



Globetrotter

Volume 1, Issue 21

July 2008

Greetings

Thanks very much 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.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
2. ERIC'S CORNER
4. ERIC'S GRAMMAR PAGE
6. IN THE NEWS

Student Spotlight Satoshi

Satoshi is a dedicated and very talkative student who has been studying with Global Communications for just over two years.

Satoshi has gone from upper-beginner to intermediate in just two years of consistent and dedicated study, with 2-3 classes per week on average.

Most of Satoshi's classes involve talking about a wide range of topics with the instructor before moving on to his current textbook, *International Express – Intermediate*.

Satoshi hopes to work for a major multinational Japanese company once he completes university. He believes that having strong English skills will help him land a great job and be very effective in the workplace.

Lately, Satoshi has become a big fan of the American television series "Lost" and enjoys watching its many episodes with the original English audio to help his listening skills.

Satoshi is a great student and we look forward to continuing to teach him in the future.



Eric's Corner

The Wonderful Convenience of the Conbini

Recently, a good friend of mine, Alan, from my days at university in Toronto, who was also my **housemate** for my third year, visited Tokyo. He now lives in Vancouver, a city very popular with Japanese students studying English. It also has a large population of Canadians of Japanese **descent**. It didn't take long for him to discover the Family Mart around the corner from my apartment. In fact, on our way from the airport to my apartment, as we walked from the train station toward my home, the bright lights instantly **mesmerised** him. He had just traveled nine hours by air and almost two hours by train to get to my neighbourhood in Itabashi, Tokyo, but for some reason the Family Mart suddenly became a **must-see**. So, pulled like **moths** toward a bright light, we entered the Family Mart and he walked around, mesmerised by the product selection.

You see, back in Canada our convenience stores (even our 7/11's) do not **carry** very many useful things. The food on offer is usually **limited to** disgusting sandwiches, old hotdogs, and **overpriced** fruit. But in Japanese convenience stores, you can buy all kinds of foods such as baked goods, rice balls, sushi, pasta, ramen, and much more. And you can also buy socks, stamps, make photocopies, pay your bills, send packages by **courier**, or buy a steamed meat bun my readers will better know as

niku-man. In short, a conbini is the only shop you really need to survive.

So, getting back to my friend, for the remaining six days of his stay at my apartment, he headed out every morning **determined** to bring back his breakfast from the Family Mart. This was despite the fact that I had plenty of food in my fridge. There was simply such a great variety of products at Family Mart that he couldn't imagine going back to Canada without first trying as many as possible. So over the next few days he brought back melon bread, cheese cake, rice balls, niku-man, French fries, and pork cutlet (or tonkatsu). And as we rode the Keisei train out to Narita Airport the following Sunday, he was dreaming up ways to copy the success of the Japanese convenience stores and make millions of dollars in Canada. And I hope he's successful, since Canada could really use some Japanese convenience stores!



FamilyMart



Vocabulary

housemate: roommate; a person with whom you share an apartment or house

descent: people with ancestry from a specific country, in this case Japan

mesmerised: spellbound; hypnotised

must-see: something extremely interesting (for example, a film or a travel destination); something so interesting that *not* seeing it would be a mistake

moths: the ugly cousin of the butterfly that is usually seen at night; “ga” in Japanese

carry: normally this means to hold something in your hand, but here it means that a store sells a certain product

limited to: only; the items following “limited to” the only items available

overpriced: more expensive than it should be; too expensive

courier: a service used to send packages, such as Kuroneko or DHL

determined: very strongly decided; resolute; dedicated to doing something



Eric's Grammar Page

Reading Comprehension Exercise

Hakodate

I recently had the opportunity to visit Hakodate in Hokkaido for a brief vacation. Hokkaido is a beautiful place, as everyone knows, and I had been looking forward to visiting the island for along time. We arrived early in the morning on a flight from Haneda into Hakodate Airport, which is just a short bus ride from Hakodate Station and the all-important morning market.

After leaving our bags in coin lockers at the station, we proceeded to the market, which is just across the street. It was now about 9am, a perfect time for a bowl of rice topped with fresh sea urchin (uni), scallops (hotate) and squid (ika). I am from Toronto, which is hopelessly far away from the ocean; we simply don't get the same kind of fresh seafood that is the standard throughout Japan.

