



Globetrotter

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Greetings

Thanks to all of the students who sent comments about the previous Globetrotter issue. Please continue posting your thoughts on the blog!

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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Student Spotlight

Mika

Mika is a dedicated English student who has been studying with Global Communications for about one year.

When Mika first enrolled with Global Communications her English skills were at an intermediate level. Through diligent study and 1-2 classes per week she has improved to an upper-intermediate level.

Mika's curriculum consists of free conversation at the beginning of her lesson followed by textbook review or an analysis of a newspaper article.

Mika's main reason for studying English is to be able to communicate well when she travels to the U.S. Mika has some close friends who live in California and she visits them every year for a few weeks.

Mika enjoys watching movies in English. Instead of Hollywood blockbusters she prefers independent and other lesser known films. She also enjoys listening to music in English and expanding her vocabulary by studying the lyrics.

We thoroughly enjoy Mika's lessons because of her enthusiasm for learning, and look forward to teaching her in the future!



Paul Stone's Corner

Beer in Japan

Coming from England, I do tend to enjoy the odd glass of beer from time to time. After a hard week at work there's nothing better than **settling down** in a quiet corner of a pub to shelter from the cold weather outside and down glasses of beer with your friends. I'm actually an ale and bitter drinker - I like heavy, dark beer with strong flavours and aromas. In England there are **literally** hundreds of beers to choose from, brewed all over the country in places ranging from large, factory-style breweries to small micro-breweries in people's sheds. These beers are brewed in a number of ways using different ingredients – including honey, chocolate and bananas. While I was at University in a small city called Exeter I often drank the local beer called Otter, which despite being a little heavy had a quite light taste. This is still probably my favourite ale.

When I came to Japan I was initially disappointed with the choice of beers on offer. Most stores seemed to stock only light and fizzy lagers, which I am not at all fond of. I found out later from a Japanese friend who worked in the beer industry that a lot of Japanese lagers were modeled on Heineken, a Dutch beer I have never liked. For me, mass-produced lagers often have a weak taste which makes me think of chemicals. They also tend to be gassy and leave me feeling **bloated** after I drink them.

And then, of course, there is Happoshu! This is one of least favourite drinks. As well as leaving a rather unpleasant taste in the mouth, it tends to give you a massive **hangover** the following morning.

However, with time I have discovered a number of excellent beers in Japan; and luckily one of them happens to be just down the road from where I live in Kawagoe! This beer is made by a company called Koedo, named after a historic area of Kawagoe (which is called "Little Edo" in English). The beer is called Satsumaimo, because it is made from sweet potatoes, as well as the usual ingredients of beer! It has a bit of a tangy taste, but is very tasty and I find it easy to drink. Another favourite Japanese beer of mine is Hitachino Nest Beer, from Ibaraki. This beer has been going since 1996 and is run by Kiuchi Breweries, who are known for their sake. I particularly like the White Ale, which seems to be **modeled on** European beers like Hoegaarden, but with some **subtle** herb and orange flavours added to it! If you go to the Kiuchi brewery in Ibaraki, you can **actually** make your own beer there.

Japan actually has quite a long history of beer. Originally, it was imported to Japan during the Meiji Period by foreign specialists in Hokkaidō. In 1870 the Spring Valley Brewery was **established** by an American in Yokohama. This was the first time beer was produced **locally** in Japan. By 1886, the amount of domestically produced beer exceeded the amount of imported beer for the first time. Recently microbreweries have been popping up all over the country, mainly in tourist areas. These local brews are called "ji bi-ru" or "Craft Beer". This **influx** of microbreweries was largely caused by a change in the law in 1994 that allowed more people to open up their own breweries.

Previously, only breweries that could produce more than 2 million litres were allowed to sell beer. In 1994, this was reduced to 60,000 liters, opening up the market to smaller producers.

So, despite my **initial reservations**, I have found a healthy and **lively** beer industry in Japan, with a number of really good micro-brews to try. However, at the moment distribution isn't so good and most stores only stock the major beer producers (Asahi, Kirin etc). Hopefully, this might change in the future and some of Japan's excellent locally-produced beers might become better known nationwide.

Vocabulary

settling down – to come to rest.

literally – actually; without exaggeration or inaccuracy.

bloated – to cause to swell up or inflate, as with liquid or gas.

hangover – unpleasant physical effects following the heavy use of alcohol.

modeled on – to make conform to a chosen standard.

subtle – delicate; refined.

actually – in fact, in reality.

established – to set up; found.

locally – in a local area; nearby.

influx – a mass arrival or incoming.

initial – occurring at the beginning.

reservations – a limiting qualification, condition, exception.

lively – full of life and energy, vigorous.



Eleanor's Grammar Page

Common Mistakes by English Language Learners

Below are some mistakes that are often made by Japanese students studying English. Your English will sound so much better if you avoid these mistakes.

Can you find the mistakes?

1. I dropped my wallet when I was getting off of the taxi.
2. Food is usually sold on the basement in department stores in Japan.
3. The phone rang during I was sleeping.
4. I've finished all of my work, so I'll come home now. See you tomorrow.
5. I read about Johnny Depp's new movie on a magazine.



Answers

1. off of
The correction should be "...getting out of the taxi."
2. on the basement
The correction should be "...in the basement."
3. during
The correction should be "...while I was sleeping."
4. come home
The correction should be "...go home."
5. on a magazine
The correction should be "...in a magazine."

In The News

Learn to Read the News in English

Reading the news is an ideal way to practice your English reading skills. Every month, the Globetrotter will include a new English news article with key vocabulary and definitions. We hope you enjoy this feature of the Globetrotter!

This month's article is about the U.S. presidential race. Did you find this month's article interesting? Let us know!

Obama Continues to Build Momentum in Presidential Bid

In the U.S. presidential race, Democrat Barack Obama continues to build **momentum** in the party nomination battle with rival Hillary Clinton.

Obama has won eight straight **nomination** contests over Hillary Clinton since February 9, and is **favored** in both Wisconsin and Hawaii.

Obama got a boost recently when he won the **endorsement** of a large labor union, the 1.9 million-member Service Employees International Union.

Both Obama and Clinton are looking ahead to a major showdown on March 4 when Ohio and Texas hold primaries. Both states have large numbers of **delegates**.

Clinton has been leading in both states and political experts say she needs a good showing in both to slow down Obama's momentum.

As she campaigns in Ohio, Clinton is **casting** herself as a candidate of action, not words.

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.

Vocabulary

1. **momentum:** impetus, as of a physical object or a course of events: "In the U.S. presidential race, Democrat Barack Obama continues to build **momentum** in the party nomination battle with rival Hillary Clinton."
2. **nomination:** the act of officially naming a candidate: "Obama has won eight straight **nomination** contests over Hillary Clinton since February 9, and is favored in both Wisconsin and Hawaii."
3. **favored:** regarded or treated with preference or partiality: "Obama has won eight straight nomination contests over Hillary Clinton since February 9, and is **favored** in both Wisconsin and Hawaii."
4. **endorsement:** approval or sanction: "Obama got a boost recently when he won the endorsement of a large labor union, the 1.9 million-member Service Employees International Union."
5. **delegate:** a person designated to represent others: "Both states have large numbers of delegates."
6. **casting:** to allot a role to: "As she campaigns in Ohio, Clinton is **casting** herself as a candidate of action, not words."