



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---The new Global Communications website is now available. Please check out all the new features, such as: blogs, downloadable worksheets and newsletters, video introductions of the teachers, podcast, and much more!

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



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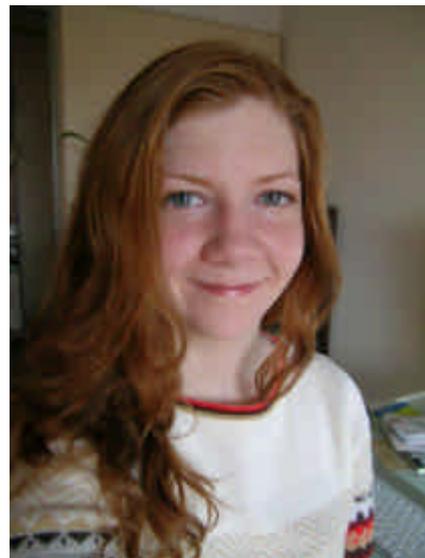
Teacher Spotlight Vanessa

Hello! My name is Vanessa Howell and I have worked at Global Communications for the last year.

I am from Texas where I studied music at my university. I came to Japan (with my cat!) because I have always been interested in the Japanese aesthetic in art, music, and architecture.

I enjoy traveling around Japan and taking photos of interesting places. Also, I love Japanese food! Living in Japan is a great experience and I am always learning new things.

I am happy to have the opportunity to teach at Global Communications and I hope to talk with you soon.



Movie Review

Rent

By Alando Garcia

Rent is a movie about the lives of eight friends that live in New York's **East Village**. Rent tells the story of these eight friends as they struggle to express themselves through their art, deal with issues such as AIDS, death and poverty, and try to **pay the rent!** The movie stars Rosario Dawson as *Mimi*, Adam Pascal as *Roger*, Jesse Martin as *Tom Collins*, and others. *Roger* is a musician that is trying to overcome the death of his girlfriend, who was a drug user that contracted AIDS and then committed suicide. He begins **to fall for** his neighbor, *Mimi*, who is a dancer at the local **go-go bar**, "The Catch Scratch", but is afraid to fall in love again after the death of his former girlfriend, especially when he learns that *Mimi* is also a drug user.

Tom Collins, a gay professor of philosophy, meets his soul mate *Angel*, a **transsexual** street performer, after being **mugged** on the streets. *Roger* and his roommate, *Mark*, an **aspiring** filmmaker, struggle to pay the rent or be evicted and thus are forced to live on the streets like the many homeless people already living in East Village. And there is *Mark's* ex-girlfriend who he still is in love with, but she has become involved in a lesbian affair with an attorney.

The movie is a musical, so there is little actual dialogue throughout the film. Most of the film is musical numbers. Usually, I am not a fan of musicals – in fact, I hated the movie, "Chicago", for example. But "Rent" was pretty good I thought! It is a movie full of ups and downs – people falling in love, death, AIDS, friendship, poverty. It is a depressing movie at times but the movie concludes rather happily for a movie that really was full of sorrow throughout much of the film. The acting was good, the music good and the story was well written I thought. It certainly is not your mainstream Hollywood film – after all the main characters include two gay couples and a go-go dancer! But it was entertaining!



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

Rent

1. **East Village** – New York City's East Village is an area of New York City that is home to many struggling artists, a lot of homeless people and citizens that many other New Yorker's describe as "strange."
2. **pay the rent** – rent is the money that you must pay in order to live in an apartment. If you own your home, then we say you pay a "mortgage", but if you do not own the home, you pay "rent" to the person that owns the home.
3. **to fall for** – this is an American idiom which means to become attracted to someone, and to want to begin a relationship with that person.
4. **go-go bar** – a go-go bar is a bar where women dance, usually naked or topless. Similar to a "strip club."
5. **transsexual** – a gay man that wants to live as a woman – he wears women's clothes and lives a lifestyle as a female, but he is still physically a male. A transsexual can also be a lesbian that wants to live a lifestyle as a male.
6. **mugged** – to be assaulted by people on the street, that take your money, your wallet, your jewelry, etc. Sometimes the mugging may be physical, you may be hit or kicked.
7. **aspiring** – aspiring is used before a noun to describe what you want to become. For example, an "aspiring filmmaker" is a person that wants to make films professionally, but he is not currently a professional filmmaker. An "aspiring actor" is someone that is not regularly working as an actor, but they wish to become a professional actor.

