



Globetrotter

Volume 1, Issue 13

February 2006

Greetings

We hope everyone is having an enjoyable Winter. Please enjoy the latest issue of the Globetrotter. We are looking forward to another exciting year of lessons with all of our students!

NEWS---Remember to check out the Global Communications website, which has great features such as blogs, downloadable worksheets and newsletters, video introductions of the teachers, podcasts, and much more!

NEWS---If you are preparing for the test, be sure to check out the e-test at www.e-test.biz.

Please give us your comments or any ideas for articles you would like to see in future Globetrotters! We always enjoy receiving your mail and hearing what you think.



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Teacher Spotlight Paul

Hello everyone! My name is Paul and I live in Saitama City. I'm originally from Toronto, the largest city in Canada. I've been living in Japan since October 2006. I'm enjoying learning about Japanese customs, culture, religions and philosophies.

I've been working at Global Communications since the beginning of February and it's been a pleasure to meet so many interesting and skilled students. I am very impressed with the high degree of English communication skills of our students.

Before I came to Japan I was an Account Manager at a major Canadian bank. I came to Japan to experience the Japanese way of life and to find out for myself how Japan became the second largest economy in the world.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of the great students at Global Communications!





Aurelio's Place

American Friends Visit Tokyo

By Aurelio Reyna

Hello, Globetrotter readers! I'd like to tell you a bit about my friends' recent visit to Japan. They come from Texas (where I'm from), so I have known them for a number of years.

Can you guess what impressed them the most upon arrival? I'm happy to say it was the cleanliness and orderliness of Narita Airport! In America, most airports are quite **dingy**. But Narita is **sparkling**, with an army of custodial staff constantly cleaning every speck of dust they can find!

Next, the sheer number of people was simply **overwhelming** to them. "Oh my gosh, how can so many people get on the train, all at once?" they wondered. Even so, there was no pushing, everyone just sort of smoothly slides in, the train doors somehow close, and it's on to the next station—right on time! Wow!

They were **keen** to visit all the fun stops in Tokyo. Among their stops were Asakusa Kannon for *hatsumode*, or the first visit of the year to a temple or shrine. (As you may have guessed, we don't have a direct translation for *hatsumode* in English, so you just have to explain more or less what it is.) They saw beautiful women and girls in brightly colored *kimonos*, **dressed to the nines** for this special, once-a-year occasion. As well, the streets were **bustling** with rickshaws pulled by young men in traditional Japanese costumes. Boy, were they impressed! "There's nothing like this back home!" they exclaimed.

Of course, the usual stops in Tokyo were not to be missed: Tokyo Tower, Aobadai, Roppongi and Shinjuku, among others. We spent one day in Kamakura and visited the giant statue of the Buddha—we even got to go inside it for an insider's view! That was a really fun day. The weather was a bit **dreary**, but I guess they should have expected that—after all, it *is* winter, now isn't it?

A visit to Tokyo would not be the same without trying several of the local restaurants. In the course of a week, we had Mexican, Chinese, Turkish, Okinawan, Korean, and of course, Japanese food. They loved the great variety of cuisines and fantastic décor of the restaurants here in Tokyo. **All in all**, they had a great time! Have any of you ever had foreign friends visit you here in Japan? Tell us!

Vocabulary

1. **dingy**: dirty or dark in color; not bright: "Most airports are quite **dingy**."
2. **sparkling**: very bright and clean: "But Narita is **sparkling**."
3. **overwhelming**: very impressive; almost unbelievable: "The crowds were **overwhelming** to them."
4. **keen**: strongly interested: "They were **keen** to visit all the fun stops in Tokyo."
5. **dressed to the nines**: wearing clothes that are very fashionable or formal
6. **bustling**: very busy: "The streets were **bustling**."
7. **dreary**: causing sadness: "The weather was quite **dreary**."
8. **all in all**: considering everything; overall: "**All in all**, they had a great time!"

Students' Voice

"The Ekiden gives us many hints to live our lives positively. Hard training is needed for each player, and each player has to do his best in the race. The coach of the team should direct all energies to the Ekiden by using all members of the team effectively. But sometimes accidents occur suddenly in the Ekiden and it is natural for all of the team members to think of an accident in the race and prepare for it. I think victory in the race would be won by only one of the 20 teams, through patience and luck. Not only the competitors but also the audience must understand that it is important to **'Never give up!'**"--Takuma

"The Hakone Ekiden is the inter-collegiate road relay and the most popular TV program on New Year's day (Jan 2nd. & 3rd). This race started at Nihonbashi in Tokyo and goes to Hakone town near Mt. Fuji. On the second day they returned to Nihonbashi. The distance is about 100km one way and the vertical drop was about 1300m. In the race, 20 teams participated. 10 universities were seeded schools, and the other schools had cleared the preliminary. They fight for their school's glory. On each day, 5 runners run the whole race! Each runner is not allowed to retire because one runner's retirement means his team's retirement. Every year, I am impressed at each runner's responsibility. When this Ekiden race is over, our New Year's holiday is over too."
-- Koji

Send Us Your Comments

What do you think about the following article? Voice your opinion by sending your comments to:

office@globalcom-online-english-school.co.jp.

We anxiously look forward to knowing how the readers feel about the topic.

"I also had the opportunity to watch some of the Hakone Ekiden during the New Year's holidays. The endurance and speed of the runners left quite an impression on me.

Recently, when I was late for a meeting with a friend, I started to run to try to save some time. I became exhausted within a few minutes and thought back to the incredible endurance of the Hakone Ekiden runners! I'm always surprised about how quickly I get tired while running.

The surprising thing is that my endurance is very good when I play basketball. I can play for hours on end before I have to quit. Perhaps the short rests that I can take while playing basketball really help my endurance. Or maybe it's because I love playing basketball but dislike running!"-- Paul

Kids Corner

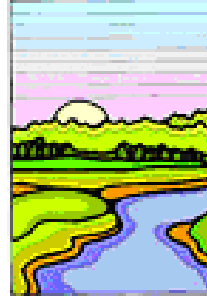
VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Time of Day Phrases Question and Answer

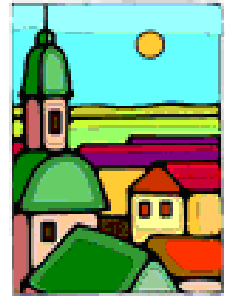
Complete the sentence with the correct **time of day** phrase.

- When do you go to bed? **(23:00)**
I go to bed at night.
- When do you eat lunch? **(12:00)**
I eat lunch _____.
- When do you go to school? **(9:00)**
I go to school _____.
- When do you finish school? **(14:30)**
I finish school _____.
- When do you eat dinner? **(18:30)**
I eat dinner _____.
- When do you watch TV? **(20:00)**
I watch TV _____.
- When do you study English? **(21:00)**
I study English _____.

Time of Day



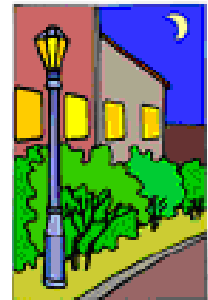
in the
morning
7:00



in the
afternoon
12:00



in the
evening
17:00



at
night
21:00

November Answers

World Views (pg. 3)

Test Your Knowledge

Sato won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974 to recognize Japan's entry into the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty and emergence as a peaceful world power.

Kids Corner (pg. 4)

Vocabulary Practice

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. a) tall | 4. c) smallest |
| 2. b) faster | 5. b) older |
| 3. b) more fun | 6. c) most exciting |