



Globetrotter

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Greetings

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! We are happy to welcome 2006 with all of our great students. Please have a wonderful holiday and enjoy your vacation time. We look forward to speaking with each of you again in the new year.

Thank you very much to the students who sent comments about the previous Globetrotter issue. We always enjoy receiving your mail and hearing what you think. We look forward to getting more emails from all of you.

NEWS--Next year, a new TOEIC test format will be introduced. If you would like to discuss some of the changes, please be sure to ask your teacher. Also, if you are preparing for the test, be sure to check out the e-test at www.e-test.biz.



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Teacher Spotlight Trevor

Hello, my name is Trevor Parker. I am from Toronto, Canada. I have been living in Japan for one year, and teaching at Global Communications for six months.

Before I came to Japan, I was a volunteer tutor for Korean students in Toronto, and I worked in a library as well. Today I live in the Nakano area of Tokyo. I think it's very crowded there, but it's also very convenient!

I recently visited Okinawa and I enjoyed it very much. My future plans include cheering for Japan at the World Cup this summer, because my home country Canada did not qualify...

I hope that my students have enjoyed their classes with me so far, and I wish all of our students a safe and lucky new year!



Movie Review

Mr. and Mrs. Smith

By Alando Garcia

Mr. and Mrs. Smith (starring Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt) is a movie about two **assassins** that are married to each other, but neither of them knows what the others job is. Mrs. Smith thinks that her husband **runs** a construction company and Mr. Smith thinks that his wife works at an office. In actuality, both Mr. Smith and Mrs. Smith are very successful assassins. When they are hired to kill each other, things get a bit interesting in their rather ordinary **suburban** lives!

Mr. and Mrs. Smith is a movie **loaded** with good action scenes and some good laughs. It also has a few cool *James Bond-like* **gadgets** in it. The acting is good though a bit **shallow** and **forced** at times. The special effects and action scenes in the movie are very good, though some of the action scenes are a bit hard to believe. But this is to be expected in these types of movies (Mission Impossible or James Bond, for example).

I found the story to be a bit simple and a little **slow moving** at times, but there are enough good action scenes and comedy in the movie to make it a good film to watch. Plus I like how the movie both starts and finishes – the scenes of the couple in **marital counseling** are very funny. It is a good DVD rental, and if you have the chance to watch it at the theatre, even better.



Movie Reviews Grading System

- **A** = Outstanding acting, storyline, visuals and/or special effects.
- **B** = Very good acting **and** storyline, visuals and/or special effects are good.
- **C** = Good acting **or** good storyline **or** good visuals and/or special effects.
- **D** = Poor acting, storyline, visuals and/or special effects.
- **F** = Everything was terrible!

Vocabulary

Mr. and Mrs. Smith

1. **assassin** – an assassin is a person that is hired and paid money to kill another person; someone that kills people professionally, for money.
2. **runs** – “He runs a company” means that he is the owner or in charge of the business.
3. **suburb** – an area outside of the main part of the city where people live; houses in the suburbs are generally more expensive and neighborhoods more elite than those in the center of the city.
4. **loaded** – “loaded with good action scenes” means that there are a lot of them.
5. **gadgets** – a small machine or useful item or device. For example, a writing pen that contains a small hidden camera.
6. **shallow** – “the acting was shallow” – this means that there is no real depth to the characters. The characters seem superficial – not like real people.
7. **forced** – “the acting was forced” – this means that it is easy to tell that the actors are acting – it seems rather unnatural.
8. **slow moving** – “the story was slow moving” – similar to boring; not that interesting or time is passing too slowly.
9. **marital counseling** – when a wife and husband go to a counselor to talk about problems in their marriage.

What do you think?

By Jennifer Yun
True Geisha

WHY ARE HOLLYWOOD'S GEISHAS CHINESE?

A major Hollywood movie based on a novel written by Arthur Golden about the secret lives of geishas will be released this winter. *Memoirs of a Geisha* is a romantic story focusing on trials and tribulations experienced by a young woman named Sayuri. The novel overwhelmed American audiences, who have been anticipating the movie version for some time. There has been some controversy brewing regarding the casting of this movie, however.

The story mainly revolves around three geishas, who in the movie version, will be portrayed by Chinese actresses. A predominantly Chinese cast will portray geishas, which are a part of Japanese heritage and a symbol of traditional Japan. Some people find this lack of sensitivity in casting highly offensive.

I admit, I do think that this American movie about traditional Japanese culture and history should have had a Japanese female in the role of the geisha. I did find it very awkward that this would not be major point to consider when evaluating the value of the film overseas.

However, I am definitely not surprised that this point would be overlooked. The sad fact is that the majority of Americans cannot tell the difference between Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, etc. The specifics of actually which Asian country you are from is not important to most American audiences. Additionally, most major Hollywood movies don't really pay attention to whether the story is historically accurate, only if the story is exciting or gripping enough. The movie industry makes their money by providing entertainment, not by telling the truth or educating the audience.

The most glaring offense of this controversy for me is not that the actresses are Chinese, but that in Hollywood, high-profile Asian actors or actresses are still sorely under-represented.

What do you think?

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.