What do you think?

By Jennifer Yun

Saying No

THE POWER OF DISSENTING

Many people around the world have trouble saying “no” for multiple reasons. The biggest reason that it is difficult is most likely the fear of disappointing others. Typically, people are worried about how they will negatively affect others by not being as accommodating as possible. However, when people worry too much about accommodating others, how are they accommodating themselves?

Generally, the group who has the most trouble saying no is women. Women tend to put a lot of pressure on themselves to please people. A typical woman suffers greatly if she feels like she is disappointing her parents, spouse, children, or friends. Being a disappointment for anyone is the equivalent of being a failure.

Saying no to a request can be interpreted by some as a sign of selfishness. What other reason could the person have for not immediately agreeing to whatever favor is being asked? If the person is truly a cooperative, generous person, then of course they are going to jump at the chance to fulfill whatever request is being made of them. However, the person who always consents usually ends up feeling taken advantage of and unappreciated. Then, the person curses the request they must fulfill and the anger spills over to anyone else around. Therefore, agreeing to the task causes more harm than good for the individual.

Time is the most precious commodity people have. Your time is priceless and should not be wasted. Time spent being angry over trivial matters is time you could have used more productively. Therefore, I don't like to cause unnecessary angst in my life if I can help it. Nowadays, I evaluate each request thoroughly before I commit to anything. Actually, it is much easier for me to say “no” than it is to say “yes”. I believe that part of agreeing to a request is agreeing with a good attitude, not remorse, otherwise, what is the point?

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.

Helicopter Parents Comments

I've read your article “Helicopter Parents” and I'm very interested in this problem. I quite agree with your opinion that it's necessary for the young people to suffer through mistakes from time to time. When I think of the failure in life, I think it is one of the solutions for not only the young persons but also the older persons
---Takuma---

My parents have helped me out many, many times. Without their help, I would probably be in big trouble today. I am glad that they are “helicopter parents” and am very thankful for it.---Yurika---

Vocabulary Builder

Negative Personality Vocabulary

1. jerk = NOUN = a person who is rude and obnoxious
 - Tom was a **jerk** yesterday because he would not let me see his book.
2. dork = NOUN = a person who is not sophisticated or able to socialize easily
 - Mary was a **dork** in high school and didn't have many friends.
3. two-timer = NOUN = a person who lies or cheats (typically in a relationship)
 - David is a **two-timer** because he was dating my best friend and me at the same time.
4. backstabber = NOUN = a person who is friendly in your face and not friendly when you are gone
 - Don't tell Marla anything personal because she is a **backstabber**.
5. gold-digger = NOUN = a woman who has relationships with only wealthy people
 - My girl friend is very expensive because she is a **gold digger**.

Test Your Skills

Reading Comprehension

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

Thomas Paine

On January 29, 1737, Thomas Paine was born in Thetford, England. After failing out of school at the age of 12, Thomas began apprenticing for his father, but again, he failed. At age 19, Paine went to sea. This adventure didn't last too long, and by 1768 he found himself as an excise (tax) officer in England. In 1774, by happenstance, he met Benjamin Franklin in London, (1) helped him emigrate to Philadelphia.

Thomas Paine (2) the American Revolution with a prose that spoke directly to the people. *Common Sense* was devoured and debated by Americans in taverns, reading clubs, parlors and street corners. *The American Crisis, Number 1*, the first in a series of essays meant to boost (3) and exhort the revolution, has perhaps the most famous opening sentence in American literature: "These are the times that try men's souls." For these works, Paine neither asked for nor received a dime in compensation. He donated all (4) from the sale of these pamphlets to the revolutionary cause.

Like so many of the major figures of the Enlightenment, including Jefferson and Franklin, Paine had a wide-array of interests which included invention and engineering. In France, he was hailed by reformers for his work in the cause of the American Revolution. On a visit to Paris in 1789, he was presented with the key to the Bastille, which he was to pass on to President Washington.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. _____
a. who
b. that
c. which | 3. _____
a. love
b. morale
c. salaries |
| 2. _____
a. propagandized
b. provoked
c. inspired | 4. _____
a. proceeds
b. leftovers
c. reminders |

Why did Benjamin Franklin deliberately try to meet Paine?

