



Canadian Experience



My Lethbridge Stay

Hayato Matsuda

I went to Lethbridge in Canada to study for three weeks. I only stayed there for three weeks, however I could learn a lot of things and experienced many things. First, I was surprised that in other countries international students speak English fluently. They expressed their opinion positively in English. I could not express my opinion because I was too shy, however some of the students managed to answer questions in spite of not being good at speaking English. I was impressed with their attitude and I learned that I need a positive attitude for studying abroad.

Second, Canadian culture is different from the Japanese culture. When I went shopping, a store clerk talked with me very friendly. Furthermore, they made a joke. I thought that this custom is very unique and interesting. I also thought that this warm conversation would not happen very often in Japan. In particular between a store clerk and a stranger. I was able to discover interesting cultural difference because of going abroad to study.

Finally, I recommend studying abroad because you will see a brave new world. There are a lot of encounters and surprises in another country. You will be able to study with university students who come from other countries. These experiences and the stimulus will certainly give you courage and passion in your life. These things also improve your English skill. Studying abroad will be a good opportunity to study English and grasp the genuine meaning of "global". I'm sure that this experience is valuable because you will learn in a new world.

Lethbridge University Study Abroad Program

Yuki Adachi

I went to Canada in order to study English from August 31 to September 21 of this year. I studied English in University of Lethbridge. It was my first time to go abroad, so I was very nervous. However, I could enjoy a lot of things.

First, I studied in EAP (English Academic Purpose) Program. There were four classes; writing, reading, communication, and grammar class. It was very interesting, because I could take classes with students from other countries. For example, there were Korean, Chinese, Taiwanese, and Saudi Arabian students. It was good opportunity to study in these classes, because I had to use only English. I felt that it was a good learning environment. Also, I talked with overseas students a lot, and I could make friends. Now, I keep in touch with my friends on Facebook.

Second, there were a lot of activities. I went to Waterton National Park with Hokkai Gakuen and Korean students. It was nice view. I have never seen that kind of scenery in Japan. Also, I took part in a few home parties. At the parties, I ate a lot of Canadian food. It was so delicious. In addition, I went shopping with my peer partner. His name is Dan Lima. He introduced me to the town of Lethbridge. I enjoyed many activities.

Finally, I enjoyed a lot of time with my homestay family. My homestay family was very kind. They taught English and Canadian culture to me. Besides, when I could not understand English, they spoke slowly so that I could understand what they said. In my free time, I watched movies outdoors. I was surprised. I have never watched movies outdoors in Japan. I felt a cultural gap between Japan and Canada. I spent a lot of time with my homestay family.

It was a precious experience for me to go to Canada. I stayed in Canada for three weeks. I felt that it was too short. I want to stay longer next time.



Life in Japan

Japanese Literature

Novels have changed with time. The style of old novels is difficult for contemporary Japanese. There are a lot of words, phrases, and expressions that are not used today. Novels often appear characteristic. Then there are many “pure literature novels.” It is that art is more important than amusement. Old novelists are often writing irony and refer to a social problem.

In the past, some literary works were oppressed. For example proletarian literature was oppressed by the Maintenance of the Public Order Act. At that time, freedom of opinion and thought were taken away from the people by the government. In the worst case, novelists were arrested by the police.

Currently, reading novels has become easy. There are some reasons. Pure literature has decreased and most Japanese novels are for amusement. “Light novel” is one type of amusement novel. There are some illustrations that target junior and senior high school students. Beside, censorship of novels is prohibited by the Constitution of Japan.

Today anybody can read anything, at any time. Now a novelist can write a story freely. However, even now some novels' contents are pointed out to be inappropriate because the contents have a bad influence on children. Generally, that is said by adults. If that is the case, will there be censorship in the future again? It will change the contents of novels and writing styles too.

Suzuka Takahashi

Marriage Celebration

A marriage celebration is a very cherished and happy time for all people. It is one of the important events in our life. Nowadays, it is more unique than before.

In the Edo Era, there was a wedding reception called “shuugen”, but there was no word for a marriage. If a man and a woman became engaged, they held a wedding reception in their house with their parents and relatives. Then, in the Meiji Era, weddings according to Shinto rites started. It is similar to today's marriage ceremony. Furthermore, after the war, it became difficult to hold a wedding reception in private houses, so marriage ceremonies began to be held in hotels and chapels. Since the bubble economy, marriages became luxurious.

Marriage ceremonies are original nowadays. For instance, the bridegroom and bride procure BGM themselves, the bride does a bouquet toss, and their friends show a movie of the history of the bridegroom and bride. Besides, it was a tradition that the bride's sister served as a bridesmaid, but these days, the bride's friend does. There is a custom in some places where in addition to the bouquet toss, the bridegroom tosses broccoli to wish for many descendants. It is very unique.

