites and would like to know what some of the words mean or you contact foreign friends abroad by mail or texting and have trouble understanding their meaning at times, then this course will help. You'll learn loads of new words and understand more about the internet and internet culture and etiquette, or should that be 'netiquette?'

Dates: Fri Oct 4th and Fri Oct 11th with Mark

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Level: Intermediate and up

Limit: 15

Fee: 5,000 円

Making Small Talk

Hi, I'm Kris. How have you been doing? Looks like it's going to get hot again, yeah?

When speaking in English do you sometimes worry about how to continue a conversation? Do you ever get lost for words?

If so, this could be the course for you.

This is a 2 lesson special course aiming to give novice to elementary students practice in making small talk.

Some of the topics covered are as follows; greetings, tag questions, mirroring, complimenting and replying while listening to someone i.e.(相槌)

Dates: Thurs Oct 3rd and Thurs 10th.

Time: 13:30 – 15:30

Level: Novice/Elementary

Limit: 15

Fee: 5,000 円

New Course!

Improve your English: Cooking and Food Culture

In this new class starting in October we will be looking at international cuisine. We will look at describing food (salty, crunchy) and explaining how to cook something (first fry 1 medium chopped onion) as well as comparing Japanese and Western foods. We will look at recipes from Japan and England and talk about o-sechi, the tea ceremony and Christmas. If you like food or cooking and you are interested in talking about it in English, why not try this class? (Note: We won't be cooking anything in this course – just talking about it ☺)

Dates: Every other Friday. (10/25, 11/8 etc.)

Time: 13:30 – 15:30

Level: Pre-Intermediate – Intermediate

Textbook: No textbook, just handouts.

Limit: 15

Fee: 22,000 円



2013 Summer Beer Garden Party



We'd like to start with a big "THANK YOU" to all those who **braved the weather** and came to the beer garden party to help make it such a great night! And to those of you who couldn't come, for whatever reason, we hope to see you next year!!

After a **somewhat** rainy start it turned into a nice evening and we **packed the joint** with laughter and fun and just a little booze! There's nothing quite like drinking beer on a Saturday night with friends... and the rainy afternoon led to cooler temperatures too!



It's always nice for us to see you out of class, where you can **let your hair down** and really relax. And our apologies to anyone we didn't sit and chat with for long – the time really flew! So, thank you again for coming along, and let's all do it again soon!!

My Favourite Thai restaurant by Mark M



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Finding a really good Thai restaurant has always been **a bit of a challenge**. Now if you live on the Hankyu line try 'Dee Dee' (which in Thai means 'really good!') It's in Takatsuki, in the **strip mall**, close to Takatsuki Hankyu station and it is probably one of the best Thai restaurants I've been to in Japan. The food and **décor** are totally **authentic** and the range of food is great but perhaps best of all are the prices, which are really reasonable! But the big question is how many customers does it get. The better the restaurant, the more customers it has and I am happy to report that on the Saturday afternoon I went, **it was packed**. So next time you happen to be in Takatsuki or if you just **fancy** a really good Thai meal, check it out!

Common English Mistakes



How do you say 「頑張って！」 in English?

In Japan we often hear the expression 「ファイト！」 to encourage people in sporting events or a difficult situation. However, in English, we don't say "Fight!" in these situations. If two people are having a punching fight and you want them to fight more, you can say "Fight! Fight!" 「戦え！戦え！」 but we don't use this expression in everyday conversation.

Here are some ways to say 「頑張って！」 in English:

If your friend is taking a test, you usually say "Good luck!"

If your friend is nervous about the test, you can also say "Don't worry. Just do your best!"

If your friend feels down because the test was very difficult, you can say "Don't give up!"

But, if you are watching Japan in the Olympics, you just say "Go! Go! Go!"



Question: How do you say 「頑張ります！」 in English?

答えは、廊下の掲示板に張っておきます。

"Good luck!"



Note: Check the notice board 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も掲示板に張っておきますので参考にして下さい！

Kris' movie review: Heavenly Creatures

Kate Winslet and Melanie Lynskey star in Peter Jackson's movie Heavenly Creatures. Based on a true story, it is set in New Zealand in the 1950's. It's a fantastical story about how two teenage girls' friendship **spirals out of control**; ending in murder.

Bored with school, the girls create a medieval fantasy world called Borovnia. As the film progresses the girls' relationship becomes more and more intense. So much so, that they start to believe that the characters in Borovnia are actually real. By the time the girls' parents decide that their relationship is not 'healthy', it is too late, the girls are lost in their fantasies.

Apart from the rather **bleak** ending, Heavenly Creatures is a light hearted and **whimsical** movie, which comically illustrates differences between an upper class and working class family. Peter Jackson is best known for his movie **adaptation** of The Lord of the Rings trilogy. In Heavenly Creatures he uses special effects **wittily**, making the girl's fantasy world, Borovnia come to life.

If you want to see a movie that's a little different, I highly recommend Heavenly Creatures to you.



Getting to know Labor's Teachers

Brooke Suzuki

- 1.) Southside of Sydney, Australia
- 2.) Fresh oysters & a kind of lobster called a 'Balmain Bug' → 
- 3.) Go to the beach or bushwalking
- 4.) Both adults & children love dress-up parties with funny costumes
- 5.) People give you a present back when you go to their wedding!

Mark McCrory

- 1.) Various South London suburbs. (Carshalton, Croydon, South Norwood.)
- 2.) Indian curry (our national dish) or kebabs.
- 3.) Depends on which season, in summer people love to go to the park, the seaside or take a trip to the centre of London.
- 4.) Bonfire night, people have big parties around big fires and have firework displays
- 5.) Everything! A drink called 'sweat'! High school girls wearing mini-skirts in the snow!. People slurping noodles!

1.) Where are you from?


2.) What's a special food in your hometown?

3.) What do people do on the weekend?

4.) What's an interesting custom in your country?

5.) What surprised you when you came to Japan?

Justin Bales

- 1.) Near Ipswich, England 
- 2.) Suffolk ham, local seafood
- 3.) Shopping, watching films, walking in the countryside.
- 4.) Children search for chocolate eggs in their house/garden at Easter and paint real eggshells.
- 5.) All the vending machines outside.

Kris Evans

- 1.) Birmingham, England.
- 2.) Balti curries.
- 3.) Shopping, relaxing in their gardens or in a park.
- 4.) Pancake Races. Some people run while flipping a pancake in a frying pan.
- 5.) *Koromogae* I couldn't believe everyone does it on the same day.