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The Voice

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WELCOME!!

今年から英文学科に、カナダ出身の Lassche 先生がやってきました！みなさん、先生とはもう話しをしましたか？まだの人はぜひ英語で話しかけてみて下さい！！今回は先生からみなさんへの自己紹介を兼ねたメッセージを頂きました。

For the last 9 years, I worked in Korea. While there, I taught students of all ages – pre-schoolers and kindergardeners, elementary/junior/senior high, and adults. My last stint was a 4-year period doing teacher education. My students were both experienced and non-experienced English-teachers-in-training. I also met, fell in love with, and married my wife Helena, who is Korean. And we had our son, Adam, there as well.

I really like teaching. My great pleasure is watching the lights go on in students' eyes, as understanding dawns. It is in moments like these that I feel a real connection with my students. To get to that place takes a lot of effort and patience on both the teacher's and student's part, but it is worth it.

I decided to come to Sendai because I was impressed with the faculty members that I knew here. Sendai is also a little more relaxed and slower paced, with a beautiful and clean environment, than bigger cities in Japan, which is something that I wanted my baby son to experience as he grows older. I am looking forward to those environmentally-oriented family outings at the beach, in the mountains, in the forests.

I am looking forward to developing my knowledge of Japanese language and culture. Please bear with me, as I am sure to make many social gaffes. I appreciate your generosity towards me with your invitation, and I look forward to meeting you, working with you, and learning from you.



TESTS! TESTS! TESTS! TESTS!

ギルモア先生からの英語のテストに関してのお知らせです。

There are a wide variety of commercial English language tests learners can take. In the English Department the TOEIC and institutional TOEFL are available, and there are other tests such as the EIKEN STEP tests that can be taken at testing centres in Sendai.

Tests have different purposes and test different skill areas. The TOEIC tests listening and reading skills, and the TOEFL (CBT) tests listening, reading and writing skills for students who want to enter North American universities. Neither of these tests actually assesses communication in interactive spoken or written English. That is a major problem if you want to know your communicative ability in English.

If you want to know how your English communication skills shape up, then I recommend checking out the language exams organized by the University of Cambridge. The Cambridge ESOL exams are the world's leading range of certificates for learners of English. Each year over 1.5 million people, in 135 countries, take them. These are the exams used extensively in Europe, and both British and Australian universities use the IELTS. They can help if you want to improve your job prospects, measure your proficiency in English, or enter a university or college overseas. You can find out about the Cambridge exams by checking out the following URL: <http://www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/>

What I like about the Cambridge exams is the fact that they test real communication – and that involves trained examiners who interact with test takers, and assess their abilities on a variety of communication tasks, both spoken and written. Here are 3 of the different exams Cambridge ESOL offers which English Department students might be interested in:

PET (Preliminary English Test)

PET is an intermediate level exam, testing your ability to cope with everyday written and spoken communications. It is most suitable for those around 400 - 500 on the TOEIC.

FCE (First Certificate in English)

An upper intermediate level exam - ideal if you can deal confidently with a range of written and spoken communication situations. This is a fun exam to take, because you are assessed using role-plays and communication tasks in the actual test. This exam is widely used in Europe as a basic requirement for a job in public administration, banks, etc. Students with 500 - 650 on the TOEIC would find this exam a suitable level.

BULATS (Business Language Testing Service)*

This test is an assessment of communication ability in business English. BULATS tests your spoken and written ability using communication tasks you would be expected to perform in a business situation. Things like: negotiating, marketing, presenting, explaining a product etc. Students with around 700 on the TOEIC, and a good written ability in English, would be able to take this test and find it a challenge! Most useful for students who intend to work in an English speaking environment, or those who are expected to use English at work.

* Note: The BULATS exam is new (2005). It is joint project between the Japanese Eiken STEP group and Cambridge ESOL. BULATS will be offered in testing centres in Sendai in the future. Apart from BULATS, all the other exams can be taken in Tokyo and in bigger cities around Japan.

Language is all about communication, so why not choose tests which treat you as an individual, and examine your ability in real English communication. Empower yourself by trying an interactive exam!