Marriage celebration is a special event in all people's life. It is developing more and more. Almost all people have a longing for marriage and a marriage ceremony. Mostly, it is only once in a lifetime, so people should make a memorable special marriage celebration.

Miku Fujita

Traditional Volunteer Activity

Do you know “Chihou Kouen”? This is Hokkai Gakuen University's volunteer event. The team has about forty members and I am one of those people. The Hokkai Gakuen University's cultural clubs, such as a folk song society, jazz society, country&western society, free formless jazz orchestra and theater club make up our team.

We are making the rounds of regional elementary schools which are not exposed to live music and drama. The elementary schools we visit are different every year. This year, we are going to the northeast of Hokkaido, “Tsubetsu”, “Kitami”, “Kunneppu”, “Asahikawa”, and “Chippubetsu”. We all move by chartered bus. We have been practicing diligently for it the whole time and to see the smiles of the children makes us happy.

The theater club makes the original script for the event which a child can easily understand. We all work together with illumination and acoustic devices. The music clubs perform famous and cheerful songs 「Avril Lavigne/ Girlfriend」, 「SMAP/ Sekaini Hitotsudakeno Hana」 for example. Also we perform famous animation medleys such as 「My neighbor TOTORO」, 「Lupin the Third」 and so on. It is hard for us because we must make all the scores ourselves.

“Chihou Kouen” is a very traditional event for Hokkai Gakuen University. It began in 1963 and this year is the 52nd time. I'm honored to be able to participate in this team and I will surely help make the event a success.

Maaya Saito

Education

These younger Japanese received education that was aimed at development and a free style. The curriculums are flexible. It is called a *yutori* education. They did not belong to a strict generation, so it is called the “*yutori*” generation by Japanese. They were born April 2nd in 1987 to April 1st in 1996, they are 18 to 27 years old now. I am 19 now, so I am part of that generation. Our characteristics are said to be that we are afraid of mistakes and our feelings can easily be hurt. Of course all people are not the same.

However, the Japanese government stopped this *yutori* education because the children's scholastic ability was declining. Now schools are increasing studying times and language activity. Science and mathematics education are improving too. I have a younger brother who is in the third grade of junior high school. He studies very hard every day because the content is deep. Now he is learning about subjects I studied when I was a high school student. I was very shocked!

These days I am worried about the *yutori* generation because 18 to 27 year old people and I studied less than my brother's generation. Do you think that my generation is wrong? I have to do my best because I do not want other people to say, ‘you are of the *yutori* generation, so you do not do it!’

Yuri Murata

iDebate

Breakfast is important for health'

We are debating the resolution is 'Breakfast is important for health'. We, on the affirmative team, strongly support this resolution. I have 3 reasons: Smarter, tied to being overweight and more energy. My first point is 'Smarter'. Eating breakfast provides an energy boost to the brain. According to the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition in 1998, people who eat breakfast have a tendency to memorize more things than people who don't. My second point is 'Tied to being overweight'. If you skip breakfast, it is easier to get body fat. There are some studies that have shown that people who skip breakfast are more likely to be overweight than regular breakfast eaters. Also, breakfast skippers tend to eat more food than usual at the next meal. My third point is 'more energy'. Food literally provides you with energy. When you start your day on nothing, you're running on empty. But if you eat up, you've got what you need to make it through your workday. We have talked about smarter, tied to being overweight and more energy. We have shown clearly that breakfast is important for health. For these reasons we beg to propose.

Nana Suzuki

Gambling should be banned

We are debating the resolution, "Gambling should be banned." We, on the affirmative team, strongly support this resolution. We have 3 reasons; addiction, debt, and family problem. The first reason is addiction. If someone gets into a gambling deeply once, it is difficult to stop doing gambling easily, and this problem is very serious. According to Sankei newspaper article, about 5 million people are doubted as gambling addiction, compared to foreign countries. The second point is debt. There is a person who loan money in order to do the gambling. There was a case of woman who addicted into the gambling: She loan 6 million yen for seven years. The third reason is family problem.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have talked about addiction, debt, and family and have clearly shown that gambling should be banned. For these reasons, we beg to propose.

Hiroki Murakami

Housewives should be paid for their work.

We are debating the resolution is: "Housewives should be paid for their work." We on the affirmative team, strongly support this resolution. We have three reasons: housewife's right, positive images of women and family life and economic empowerment. Our first point is "housewife's right." According to Locke's Political Philosophy, the philosophical basis of entitlement for pay is derived from the notion that if something comes into being as the product of an individual's labor, then that individual is entitled to the profit and benefit of such a product because its existence was resultant of that individual's labor. That in this case the labor is on services does not make any difference, the product of the housewife's labor is that the children are looked after and domestic matters are all sorted. This is beneficial to society as housewives in addition to helping their own family are likely to have the time to help out others — through volunteering, through looking after other's children after school and so on.