Royalty vs. Commoner Comments

I thought that it is a good point of view because I didn't see it and I took it for granted. She is unlucky and it is difficult for her to adapt to a general community. It may be a traditional Japanese value. The most important thing is to defend the male line. ---Teruhiko---

I think it is not bad for Sayako to relinquish her title, because royalty is very hard. They don't have freedom. I think a commoner is happier. I heard princess Masako didn't want to get married to a prince. So she became sick. In Japan it is common for the woman to be adopted in to the man's family. So I have never thought about it before seriously. ---Chiho---

Vocabulary Builder

Winter Vocabulary

1. slush = NOUN = the kind of snow that has melted a little
 - There is so much slush on the roads that the car is difficult to control.
2. frost = NOUN = a thin coating of ice
 - In the morning, I saw frost on the ground and on the cars.
3. chilly = ADJECTIVE = cold or cool temperature
 - It's chilly outside at night so you should definitely wear a heavy coat.
4. thaw = VERB = to melt
 - The meat will take a couple of hours to thaw so I might have to wait until tomorrow to cook it.
5. blizzard = NOUN = a very heavy or windy snowstorm
 - All transportation has stopped because of the blizzard.

Test Your Skills

Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct word to complete the reading sample and answer the following comprehension questions.

New Orleans

New Orleans has a rich and colorful history and has been governed by three nations: France, Spain, and America. New Orleans was founded in 1718 by a French explorer, Jean Baptiste le Moyne. In 1763, the French city was relinquished to Spain as part of an (1) between the two countries for Spain's help in fighting the British in The Seven Years War. However, in 1800, Spain transferred the city back to France and then in 1803, New Orleans, as part of the Louisiana Purchase, was sold by Napoleon to the United States. The city was the site of the Battle of New Orleans (1815) during the War of 1812. During the American Civil War the confederate city was besieged by Union ships under Admiral David Farragut. The confederate city fell to the Union on Apr. 25, 1862.

The city is perhaps most famous for its French Quarter which is the (2) of the original city and contains many of the historic and architecturally significant buildings for which New Orleans is famous. New Orleans is also home to Dixieland Jazz and Blues Music and a (3) known festival called Mardi Gras.

New Orleans is one of the most diverse cities in the South. The residents include many Europeans including Spanish, Italians and French, as (4) as Americans, Cubans and many people from Latin America.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| a. announcement | a. infamously |
| b. unification | b. widely |
| c. agreement | c. mainly |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |
| a. site | a. many |
| b. secret | b. often |
| c. downtown | c. well |

In the American Civil War, which side did New Orleans fight on?

- A) The Union Army
- B) The Confederate Army
- C) The French Army led by Napoleon
- D) The Spanish

Which is **not** listed as something for which the city is famous?

- A) Dixieland Jazz
- B) Blues Music
- C) French Quarter
- D) French food

Which is **not** listed as one of the groups of residents of New Orleans?

- A) Spanish
- B) French
- C) Mexicans
- D) Cubans



Kids Corner

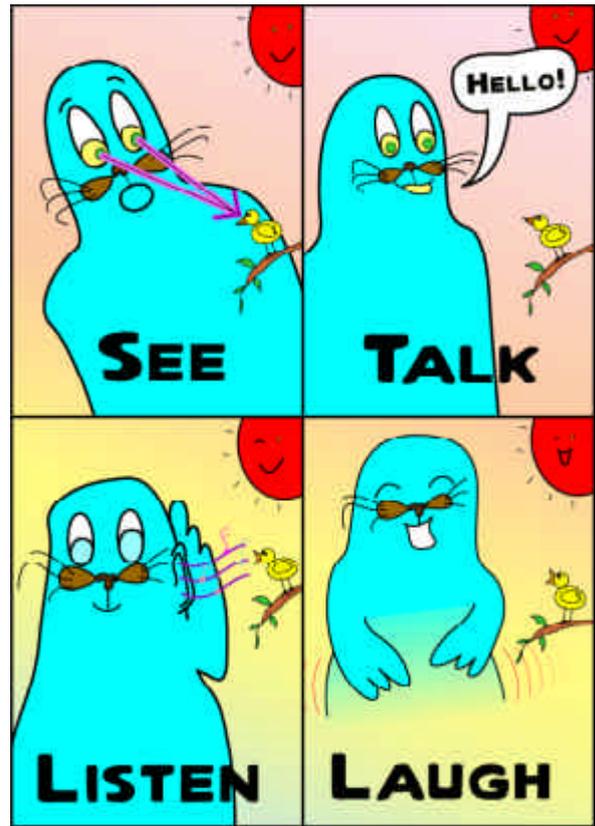
Which word does not BELONG?

Circle the word that does not belong.

Example: apple banana orange rabbit

Answer: **RABBIT** does NOT belong. Apples, bananas and oranges are all FRUITS. Rabbit is an ANIMAL.

1. policeman doctor truck teacher
2. tree soccer swimming baseball
3. brother mother uncle mailman
4. soda juice tea rice
5. China Japan Africa Germany



December Answers Test Your Skills

Fill in the Blank

1. a (of)
2. b (left)
3. c (Also)
4. a (period)

Multiple Choice Questions

1. c (September 30th)
2. d (Picking up garbage from the curb is becoming too expensive.)
3. b (plastic bottles)

Unscramble the Words

Put the letters in order to correctly spell the name of the COUNTRY. Copy the letters by matching the numbers to find the answer to:

Where was golf invented?

JANPA

NAACAD

TAUASRALI

NACHI

RUISAS

SIPNA