

Labor Gakuen Summer Newsletter

July 2021



Hi everyone. We hope you are keeping well and safe and have a good summer break. A lot of you have already had one or both Covid-19 vaccinations, which is good - let's hope it works well and no one has any problems!

Anyway, in this newsletter, we thought we would give you some information about next term. There are also some articles about Covid-19 and about the beer garden that we can't go to!

Next Term's Courses

Next term we will have some new courses, as well as continuing some other special courses. The Media class, always popular, will continue on Wednesday evening if you are interested in the news and discussions. Business will also continue on Saturday mornings. It's a useful class for practicing English even if you don't need it for business! The Book Club continues with a book full of over a hundred very short stories – there's a lot of variety in there to suit everyone. And Robert's class on Japanese culture also continues on Tuesday morning.

Instead of travel, we will have a new 9-week class on Friday afternoons to help with communication skills – how to chat, tell stories, ask good questions and so on. It's for Elementary and Pre-inter students.

What else have we got? Well, Judith has a course on Japanese culture – temples, architecture, religion and instruments, and John has two classes – a Tennessee Williams play and a course on Kabuki and things. And then we have Russell with a tea ceremony class and Kris will continue with his pronunciation course, both on Zoom and in the classroom. And there's TOEIC on Friday evenings, too!

And if you prefer a Japanese teacher for explanations in Japanese, try one of Setsuko's or Yuko's classes. Setsuko has a new class next term using a storybook

for learning English, as well as her 1–phrase course, while Yuko continues her popular classes.

So, there's a lot of choice for special classes next term. Why not try one together with a regular class?

The Olympics

The Olympics are coming soon! Are you looking forward to watching it on TV, or do you have tickets to go and see some events? What is your favourite event? Who are you hoping will win a gold medal?

A lot of people in Japan think the Olympics should not happen – it is too dangerous and more people will catch Covid-19. Do you think it should happen, or should it be cancelled? Of course, Tokyo has already spent a lot of money preparing for the Olympics, and if Tokyo cancels it, the IOC will make Tokyo pay an enormous fine. And thousands of athletes will lose their chance to compete. It's a difficult problem, isn't it?

Let's hope it goes well and there are not many new Covid cases because of the games!



England with Covid-19

From Christmas to the middle of April England was in lockdown. Only “**Essential**” shops could open – supermarkets, banks, post offices, **pharmacies**. Restaurants and pubs could only do takeout. It was difficult to meet relatives or friends and people were **expected to** stay near their home and not travel to beaches or National Parks. Many people worked from home or had no job, and many school kids studied at home. From mid-April many shops could open again. Hair salons and gyms could open too. People could meet in groups of up to six people. Restaurants and pubs could open with tables outside, but not with tables indoors. Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland all had similar rules. Actually, it snowed in England that week, but many people went out to eat and drink in the cold. There were long lines in clothes shops

and many people spent a lot of money. They were very excited to be able to eat out and go shopping! By the end of April most people over 50 had had their first Covid **injection** and 10% of people had had both injections.

For my parents, it wasn't too bad. They are retired and live in a village and usually only go food shopping in a supermarket. They never drive far and don't eat out or go to pubs. They have both had two injections. Their biggest problem was their hair. They didn't have a haircut for 4 months! But their dog could have a haircut!

Now, in July, most things are open again, but some are **limited** to 50% **capacity**. Nightclubs and theaters have the biggest **restrictions**. And travel **overseas** is still difficult. There are only a few countries on the "Green list" and many of those are small islands which are difficult to get to.

At the end of June the UK had had about 4.75 million cases of Covid-19 and 130,000 deaths. Around 80% of people had had one injection and 60% had had both.

The numbers in Japan are much lower, but already many of the students in Labor have had one or both injections. I wonder if we will be able to stop using masks before Christmas?? That would be very nice!

Essential – necessary, required, must have.

Pharmacy – place to get medicine. (US – drugstore, UK – chemists).

Expected to – supposed to, should

Injection – (jab, shot) – use a needle to give medicine through the skin

Limited to – the total number, amount or group of something allowed.

Capacity – the maximum size possible

Restriction – a limit of something ('restricted to' is similar to 'limited to')

Overseas – a foreign country, especially across the sea



Beer, Beer, Beer



There's no beer garden summer fun!! Again!!

Unfortunately, we can't go to a beer garden again this summer. Covid-19 has **put paid** to that plan. It's **put a spanner in the works**. But don't **be put out of sorts**. A whole summer with nothing to do is a great chance to **put your house in order**, if you can **put up with** the heat! Of course, you can always **put back** a few cans of beer at home, if it gets too hot. I **can't** exactly **put my finger on it**, but for some reason a nice cold drink on a summers day is so refreshing.



Put paid to – cause something to stop.

Put a spanner in the works – cause something to stop.

(Be put) out of sorts – (made to) feel unhappy or angry

Put your house in order – clean up, tidy up your home.

Put up with – don't like something but accept it

Put back (alcohol) – drink alcohol (usually a lot) (also 'put away' alcohol)

Can't put (my) finger on (it) – can't say exactly what/why.

1. I broke my leg. That (put paid to/put up with) my skiing trip.
2. Wow! That guy can really (put out of sorts/put back) a lot of beer!
3. Every spring I try to put – I put away the winter futon and clean the windows.
4. My neighbours smoke. Sometimes the smell comes in my window, but I have to (put up with it/be put out of sorts).
5. I was (put paid to/put out of sorts) yesterday because my boss told me I couldn't take a vacation.
6. This wine tastes a bit, umm, I (can't put my finger on it/can't put up with it)... oh, I know! It tastes a bit cinnamony.

That's it for this newsletter! Have a good summer and join up for classes this autumn!!