Our second point is "positive images of women and family life." Paying housewives promotes more positive images of women and family life. Gender stereotypes dictate that the woman's place is in the home and that that is an inferior position in the social hierarchy than that of the male's corporate breadwinner status. The stereotype is particularly damaging to women's expectations for themselves and the way society treats women. By paying housewives for their work, a greater emphasis is placed on the role of the home-keeper and on the women that tend to this job.

Our third point is "economic empowerment." One of the most important factors of oppression of women's rights, particularly in the developing world, is dependence. Women are often confined to the home by force, lack of opportunity or social stigma, on behalf of their husbands. When she is not paid, a housewife must rely on her husband for money, especially if she has children she is expected to take care of. Economic empowerment allows further freedom for women in countries where women are confined to the home. We have talked about "Housewives should be paid for their work." We beg to propose.

Yohei Nishimura

Housewives should not be paid for their work

We are debating the resolution "housewives should not be paid for their work." We, on the affirmative team, strongly support this resolution. We have three reasons: family sphere, society, and non-profits or losses. Our first point is "family sphere". In the family sphere, contracts are based on personal obligation and the

family unit as opposed to individual contraction of services. Individuals opt into being a parent in a family unit on a voluntary basis and with no expectation or pretence of return for their services, except perhaps from their children in the future. Remuneration is created in the form of a functioning, rewarding family unit and family life and the products and services produced are of no quantifiable monetary value nor can they be sold or do they create wealth. Because housewives do not labour for anybody outside of their household, they should not be paid by anybody outside of their family. Moreover most of the work that housewives do would have to be done by a member of the family unit regardless of whether everyone was also engaged in monetized work — there would still need to be washing, cleaning, shopping, etc. Our second point is "society." By paying housewives for their work, you create negative stereotypes about families and women by monetizing the role of home-keeper. Paying housewives for their work re-enforces the very framework that is seen as oppressive on home-keepers. It creates a system in which women are even more strongly expected to be housewives than they are now, rather than seeking out career jobs with upward mobility. The result is that women are discouraged from seeking to fulfil their own dreams by creating their own careers as they are more firmly chained to their traditional role. This is damaging to societal views of women and the family. Our third point is "non-profits or losses." On a very practical level, this policy could never be implemented. As much as housewives are valuable members of society, it is economically impossible to pay them wages. It is only possible to increase somebody's pay if that person creates increased wealth. There is no direct increase in wealth creation caused by housewives and therefore it would be impossible to gain a direct or accurate valuation or mechanism of exchange for housewife pay. We have talked about family sphere, society, and non-profits or losses, and have clearly shown that housewives should not be paid for their work. For these reasons we beg to propose.

Kaho Yoshida

Gay couples should be allowed to marry

We are debating the resolution: "Gay couples should be allowed to marry." We, on affirmative team, strongly support this resolution. We have 2 reasons: the purpose of marriage and legal states. Our first point is "Purpose of marriage." The main purpose of marriage is not having a baby. According to Margaret Hilary Marshall, the 24th chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, essentiality for marriage is a monopolistic and indissoluble relationship, not having a baby. Moreover, allowing only straight marriage can support deleterious fixed thinking that the same sex marriage is unrespectable because it is essentially unstable and inferior to straight one. Our second point is "Legal states." Many rights are not given to same sex couples under the current law. For example, they don't have right to inherit, be with their partners in an ambulance, and get social securities and allowance for spouse. Straight couples naturally have these rights, but same sex ones don't have just because of their gender. This is definitely discrimination. We have talked about purpose of marriage and legal states. We have shown clearly that gay couples should be allowed to marry. We beg to propose.

Reina Kusajima

Advertising is harmful

We are debating the resolution: "Advertising is harmful." We on the negative team strongly oppose this resolution. We have 3 reasons: fairness, promoting and comparison. Our first point is "fairness." Advertising is the only public method for the medium and small sized business. Advertising makes competition between companies fair. For example, advertising is helpful to give publicity to the good product without being seized with the size of the company. Furthermore, you cannot find really good products when the freedom of advertisement limits, because the product of the big company is outstanding. Our second point is "promoting." Advertising promotes a good product surely and disturbs the sale of a bad product. By the fast food advertisement, companies change their message in their advertisement to promote the sale of healthier products. This is because it is not good for companies to be seen as harming consumers. In addition, there are a few advertisements of the cigarette, and the restriction of the alcohol advertisement becomes severe. Our third point is "comparison." Advertising helps us choose the product. For instance, one product advertises a new function, and other one advertises low price. We can do better shopping, because advertisements give us the detailed information of the product. Furthermore, we can compare products without going stores by advertisements. We have talked about fairness, promoting and comparison. We have shown opposite views of advertising is harmful. For these reasons we beg to oppose.