Anyway, the bowl of rice topped with fresh, raw seafood was just what we needed after the very early morning departure from Tokyo. In order to make it to Haneda for our flight, we had to wake up at 5am, not something I am accustomed to doing!

We only had a brief 36 hours in Hakodate, but we still managed to explore the historic area of Motomachi at the foot of Mt. Hakodate, and take in (quite literally) even more fresh seafood.



One restaurant insisted that we pick out the individual squid when we ordered squid sashimi. So over to the tank we went and pointed to one of the squid swimming around energetically in its tank. Shortly after, the waitress reached into the tank, grabbed the squid, and then ran over to the chef.

Just a few moments later, the squid arrived at our table. It was so quick, that the squid's legs were still moving! While the squid was definitely dead, the muscles in the legs were still moving or "twitching". It felt a bit strange eating squid that was still moving, but it was so fresh I had to eat it.

Other highlights of the trip included delicious crab soup and local Hakodate beer, although I recommend enjoying these delicacies at different meals because soup and beer do not go well together.

So all in all, our brief Hakodate vacation was fabulous, even though a stubborn cloud stopped us from seeing the famous "night view" from Mt. Hakodate.

Questions

Based on the passage on the previous page, decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). If the statement is false, how could you make it true?

1. This was the writer's first visit to Hokkaido.
2. The writer took the overnight (sleeper) train from Ueno Station to Hakodate.
3. The writer arrived in Hokkaido late at night.
4. The writer cannot eat raw fish.
5. The writer does not like waking up early in the morning.
6. The vacation lasted for one week.
7. The writer ate squid that was still alive.
8. The writer thinks beer and soup should be enjoyed separately.
9. The writer was able to see the famous night view from the top of Mt. Hakodate.
10. Overall, the writer had a great time in Hakodate.

Answers:

1. True.
2. False. The writer went by airplane, flying from Haneda Airport to Hakodate.
3. False. The writer arrived early in the morning, getting to downtown Hakodate at about 9am.
4. False. The writer *loves* raw fish, especially squid, sea urchin and scallops.
5. True.
6. False. The vacation lasted just 36 hours (a day and a half).
7. False. The squid was dead, but its legs were still moving.
8. True.
9. False. Because of cloudy weather, the writer could not see the night view.
10. True!

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 a memorial in London, England for journalists killed on the job. Did you find this month's article interesting? Let us know!

Killed journalists' memorial opens in London

A single pillar of light rises 900 metres into the night sky from the roof of the BBC's headquarters at Broadcasting House - part of a light sculpture, called Breathing, that will change **the skyline of London** each night from now on, from 10pm till 10:30pm - **in tandem with** the BBC's main television news programme.

Mr Ban said it was **a solemn reminder** of those who had lost their lives **giving voice to the voiceless**, **a beacon of hope** for the millions of people **thirsting for** truth.

The BBC Director General Mark Thompson said the job of gathering the news had become far more dangerous. **On average**, two journalists had been killed each week, every week, for the last ten years. In 90 per cent of cases, he said, no-one had been **brought to justice**.

Among those **attending the ceremony** were the families of journalists who have died or been murdered **on assignment** - the family of the BBC producer Kate Peyton, shot dead in Somalia in 2005, and of cameraman Simon Cumbers, killed in Saudi Arabia nine months earlier.

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 look forward to hearing how you feel about this topic.

Vocabulary

the skyline of London

the shape made against the sky by London's buildings, bridges, monuments and sculptures

in tandem with

to coincide with; at the same time as the main BBC TV News programme is broadcast

a solemn reminder

a very earnest/serious visual message that makes people aware

giving voice to the voiceless

describing suffering, injustice, deadly danger etc. on behalf of those who have no chance or power to speak for themselves

a beacon of hope

here, a source and symbol of inspiration, leading people to believe that something good will happen in the future

thirsting for

desperately looking for

On average

typically

brought to justice

made to stand trial (and convicted)

attending the ceremony

present at the opening of the monument

on assignment

while away on duty; while working away