



Globetrotter

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Greetings

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---A STAR IS BORN!!! This month, Alando makes his acting debut in the film, Moyuru Toki: The Excellent Company. We hope all of you will check it out. The movie is in theaters now.

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

REMINDER---St. Patrick's Day is on March 17, 2006, so don't forget to wear green or be prepared to get pinched!



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Teacher Spotlight Jennifer

Hello everyone! I think I may have had a chance to speak with all or most of you. I have enjoyed talking with all of you and working at Global has really made me feel like I have friends all over Japan.

I was born in a small town in central Texas called Temple. I lived there until I moved to Austin, Texas, the state capital, to attend the University of Texas at Austin. There I studied Architectural Engineering. I worked as a land development engineer until I moved to Japan.

In the beginning, living in Japan was a bit of a culture shock for me because I was unaccustomed to being only one of the Asian faces in the sea of many. This has been a great experience for me and has taught me many things, such as patience, kindness, and diligence can carry you far in life, and taking risks can make life a big adventure.



Movie Review

Moyuru Toki: The Excellent Company

By Alando Garcia

Moyuru Toki: The Excellent Company is a Japanese movie about the Sansun company and their successful marketing of their Ramen Cup of Noodle product in America. The movie is **set in** the 1980's when Sansun was competing with other American brands for a **share of the American market** for ramen noodles. The movie tells the story of how Sansun overcame competition, an attempted **hostile takeover** from an American company, and a corrupt **labor union** to become one of Japan's most successful companies operating in America in the 1980's.

The movie stars several famous Japanese actors; Kiichi Nakai plays the lead part of Mr. Kawamori, a Japanese businessman that is **instrumental** in making Sansun's product a success in the American marketplace. The movie was filmed mostly in Australia (though some scenes were shot in Roppongi and Los Angeles) and features many Australian actors. Even **yours truly** had a small acting role in the movie! I play the part of "Emilio" (you can see me in the "bar scene")!

I found the story to be quite interesting and the acting from the lead actors to be good, but the **cinematography** was a bit disappointing. Most notably, the movie left me with the **distinct impression** that it was trying to make a point that *all* labor unions are bad. A point I disagree with.



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

Moyuru Toki: The Excellent Company

1. **set-in** – this is a movie term which means where or when the story takes place. Set-in refers to a location or an era (time). For example, the movie is set-in the 1950's.
2. **share of the market** – this means the amount of business or sales a company has in a particular part of the business market. For example, Toyota Motor Corp. has a large share in the automobile market in America.
3. **hostile takeover** – this is when one company tries to forcefully buy the other company. This is done by taking over a majority of the company's stock shares.
4. **labor union** – a labor union is an organization that protects the employees of a company by making sure they are paid a fair wage and working conditions are good.
5. **instrumental** – this means to be very helpful in some cause, or to be the main person responsible for bringing about the desired result.
6. **yours truly** – when you say "yours truly" you mean you! For example, "Even *yours truly* had a small part in the movie." It means, "even I had a small part in the movie."
7. **cinematography** – how the scenes in the movie are shot or filmed by the cameras.
8. **distinct impression** – a distinct impression is something that is very clear – easily seen or observed that you then feel positive or negative about. For example, "I had the distinct impression that she was following me and it made me feel nervous."

What do you think?

By Jennifer Yun

ODE TO FATHERS

DO FATHERS GET A RAW DEAL?

The traditional family structure typically casts the man as the breadwinner for the family. Due to this, the man typically gets a higher salary compared to women. Although this difference in pay is viewed as unequal to many, especially women, it is common for men to receive different treatment at work. This difference in treatment usually consists of higher expectations and longer work hours. Having to work longer hours seems justified if the man is receiving higher pay, but this also means that the man has less time for his family or friends.

Nowadays, the mother and the father usually work and therefore provide a higher income for the family. A lot of times the women will be allowed some leniency because the company recognizes that she has children and has many responsibilities for her family. However, when the man is a father, he typically doesn't receive any leniency. There are many cases when the father doesn't really see, much less communicate with his family, until the weekend. This type of situation, although very common, can put a lot of stress on all the members of the family.