Haruka Hoshiba

Women and Marriage in Japan- Then and Now

by Madoka Okazaki

Ideas about marriage have been changing in Japan since the end of World War II. About 60 years ago, people thought “women have to marry”. Marriage was happiness for women. At the same time, marriage seemed like a duty for women. After marriage, women were expected to become housewives and they did not go out to work. Also, marriage by arrangement was very popular. It was the natural way to get married so the average age of marriage was lower than it these days. In the 1940s, men got married at the age of 26 and women got married at the age of 23.

Now, people think “women do not have to marry”. Some women keep on working without getting married. After marriage, women can go back to their work. Also, marriage by arrangement is not so popular today, and only about 1% of couples do it. Most people marry for love. Almost all women search for a marriage partner by themselves. In addition, the number of couples that do common-law marriage is increasing. In a common-law marriage, couples not register their marriage. For the above reasons, the average age of marriage is high. Currently, men get married at the age of 30 and women get married at 28.

The way of thinking about marriage has been changing since the 1940s and 1950s. I think marriage is an important issue for women, and women should think about this topic.

The Giants- Past and Present

by Tomoki Nishishita

The fortunes of the Tokyo Giants have changed a lot in the last decade. In 2004, Mr. Horiuchi was manager of the Giants. At this time, the Giants were very weak. In 2004 and 2005, the Giants were 3rd and 5th. The Giants had some bad points. Firstly, the manager, Mr. Horiuchi, didn't care about defense. Recently, a variety of teams, not only Japanese professional baseball teams but also major league baseball teams, have prioritized defense. That's why Mr. Horiuchi's strategy was very bad. Secondly, Mr. Horiuchi recruited a lot of homerun hitters from other teams. Actually, these batters hit a lot of homeruns but their batting averages were not good. The Giants couldn't win by homeruns alone. The Giants needed batters with high hitting averages.

In 2006, the manager of the Giants changed. Mr. Hara assumed the position of manager of the Giants. Mr. Hara changed some of Mr. Horiuchi's Giants bad points. Firstly, Mr. Hara prioritized defense and hired quality pitchers. Secondly, Mr. Hara prioritized developing new talent. As a result, the Giants won the league in three consecutive seasons twice from 2007 to 2009 and from 2012 to 2014. Now, the Giants are very strong. As long as the manager of Giants is Mr. Hara, I can enjoy watching a strong team.

Then a

The Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters

by Hikaru Kukuda

Since I was 6 years old, my favorite baseball team has been the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters. I became an enthusiastic fan of the Fighters after I went to the Sapporo Dome and watched a baseball game there. Until 2003 they were in Tokyo and their name was Nippon-Ham fighters and Tokyo Dome was their home ground. However, it was shared with Yomiuri Giants. The Giants were the most popular team in Tokyo but the Fighters were not so popular. The main reason that they were not such a popular team was they were a weak team and always in B class, so I didn't know much about them.

In 2004, Nippon-Ham Fighters came to Sapporo and changed the team name to Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters. At first, they were not such a popular team in Hokkaido but there were many star players in the Fighters. Because of their performances, the Fighters rapidly became a popular and strong team. They were an A class team 8 times in 11 years. Inaba Atsunori is one of the leading players in the Fighters. He recorded 2,167 hits in his career. Another leading player is Kaneko Makoto. He has spent all his career of 21 years in the Fighters. However, they both announced that they would retire after this season. I feel very sad about this. However, I think it is a generation change and positive event for the team. I hope that the Fighters become the Pacific League champions next season.

Changes in English Education in Japan

by Megumi Kawano

I have studied English for nine years. When I was in the seventh grade, I started studying English. My junior high school's English class taught us English grammar and English words by using a textbook. An ALT sometimes came to our school and we did many activities using English, for example, singing a song or playing games and it was interesting for me. When I was a senior high school student, we studied English by listening, speaking, reading and writing. At the time, we studied English in Japanese by translation. We had to study 3080 English words. In our speaking class, we communicated with classmates using English.