海外に行ってきました！！！！

私たち英文学科の学生は、常に向上心をもって勉強しようとして心がけています。その中で、長期休暇を利用して積極的に海外で勉強をしようとする人が増えています。今年の春も、何人かの学生がイギリス、ニュージーランド、スペインといった国へ行き貴重な体験をしてきました！そのエピソードをここで紹介します。

Manchester

Ayumi Takeda

I studied English at City College Manchester during spring vacation and had a great time meeting new friends and my host family. Before, I couldn't even point out Manchester on a map, but now I really like it.

Before I left I was quite ignorant about Manchester and when I got there, everything became interesting. What first fascinated me were lovely detached or terraced houses built with red brick. On sunny days, actually I had only several days of Sun shine in my five-week stay, I went out to take photos of them from early morning. Although I was really absorbed at that time, they seem to be just boring now, for photos cannot show how attractive they were.



The school was on the third floor of a building close to the city centre. Just one time I got off the lift on the first floor when I wanted to go outside because in Britain the 'ground floor' is at ground level. We had fifteen students in our class and a massive teacher who reminded me of My Neighbour Totoro. My classmates were, of course, from different countries so at first it was hard to understand their English without an interpreter. It sounded like their first language. Fortunately there were four Japanese in our class who kindly translated into accustomed English for me. However, it didn't take much time to get used to that and make friends with some of them. Although it is often said that foods in Britain are not good, I do NOT think so. We spent most of our time eating sweets and discussing them.

Being busy getting fat and chatting with friends, I had a short but good time with my host family as well. They had a baby and to my happiness, I could join the party of his first birthday. At dinner they mostly listened to me talking about what happened on that day, or my plan for trips on weekends. They liked joking, but I didn't know how to react when my host father made a joke of his wife's size. I just kept laughing.

I can say that my trip was successful. Though I'm not sure if my English got better in this short time, I got strongly motivated to study through the troubles, adventures, and friendships I experienced there. I'm sure my experience will help me enjoy the rest of my school life, ABSOLUTELY!

Perth in Scotland

Akiko Suzuki

Last Spring vacation I visited Perth, Scotland because I became interested in Scotland through the MGU UK study tour in 2004. I was affected by that program, so I decided to go to Scotland again. Actually I and my friends planned to go to Canada or Australia, but we knew there were many Asians in spring vacation attending overseas program information sessions. That's why we chose Perth in Scotland and there were no Asians truly.



In February we left Japan and it was a very snowy day. We had many problems but we were able to arrange ourselves! Finally we arrived at Perth and our home at midnight. Our accommodation was a rented home for 3 weeks in Perth so we made meals ourselves.

We went to the Language School of Perth College (which is the biggest in Perth) for 2 weeks. In that College there were people from: Spain, Italy, Poland, France, The Czech Republic, Colombia, Kuwait and one from China. Spanish people were 75% of our

college. We are interested in Spain so it was wonderful for us!

We were divided into different classes but a staff arranged time table for us. My classmates were about 10 but it depended on the day. Classes were very active and they were friendly so we were able to join that.

The second day of College, one of the teachers presented about Japan. She had been to Japan for a few years, and she loves Japan. Many students attended that presentation. We helped and explained, additionally, we knew how foreigners feel about Japan. All the students were interested in Japan so we were like STARS!!!

On holiday, we visited Glasgow and Edinburgh. In Edinburgh we stayed at our last host family's home. We enjoyed our short stay with host family! We brought back memories of last summer. We went to Language School in Edinburgh last summer, it was EAC. We contacted our teachers and the manager, so we visited there and met again in EAC!! We talked and remembered our Edinburgh experience.

As we stayed in Perth, we made many friends. We went out with College Students almost every night. We went to many kinds of Pubs, night club, International Café and our friend's home party. At the end of this visit, we held a Party in our home. We made Japanese foods and our Spanish friends made Spanish foods for us. We bought Japanese goods in Edinburgh and we taught our friends how to use chopsticks, and many things about Japan. Then we drank with many country's ways and danced and chatted! It was really a good party. It was a great memory in my life.

We stayed in Perth just 3 weeks but it was treasured memory. We missed Perth and friends. This summer we decided to go to Spain and we will meet Friends. We are looking forward to meeting them again!