- A) Franklin was a good friend of Paine's father.
- B) Franklin met Paine only by accident.
- C) Franklin wanted Paine to help with the Revolution.
- D) Franklin was his friend from school.

Which of Paine's essays helped motivate the war?

- A) Declaration of Independence
- B) Common Sense
- C) The American Crisis, Number 1
- D) the Constitution

Which was not one of Paine's interests?

- A) writing
- B) invention
- C) engineering
- D) military

According to the article, which statement is true?

- A) France gave Paine the key to the Bastille to honor him.
- B) Paine was fired from his job by his father.



Kids Corner

RECOGNIZING ADJECTIVES

An adjective is word that shows description. Circle the adjective(s) in each sentence.

1. The big dog scared the children.



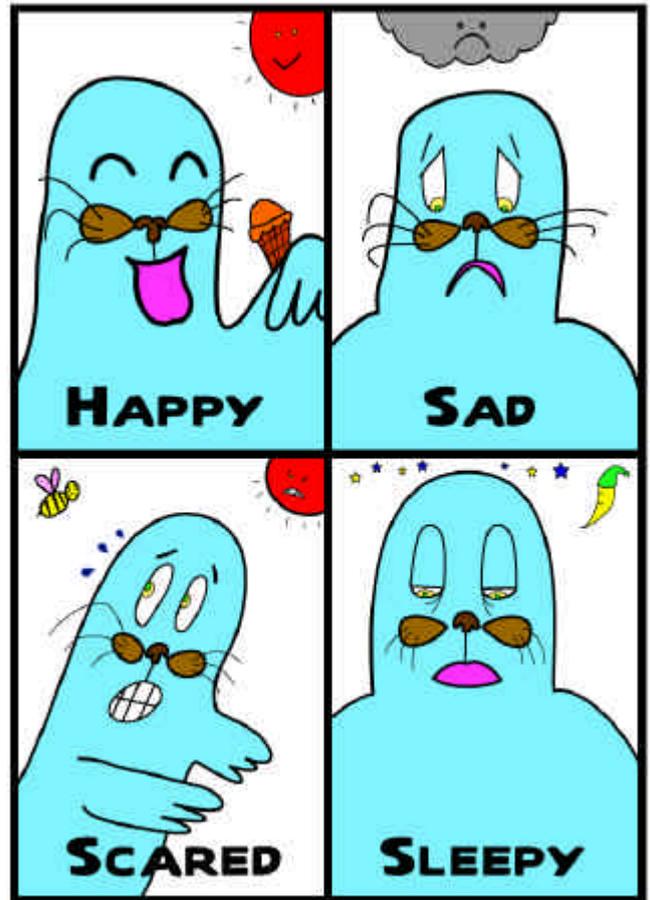
2. The teacher was happy to see the students.



3. The noisy refrigerator finally broke.



4. The coffee is too hot to drink.



ADJECTIVE ORDER

When using more than one adjective to describe a noun, place the adjectives in the following order before the noun: **1) opinion, 2) dimension, 3) age, 4) shape, 5) color, 6) origin, 7) material**

Complete the sentence by using all of the adjectives in the parenthesis to describe the underlined noun.

- A clock is a treasure. (old, Italian, wonderful)

- He gave me a ring. (pink, disgusting, plastic)

- Some trousers just came in. (French, slim, new)

June Answers

Test Your Skills (pg. 4)

Fill in the Blank

- c (dedicated)
- b (tolerance)
- a (under)
- b (contrary)

Multiple Choice Questions

- b (the best example of)
- d (geologist)
- c (Andrea del Verrocchio)
- b (Da Vinci worked for the Duke of Milan as a court artist.)

Kids Corner (pg. 5)

Recognizing Verbs

Vocabulary: Opposites

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. ran | 1. good : bad |
| 2. fight | 2. fat : thin |
| 3. sing | 3. young : old |
| 4. is eating | 4. girl : boy |