However, English education in Japan has been changing. For example, many students will start studying English with

nd Now

an ALT in third grade, and students in the upper grades of elementary school will now study the content of seventh grader's English. It is not only the curriculum which has changed, but also the teacher's educational style. Teachers are now expected to teach students in English. The new system of English education will be introduced in senior high school from 2015, so students will have to study a lot more English words than in my junior and senior high school days. Nowadays, English is important for people all over the world and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has changed the education system to improve the old one and face up to Japan's new global challenges

Bicycles

by Kutsuzawa Nami

Bicycles have a long history. At first, they were made in Germany in 1813 and they were made of wood. They were moved by kicking so they moved at low speeds. That was called Draisine in Germany. In 1839, pedal system bicycles were made in Scotland. Compared with the previous ones, they became much faster. In 1870, bicycles that had a big front wheel were made in England. There were called Penny Farthings, and they had high saddles so they were difficult to ride. In 1879, a new style of bicycle was made in England, and their designs were closer to modern ones. They were of high quality in terms of safety and speed, and they were easy to ride. In 1889, tires that included air were invented in Ireland so bicycles became even more useful vehicles than before.

These days, bicycles are changing greatly. To begin with, in Japan, many people use bicycles because most of them are reasonable in price, but one new kind of bicycle, the mountain bike is so expensive and the most expensive one costs around twenty thousand dollars. It has high-quality gears and it uses luxury materials. There are many brands of high-class bicycles all over the world. Rich people tend to buy them. In summary, bicycles are useful and popular vehicles now, and will continue to be in the future.

Nintendo

by Hayato Matsuda

Many people all over the world enjoy video games today. In particular, Nintendo is the most famous video game company in the world. How did they become world famous? First, the origin of Nintendo dates back to the Meiji era. The

founder name's was Fusajiro Yamaguchi. He began to produce Hanafuda, and the old company produced the first playing cards in Japan. The company was set up as a toy company in the Showa era, however the company name was Marufuku, not Nintendo. They succeeded in producing the first plastic playing cards in Japan. Afterwards, they developed attractive video game machines called

"Family Computer" in 1983 and an incredibly interesting game called "Super Mario Bros" in 1985. They also developed two attractive video game machines: "Nintendo 64" and "Nintendo Gamecube" in the Heisei era, but Sony "Playstation" and "Playstation 2" sold much better than both of their game machines.

Finally, Nintendo became world famous and their products fascinate a lot of people now because they have made high quality games and lovable characters. They also developed epoch-making game machines (DS, Wii, 3DS, Wii U); especially DS sold 153.99 million units and Wii sold 101.15 units in the world. However, Nintendo is struggling to make a profit today because their newest game machines didn't sell well so now they are trying to sell more interesting video games like "SSB" in order to sell more new game machines (3DS and Wii U). Despite the challenges, I am sure Nintendo will be successful in the future.

Air travel

by Chihiro Kitamura

Air travel has been changing considerably over the last twenty years. In the past, we almost always used only JAL or ANA in Japan, and we could use these airlines comfortably. One reason was because both airlines provided good entertainment and services. For example, we could enjoy watching some TV programs, and listen to music or radio in our seat. Also, we could choose drinks we liked and receive them for free. It cost a lot of money to take their flights, but we travelled in great style and went where we wanted to go faster than by train or other means of transportation.

Now, we can travel even more conveniently. Low-cost carriers, called LCCs, appeared in Japan in 2012, so we can now choose from a variety of airlines, for example, Sky Mark, Air Do, Peach, Vanilla Air, and of course we can still choose JAL and ANA. Due to this, we can travel more cheaply because these LCC airlines stopped free in-flight service, and have more seats than JAL and ANA. LCC airlines were able to decrease the cost of flying. Furthermore, it is getting easier to go abroad because there are more routes appearing with these airlines. It is also getting easier to make reservations because we can book our flights on the internet, moreover, we can even check-in on the internet! Now we can book flights whenever and wherever we like. In sum, air travel is very convenient now and it will continue to develop in the future too.

Great Inventions

Moment Recovery Bed

Do you wish you could reduce the hours you sleep? If so, then here is the solution to your problem: The Moment Recovery Bed. Easy to use and effective, the Moment Recovery Bed has a lot of great functions.

The moment recovery bed is a unique device with which people can get recovery and healing immediately. It looks like an oxygen capsule, but it is really a simple and stylish design. This great bed is made out of the most advanced materials and is a comfortable bed. It has diverse functions. First, the Moment Recovery Bed can give off aromas. Aromas make the users happy, healing and recovering them. Second, it can minutely examine your body. If the Moment Recover Bed discovers a serious disease, it recommends that you go to the hospital. Lastly, users can choose their favorite dreams.

The Moment Recover Bed is easy to use. First, turn on the power. Second decide the time to wake up. Lastly, users only sleeps. Therefore, when sleepers get up, they will be fully recovered.

Takumi Shiraiishi

Fantastic Car

I like cars and I often drive. Today, various cars are available, but I sometimes feel they are inconvenient. For example, fuel is expensive and there are many accidents. If the development of the car advances, it will become more convenient.

I thought that I wanted a more convenient thing. Therefore, I want cell a phone to project into space. For example, I often drive a car, but I get a call and I cannot answer the telephone while driving, but this fantastic car can answer it.