Travel in Spain ~Madrid~

三浦侑子

2005年春、わたしたちは一週間のスペイン旅行に行ってきました！

マドリッド空港着、「人がほとんどいない…。」情熱の国と言われているスペインの印象とはかけ離れていました。今回のツアーは私たち二人だけ、不安と期待が入り混じります。

観光でプラド美術館に行きました。絵画の知識はまったくないけど、美術館の雰囲気に入ることができました。時間が限られていて全てをじっくり見ることはできず、ちょっと残念です。またの機会があれば次は気の済むまで見たいと思います。

怖いと思ったのはスペインはスリが多いこと。手口は鮮やかで、日本人は狙われやすいそうです。貴重品はポケットに入れ、その辺にあるビニール袋に地図等を入れるのが観光スタイルでした。

スペインの食事情は日本とは時間がずれています。レストランは昼は2時から夜は8時からしか開いていません。もちろん英語は通じません。ジェスチャーと個数を言うだけで注文できたのは幸いでした。(いろいろと大変な目にも合いましたが…)

マドリッドではフラメンコ体験もしました。先生は日本人の唐橋さんという女性でした。彼女は大学でフラメンコを学んだ後、よりフラメンコを極めるためには本物のスペインを見て感じる事が一番いいと思い、8年前にマドリッドに来たそうです。夢に向かって日々フラメンコを追求している彼女はとても生き生きと輝いていて、笑顔の素敵な女性でした。彼女の実家は、福島の会津若松で、今年の夏に地元でフラメンコを披露する予定なので、是非また会いに行きたいなあと思います。

スペインで広場と呼ばれる場所は、全て何らかの建物に囲まれている所を指しているそうです。その中でも、マヨール広場は有名な市民の憩いの場です。人々はオープンカフェでお茶をしたり趣味の絵を書いたり、自分たちの好きな時間を過ごしていました。このような光景は日本ではあまり見たことがないので、スペインっぽいと思いました。

お土産を買うとき等お店に入ったら必ず「オラ！」とあいさつをし、出るときにも挨拶をして出る。こういった些細な事からも親しみやすさを感じます。おおらかで開放的な文化を肌で感じる事ができました。と同時に、日本人でありながらここで生活をしている人々と出会い、自分たちの将来についても考えさせられた時間でもあったと思います。次のバルセロナではどんな出会いが待っているのか期待を胸に、私たちは Renfe に乗りました。

~Barcelona~

Haruna Hosobe

After Madrid, we left for Barcelona where my Spanish friend, Richard lives. I was getting excited! We first met in Edinburgh last summer during the Miyagi Gakuin UK tour. I had been in Edinburgh for just three weeks, so I felt I missed my friends I met there, and I wanted to meet them again. I never thought we would meet again at the time, but finally, we could. I was so happy I could meet one of my friends. Also, I met his friend, Paul. They took us to a typical Spanish restaurant. We had a late dinner, and enjoyed talking. We also



visited some places like the Picasso museum, Park Guell, Sagrada Familia, which is a really amazing Cathedral designed by Antonio Gaudi. There are a few English signs or explanations in some places, so Richard taught us in English about art works, architecture, and the history of Barcelona. He was more than a tour conductor. Barcelona is art city. It is full of art. You can see the works of Gaudi, Picasso, Dali, and Miro. I liked this city. Also we met some other people. A French child and his father, we met them in the train from Madrid, and a Japanese woman, who had been travelling in Spain by herself. In this trip, we had some accidents or felt tired, but people we met there helped us. Now, we want to visit Spain again.

NewZealand

森 麗奈

私はニュージーランドのクイーンズタウンに7週間行って来ました。自然がいっぱいで湖がとてもきれいな小都市で住みやすい町でした。語学学校はとてもアットホームで、先生たちは暖かい人ばかり!!! 始めは緊張していたけどすぐに溶け込めました。授業では、文法や会話を主に勉強しました。ついていけるか心配でしたが、先生や他のフレンドリーな友達のおかげで、毎日楽しく勉強することができました。その学校では、いろいろな行事や催し物など盛んに行われていて、放課後にはみんなでバドミントンやバレーボールを楽しみ、週末には船に乗ったり隣町に行ったり、卒業パーティーではバーベキューしたり、たくさん勉強もできたし充実した毎日でした。ホームステイの家族は毎日忙しいお母さんとその息子、ハウスメイトに同じ学校に通う韓国から来ていた女の子と一緒に。そして、常にイスラエルやブラジルからの滞在者に会い話をすることができました。初めはその人たちが持っているバイタリティーに驚きましたが、皆いい人ばかりで、一緒にDVD見たり英語を教えてもらったり、本当に楽しい時間を過ごすことができました。