A lot of working mothers would love to have some extra support, such as babysitting. But most would really like to have their husband be more available and participate more in daily chores and activities. These daily activities may seem unimportant, but actually they are situations that strengthen the bond of the family. Helping children with homework or preparing dinner together as a family are golden moments that build lasting memories.

As a woman, all the unfair treatment women usually receive definitely irritates me, but I do feel that men also receive unfair treatment as well. It would be nice if companies would allow fathers some vacation time after the birth of their child or could have some additional time off so that they could spend more time with their family.

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.

Valentine's Day Comparison

Comments

I don't like Valentine's Day because I don't like buying chocolates for men. I like the American tradition better.---Yukiko---

I don't think Valentine's Day is important. I don't mind if girls don't give me chocolates because than I don't have to buy a gift on White Day for them.---Yoshie---

I like Valentine's Day. I like to give chocolates and I like receiving gifts on White Day also. I think it's fun. ---Mika---

Vocabulary Builder

Spring Vocabulary

1. to bloom = VERB = to bear flowers
 - In the spring, many flowers bloom on plants and trees.
2. precipitation = NOUN = amount of rain
 - The storm brought several inches of precipitation.
3. rejuvenate = VERB = to restore to new condition
 - The beautiful spring weather rejuvenates my soul after the long dreary winter.
4. dew = NOUN = water drops that usually forms at night
 - The smell of dew on the grass at night is very fragrant to me.
5. allergic = ADJECTIVE = bad reaction, such as coughing or sneezing, to something
 - I am allergic to mangoes. When I eat them, my lips swell up.

Test Your Skills

Reading Comprehension

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

The Story of St. Patrick

St Patrick is known as the patron saint of Ireland and was born in the later half of the 4th century AD. One day a band of pirates landed in south Wales and (1) him along with many others. He was then sold into slavery in Ireland. Patrick was there for 6 years as a prisoner. At this time, he dreamed of having seen God. Legend says, God told him to (2) on a getaway ship. He did escape and went to Britain and later to France. In France, he joined a monastery and studied under St. Germain, the bishop of Auxerre. He spent around 12 years in training. When he became a bishop he dreamed that the Irish were calling him back to Ireland to tell them about God. The Confessio, Patrick's spiritual autobiography, is the most important document regarding this. It tells of a dream after his (3) to Britain, in which one Victoricus delivered him a letter headed "The Voice of the Irish." So he set out for Ireland with the Pope's blessings. There he converted the Gaelic Irish, who were then mostly Pagans, to Christianity. For 20 years he traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also (4) schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion. It is said that he used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity; which refers to the combination of Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Hence its strong association with his day and name.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. _____
a. stole
b. kidnapped
c. lost | 3. _____
a. return
b. go back
c. reunion |
| 2. _____
a. escape
b. run
c. ride | 4. _____
a. put up
b. turned up
c. set up |

Who did Patrick see in a dream?

- A) his father
- B) God
- C) pirates
- D) a priest

What is the title of Patrick's autobiography?

- A) the Bible
- B) St. Germain
- C) The Voice of the Irish
- D) The Confessio

What is the 3-leaf shamrock associated with?

- A) Patrick's family
- B) God
- C) the Trinity
- D) The Pagans

Which statement occurred first?

- A) Patrick converted the Irish to Christianity.
- B) Patrick was a slave in Ireland.
- C) Patrick became a bishop.



Kids Corner

WORD SCRAMBLE



E P L A P

Answer : _____



S R G A E P

Answer : _____



H A P E C

Answer : _____



ARTICLES PRACTICE

Complete the sentence by choosing the correct Article (a, an).

1. This is Bob. He's _____ doctor.
 - (a) a
 - (b) an
2. Peter is _____ engineer.
 - (a) a
 - (b) an
3. Julia Roberts is _____ actress.
 - (a) a
 - (b) an
4. Mr. Smith is _____ teacher.
 - (a) a
 - (b) an

February Answers

Test Your Skills (pg. 4)

Fill in the Blank

1. a (role)
2. c (jealous)
3. b (series)
4. a (instead)

Multiple Choice Questions

1. d (naughty)
2. b (because he was a God)
3. c (Venus told Psyche that Cupid was in the underworld with Proserpine.)