This car automatically works with one button. In addition, accidents never happen and it is superior in safety. The fuel is hydrogen, so it is kind to the earth. If such a thing spreads, accident will decrease.

Shohei Oikawa

Almighty Robot

Do you like robots? If there is an Almighty Robot in your house, what can it do? This robot is very smart and convenient. By only talking to the robot, it will do all the housework.

This Almighty Robot can wash the dishes, do the laundry, fold the clothes, clean the room, cook, and more. This robot can also talk with you.

The Almighty Robot comes with Apple's iOS operating system installed in it. Like the Siri system used to speak to on iPhone, This robot can speak like a human. If you say, "play music", this system can be made to play music. If you say "show me a map" this robot can show you a map. Of course, this robot can also use a phone. Even if I don't understand things, this robot takes care of searching the Internet. I think it is great to mix the iPhone with a robot.

Keisuke Ichikawa

Lose No Time Room

I often think that I don't have enough time in my life. That's why I think that it's great if there is such an invention.

In my mind, this room is in an entirely different dimension from this world. While we are in this room, time doesn't pass in the world where we are. Ten minutes here is zero minutes in the world where we are usually. I don't understand the structure though, but scientific power is certainly related.

For instance, it will be said that I enter the room at 10:00 a.m. Then I go out of the room after I spent an hour. Then the hand on the watch is still pointing at 10:00. This room is very convenient for the person who doesn't have much time. However, overuse is dangerous. This is because you unnoticeably get old!

Kazuki Yunome

The Perfect Umbrella

Do you think that there should be an umbrella that keeps your clothes dry in the rain? If so, then here is the solution to your problem: the Perfect Umbrella. This umbrella is for people who don't want to get wet in the rain.

This umbrella is different from a common umbrella. When you open the umbrella, you will understand the difference. The difference is that clear vinyl from the edge of the umbrella. The clear vinyl surrounds the person using the umbrella.

The Perfect Umbrella is easy to use. First, push the Open button on the umbrella. Second, pull the cord to release the clear vinyl. Then you are surrounded by the umbrella. Even if the wind blows, your clothes don't get wet with rain. This is the Perfect Umbrella!

Yuki Yoshida

The change your voice tie

Do you have a problem with your voice? If so, then here is the solution to your problem: the change your voice tie. This is very easy to use and it is effective.

The change your voice tie is a special device that gives you various voices. For example, you can have the voice of a favorite actor, a character, or the voice of a women. It looks like an ordinary red tie, but it is really a small, strange voice machine.

The change your voice tie is easy to use. First, you record a voice with the tie. Second, you select a voice that you have recorded. Then choose the type of voice you would like to use. Soon, you can change your voice at any time.

Kouta Sugawara

The Don't Oversleep Bed

Do you wish you could not oversleep? If so, the here is the solution to your problem: the Don't Oversleep Bed. Easy to use and effective, the Don't Oversleep

Bed is an alarm clock bed.

The Don't Oversleep Bed is a special device that wakes you up. It looks a normal bed, but it is really an alarm clock in a bed. When it is time to get up, it wakes you up by vibration. This amazing alarm clock bed is made out of wood, so the feeling in the bed is very good.

The Don't Oversleep Bed is easy to use. First, plug in the bed. Second, turn on the power. Then set the time you want to get up and go to sleep. The next morning, it wakes you up. If you buy the Don't Oversleep Bed, you will not oversleep anymore.

Ayame Saito

Travel Walker

If you have time and money, you can go abroad many times. However, it is difficult to make time and money for travel. At such time, you should use the "The Travel Walker". What is it? It can take you around the world, but you don't have to have a plane ticket, pay money, or take a plane. You can experience travel in your own home.

It uses two items, glasses and a walking mat. When you use it, you put on the glasses and turn on the swatch, and you choose where you want to go. Next, you walk on the walking mat. The glasses display your chosen place and you can walk around there. Therefore, you are able to experience being abroad. However, it has a bad side, you can't go shopping, but don't worry. We can offer many items from around the world on Internet.

If you want to go abroad, you can. It takes only a short time but you can get a good experience. In addition, you can have a chance to buy good items cheaper than in other places. Therefore, you should try it, and I think you will definitely come to like it!

Ryoma Kanauchi

Voice Remote Control

I always watch TV in my house at dinner time. When a commercial comes on, the volume gets louder. I don't like it. Therefore, I invented the Voice Remote Control. You can operate the volume and channels by your voice.

It looks like a common TV remote controller, but it is slimmer and thinner. However, there is a limit to the space and distance that it can be used. You have to remember this while using it. This is useful when it is difficult to see the display button on the remote control in a dark room.