学校でもホームステイでもこんなにすばらしい出会いや、経験ができて、心と心のコミュニケーションができたことで自分の英語力に自信が付き、これからもクイーンズタウンのことや友達、ホストファミリーのことは忘れられない思い出です。別れのときは、涙が止まりませんでした。

FEEL ENGLISH!!!

5月28日に国際文化学科主催の座頭吉ゼミが行われました。その中で、アイマスクをしたまま一日中英語を使うという、とてもユニークな体験をしました。参加した学生からの体験談です。

Ayumi Takeda

I took part in this activity as a guide. As soon as we met at the school, we guides were told to listen to blindfolded people, not to lead them. I found it not easy, because I walked at my pace or around a corner unconsciously without telling my partner. Though everything was interesting for me with my cheerful blindfolded partner, she was often scared, for I miscounted how many stairs a staircase had, or I didn't realise there were very small steps. The most interesting game was called *mama*. I couldn't understand how come she could recognise my voice in a crowd of people calling *mama*. After she took her blindfold off, we had kind of strange feeling that prevented us from talking. It was a good experience and I'd like to do it again, as a blindfolded person next time.

Akiko Suzuki

I took part in “FEEL ENGLISH” as a blindfolded person. From the beginning, I wore a blindfold so I didn't recognize who anyone was.

Firstly, we talked to each other, just conversation without sight. We made a group just blindfolded people and talked about our guide. We had to talk with guides to choose who our best guide. But I didn't walk only me so a helper helped me and I found my guide.

I played many games with my guide. Interesting games were recognizing voices, trust walk, dancing and guided visualization and imagery. Recognizing voices was funny game because all guides said “Momma” and to find my guide I relied on her voice, and finally I was able to find her. It was amazing, I couldn't believe that. The trust walk was just walking with a guide around Miyagi Gakuin Campus, BUT it was difficult for blindfolded people. I know all of this campus but when I passed through a small step, it was so scary for me. Dancing was funny, (I guessed). Naturally I enjoyed dancing but I was worried about people who are around me and I couldn't see Ken, who was the leader danced crazily, I wasn't able to see him but everyone laughed and laughed. My imagination stretched. I was eager to see his dancing but I couldn't. The last game was finding my guide. I lay down on the floor and I closed my eyes. After I opened my eyes, all guides were around all blindfolded people and they had candles. I remembered her voice and I imaged her face but I didn't know who she was. I touched her hair another game and I remembered that and I was able to find her finally. When we met again, I trusted her completely.

At the end, all of us felt impressed by the “FEEL ENGLISH” experience. I felt English through using senses, and thought about blind people. It was a good opportunity to think about them. Moreover, I learned real communication; I thought again it is really important for people.

THE DAY BEFORE TOMORROW

みなさんは、The Day Before Tomorrow という名前を聞いたことがありますか？英文学科の学生を中心として、環境問題の改善を真剣に考えて活動しているグループです。その活動内容を報告してもらいました。

私たちは環境問題について取り組んでいるグループです。環境問題といってもなんのことやら！？と思いがち……。そこで今まで私たちが環境問題について取り組んできたことを紹介します！

★ First step 仙台市内30kmをグループのみんなで歩く。車の渋滞、排気ガス・・・どんなに地球が汚染されているか目で見てからだで感じた！

★ Next step No garbage day (英文学科のみんなで) を実行・・・丸一日ごみを出さない生活を体験！ No pet bottle, No plastic tray, No plastic bag!

あなたはどのくらい環境問題に目を向けていますか？そんなの他人事？いやいや！環境問題に取り組むには一人でも多くの、あなたの協力が不可欠です！私たちと一緒に地球に優しいこと、始めてみませんか？

Editors

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