



Globetrotter

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Greetings

Thank you very much to 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.

Teacher Spotlight Amy

Hi everyone! My name is Amy. I am a new member of the Global Communication teaching staff. I grew up in Orange County, California and went to college in both San Diego and Los Angeles. I graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a M.A. degree in Japanese studies and Art History this past June. My favorite genre of art is *Ukiyo-e*. I decided to come to Japan to improve upon my Japanese language skills and hope to one day return to school for my doctorate degree in Japanese Edo period art.

Although this is my first time in Tokyo, I have visited Japan several times before. My mother is from Sapporo so I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit Hokkaido several times during the summer when I was younger. Since it has now been over 10 years since my last visit, I am very excited to be back in Japan. I have always loved Japanese culture and of course, sushi. I am addicted to salmon sashimi and eat it almost everyday, a luxury I was unable to enjoy in the U.S. Since I have made plans to stay in Tokyo for at least 4 years, I am very excited and eager to meet all of you.

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Amy Andersson's Corner

HAPA: a *“melting pot”* of *cultures*

Growing up in the U.S., I have always been referred to as a **“hapa.”** In the U.S., “hapa” is used to refer to anyone of mixed nationality, particularly someone who is part-white and part-asian. Because I am of mixed nationality, it has always been an interesting introduction when meeting new people, many of whom have tried to guess what mix I am, but few who have succeeded considering how unusual my mix is.

My mother is Japanese and was born and raised in Sapporo. My father was born and raised in Sweden. Both of my parents traveled a great deal and found the United States, in particular, California, to be an **ideal** location to settle down in. Why is California ideal? California is what we like to call, the **melting pot** state. California has always been culturally **diverse**, housing cultures from around the world. We have “Little Tokyo” in Los Angeles, one of the largest Japanese communities in California, “Chinatown” in both Southern and Northern California, as well as other cultural communities like “Little Saigon” that have come together as a **support system** for foreigners and immigrants. Many come with little knowledge of the English language and therefore, find it convenient and helpful to have a cultural community that can offer them assistance. I, myself, grew up in Irvine, a city

with a large Asian population. There are even supermarkets selling strictly Chinese food or Japanese food. I, therefore, had easy access to everything Japanese, from language schools on Saturday mornings to Japanese food and books.

Despite this cultural **networking** that rests primarily within the Asian population, there is a much smaller community for Swedish people. My experiences, therefore, of Sweden, and my learning of its culture was accessed only through my visit and stay in Sweden. For those of you who have never been to Sweden, it is known for its beautiful scenery, with vast fields of flowers and wheat that stretch for miles on end. My visits were always adventurous and full of surprises. My father owned a ranch deep in the countryside of Sweden. With miles of land to explore, filled with the delicious aroma of strawberries and cherries, it had become a **fantasy** brought to life in the eyes of a child. I would often chase after the tractors that passed through, hoping for the chance to catch a free ride and explore new areas.

With time, however, my childhood explorations have become but a distant dream. Now that I have grown up, I have discovered a new love, a love for Japan. Japan, too, has the beauty of the countryside but with it, the uniquely **condense** structure of the city, where you become **engulfed** by the **massive** buildings that tower and surround you. The opposition of city and country and the deep history that links the two has become the very thing that has drawn me to Japan. Japan also houses a vast array of cultural groups, creating an atmosphere very close to my life back home. The transition, therefore, from the U.S. to Japan has been both smooth and enjoyable and has left me without any feeling of **homesickness**.

Vocabulary

Hapa: the term is strictly defined as: portion, fragment, part, fraction, installment. It has an extended meaning "of mixed descent" and is often taken to mean "part white"

Ideal: a standard of perfection

Melting Pot: an analogy describing the way in which the ingredients in the pot (people of different cultures, races and religions) are combined so as to develop a multi-ethnic society.

Diverse: varied, many and different

Support system: a network of professional and personal contacts (people) who are available to others for support when needed

Networking: a support system of sharing information and services among individuals and groups having a common interest

Fantasy: an image, extravagant and unreal

Condense: to make more compact

Engulfed: to become overwhelmed or swallowed as if by something overflowing and enclosing

Massive: large and imposing

Homesickness: longing for home or family while away

Amy's Grammar



Reading Comprehension: Read the following sample and answer the questions.