With the Voice Remote Control, it is possible to operate with your voice the TV as well as the air conditioning unit. By eliminating the button, the operation is going to be easy for older people. I think that it will spread all over the world.

Shintaro Hirata

A Very Fast Car

When I was child, I always watched car races on TV. I often wanted to drive a faster car than a racing car. Therefore, I invented the car which is the fastest in the world. If you drive the car, you can get the pleasure of the best.

It looks like Concorde. I checked this car in Nürburgring Nordschleife. This car was the fastest machine in the test. This car has a sequential transmission. Therefore, it helps with smooth shift changes. The engine is a V-12 cylinder super charger engine. The maximum output is 612 HP. It has brakes made by Brembo, bucket seats made by Takata, and a muffler made by HKS as standard equipment. Turning ability is very high.

In the future, I will sell this car in Japan and join the Super GT race with this car. Someday, I want to invent a hybrid version of this car and offer the ecology and irresistible car for the people.

Kouya Ishihara

STAFF

Lookout, no.11

Winter 2014

Editor-in-Chief

B. Bricklin Zeff

Publisher:

Faculty of Humanities
Hokkai-Gakuen University

Printed by i-Word

The views expressed in *Lookout* belong to the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or HGU.

My Favorite Place

My Favorite Place to Relax in Sapporo

My favorite place is my house's bathroom. My house's bathroom is wide, well-lit, and has an instantaneous water heater. There are several reasons why I enjoy my house's bathroom.

First, it's very comfortable and so it makes me feel relaxed. The hotter the better for me. My house's bathroom smells of soap and this makes me feel calm. In addition, it's very quiet so, I can relax. I often take a bath when I am very tired and I don't think about anything while taking a bath. After taking a bath, I often eat ice cream or yogurt, which I really enjoy.

I like to go to a public bath and a hot spring, but I seldom go there because I have no money, they are far from my house, and these places are noisy. I go to a public bath more than a hot spring. I often take a sauna bath, but my house's bathroom is free. Moreover, I don't have to leave the house.

After taking a public bath, I always drink a coffee milk, which is always very cold. I really enjoy taking a public bath. Recently, I often take a shower, but I would rather take a bath than have a shower. For the reasons explained above, I think my house's bathroom is the best place for me to relax.

Fumiya Karaki

My Favorite Place to Relax in Sapporo

My favorite place in Sapporo is the hiking course in Maruyama Park. The second time I went there was when I was a high school student. I was very tired from examination study. However, when I went there, I forgot that I was tired, because it was filled with fresh air, and was very quiet as if nobody was there. As a result, I came to enjoy going there.

This small forest is located a little far from my home. I recommend that you get off the train at Maruyama Station on the Tozai Line. After a 5-minute walk, you will see the narrow entrance to the hiking course. When you walk along this hiking course, you will be surprised that it is located in the central area of Sapporo. This park is filled with great cedar trees and many beautiful flowers. Also, there is a clear and elongated river near the tree way. This river makes you feel cool, even during summer.

You can also see pretty animals there. There are many Ezo squirrels, and also many thin pine cones that Ezo squirrels gnaw on. Someday, I want to take a picture of these squirrels.

At end of this hiking course, you can choose to go to Maruyama zoo, or to climb Maruyama Mountain. Maruyama Mountain is a mountain that we can easily climb to its summit. From the top of this mountain, you can see the whole of Odori Park, crowded streets, and the wonderful blue sky if it is sunny.

As described above, Maruyama Park relaxes me because it is quiet, cool, and has many small and cute animals.

Hiroki Matsushita

My Favorite Place to Relax in Sapporo

My favorite place to relax is a park called Akan Land in Kushiro. It is a famous park for locals. It is a 5-minute drive from my house and is near a small mountain, so there is much beautiful nature around there. In this essay, I will describe this place in detail.

First, it has huge and amusing playground equipment for children there. This is biggest playground equipment in Akan town, so local children often come there. Therefore, it is lively. When I was a child, I often played there, so I feel nostalgic for that place.

Second, it has a large picnic area, and there is much beautiful nature and fresh air. People can camp there, or can stay in a bungalow. It also has some benches on a large lawn, and when I sit there this place calms me down.

Third, it has places to have a barbecue and eat good food. I don't have to bring food because I can buy some there. It also has restaurants near the park and some small shops, so if it is a hot day, I can go there to cool off.

As explained above, Akan Land is my favorite place to relax because this park is huge and wide, I feel nostalgic when I go there, and I can eat good food there.

Honoka Sakuta

My Favorite Place to Relax in Sapporo

Makomanai Park is my favorite place to relax. This park is in the south ward of Sapporo, and is a ten-minute walk from my house. It is very big, and has many beautiful trees, such as Japanese white birch, and also rare nature. I will describe this park.