The Meaning of *Guernica*

Guernica is a monumental painting by Pablo Picasso depicting the Nazi German bombing of Guernica, Spain, by twenty-eight bombers on April 26, 1937 during the Spanish Civil War. The attack killed between 250 and 1,600 people, many more of whom were injured. The *Guernica* was commissioned by the Spanish Government and has become a monumental image serving as a reminder of the tragedies of war.

Guernica is a mural-size canvas painted in oil and in black and white to resemble that of the newspaper photographs that recorded and shared with the world, the news of the violent bombing. It depicts suffering people, animals and buildings destroyed by the bombing attack.

- on the left, a wide-eyed bull stands over a woman grieving over a dead child in her arms
- the center is occupied by a horse falling in agony as it had just been run through by a spear or javelin. The shape of a human skull forms the horse's nose and upper teeth.
- Under the horse is a dead soldier

- To the upper right of the horse, a frightened female figure who seems to be witnessing the scenes before her

As listed above, Picasso sought to express the pain and suffering of the people subjected to the violent brutalities of a country at war.

Which word best describes Picasso's Painting?

- A) happy
- B) dark
- C) amusing
- D) meaningless

Why did Picasso title his painting *Guernica*?

- A) it does not say
- B) because he wanted to honor those who died
- C) because it is his favorite word
- D) because the Spanish Government told him to

Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A) a woman is shown grieving over a dead child in her arms as a bull stands over her
- B) a woman is shown dancing with a smile on her face
- C) the shape of a human skull forms the nose and upper teeth of the horse
- D) under the horse is a dead soldier

In the News

Learn to Read the News in English

Read 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 destructive nature of alcohol, using Austin, Texas as a prime example of a "hard-drinking" city. Did you find this month's article interesting? Let us know!

The Hardest-Drinking Cities in America

When It Comes to Boozing It Up, These Cities Are Tops

Austin, Texas, is famous for its parties. People flock from around the world to attend events like the annual South by Southwest film and music festival. And when they get there, chances are they **make like the locals** and **throw back a few cold ones**--because Austin may be the hardest-drinking city in America.

Austin ranks high for its drinking habits across the board. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) 2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, 61.5% of adult residents say they have had at least one drink of alcohol within the past 30 days, and a **staggering** 20.6% of respondents confess to **binge** drinking, or having five or more drinks on one occasion.

Some residents **attribute** those numbers to the city's sizable population of college students. Austin is home to several schools, including the University of Texas at Austin, one of the largest universities in the country.

"I imagine that's probably why the city's on [the list]," says Hunter Darby, manager of Austin's Dog & Duck Pub. "Sixth Street in Austin is like a tiny version of Bourbon Street. It caters a lot to a younger crowd who are right at age 21. They'll just

go from bar to bar to bar. ... There are a ton of bars per human being in this town."

Collegiate excess has **repercussions** far beyond **hangovers** and missed classes, and should be of concern to members of the surrounding community. "Binge drinking hurts not only the drinker but also others near him," says Henry Wechsler, Ph.D., a lecturer at the Harvard school of Public Health, where he was also the director of the College Alcohol Study, and author of *Dying to Drink: Confronting Binge Drinking on College Campuses*.

"The binge drinker disturbs the peace, through noise, **vandalism** and sometimes violence. Like **secondhand smoke**, binge drinking **pollutes** the environment."

"The [social] cost of alcohol is in the billions of dollars. Roughly half the total is related to what's called alcohol **addiction**," says Paul Gruenewald, scientific director of the Prevention Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley, which is funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Vocabulary

make like the locals: an expression used to describe a visitor as someone acting like the locals
throw back a few cold ones: to drink up a few beers

staggering: moving or standing unsteadily

binge: a period, usually brief, of excessive indulgence

attribute: to regard as resulting from a specified cause

repercussions: an often indirect influence, effect or result that is produced by an event or action

hangovers: unpleasant physical effects following the heavy use of alcohol

vandalism: deliberate destruction or damage of property

secondhand smoke: smoke

pollute: to make unclean

addiction: to become dependent upon a practice or habit such as drinking, smoking or drugs