First of all, in spring, we can see many cherry blossoms trees, and we can go cherry blossom viewing there. This is very beautiful. We can see it and we can eat some food and drink with our friends. Also, in summer the Sapporo marathon is held there. It is fun for Sapporo citizens.

Second, Makomanai Park is very comfortable because it has beautiful nature and fresh air. We can take a walk with our dogs in the afternoon. Some people come to this park with their family during holidays. Makomanai Park is a place to relax for Sapporo citizens.

Third, we can enjoy even the cold season in Makomanai Park. For example, in autumn, we can see glorious colored leaves of fall. We can see them because Makomanai Park has many trees. Furthermore, in winter, we can go ice skating in Makomanai Ice Arena nearby this park, and can enjoy the changes of the seasons there. In addition, the Emperor came to

the Salmon Science museum nearby this park on November 21, 2011. This is amazing.

As described above, Makomanai Park is a very pleasant place in Sapporo, because it has a lot of beautiful nature, fresh air and comfortable areas. Furthermore it is loved by many people.

Kanako Fukuda

My Favorite Place to Relax

My special place to relax is Goryoukaku Park in Hakodate. It's a 5-minute drive from the center of Hakodate. It is very famous because it has a long history, since the Edo period, and Goryoukaku Park is shaped like a star.

I lived in Hokodate when I was 15 years old, so I always went there. I often walked around there with my family because it was a great place for walking and every day you could see many people. However there are also quiet places so I always feel relaxed.

In spring, this place is crowded with many people, because there are many cherry blossom trees there, so they can enjoy a picnic under the cherry blossoms. There are a lot of big trees and beautiful flowers, so it smells fresh and nice.

Many foreigners come there, because it is a very famous place in Japan, and if they want to study about Goryoukaku's history there is a good museum is good that has descriptions in various languages.

As explained above, my special place is Goryoukaku Park because it has beautiful trees, flowers and I can spend a good time there.

Mao Satou

My Favorite Place to Relax in Sapporo

My favorite place to relax is my sports gym, where I go to exercise twice a week. This place is very exciting and relaxing for me. The time it takes to get to my sports gym from where I live is about 10 minutes by bicycle.

My sports gym is not big and doesn't have a lot of training machines, but there are enough machines for me. The machine I always use is the running machine. The running machine is very good for exercising, and it makes me feel excited. When I go to my sports gym, I always run for about 12 kilometers on the running machine. After running for 12 kilometers, I take a shower and run again for about 1.5 kilometers to cool down.

When I am running, I can look outside of my sports club window. The view is not beautiful, but I like it for no special reason. My brother goes to my gym, too. We often go to the gym together, which is fun. However, there is one problem. It costs 5,000 yen a month to exercise at my gym.

Now, I have a plan to change my gym to a free gym, like the gym in this university.

Shinsaku Shinohara

My Favorite Place to Relax in Sapporo

Asahiyama Kinen Park is my favorite place to relax. I go there when I want to see the beautiful night view. It is a famous place in Sapporo and it has magnificent nature. It takes about 20 minutes by car from my house.

Asahiyama Kinen Park's night view is so beautiful that I feel refreshed. It is famous among young people. Mt. Moiwa is the most famous night viewing place, but there is a charge for seeing it. However, Asahiyama Kinen Park is free, and that is why it is popular.

Secondly, Asahiyama Kinen Park's nature is magnificent. The air is very clean and there are many beautiful flowers. I like it, so I usually go there when I want to watch them.

Finally, Asahiyama Kinen Park is very spacious. Some people walk their dog in this park. I go walking there with my friends sometimes. I can go walking in nature, so I can relax there.

Asahiyama Kinen Park is a place that refreshes and relaxes me, because of its beautiful night view, magnificent nature and beautiful flowers.

Yumie Ookama

My Favorite Place in Sapporo

My favorite place to relax is Moerenuma Park. It is a 25-minute drive from my house. It is one of the largest parks in Sapporo and has great nature and buildings. Many events are held there each season. This park was designed by Isamu Noguchi, who was a the world famous sculptor. In this essay, I will describe this place in detail.

First, it has extensive grounds so many people can use the spacious areas there. There are two mountains that I can climb. For example, in spring, I can enjoy viewing cherry blossoms. There is much nature and it is clean.

Second, there is a lot of unique playground equipment like sculptures. Children can play on these freely. Also, it has a shallow pond called Moere Beach. In summer, almost all children play delightfully at this beach.

Third, it has several sports facilities. For instance, people can play tennis and baseball and it also has rental equipment, and moreover, in winter, people can do cross country skiing and sledding. In addition, in summer, a relay marathon is held there every year. Therefore, it is possible to spend an energetic and healthy time there.

As a result, Moerenuma Park is my favorite place to relax because of its beautiful nature, extensive grounds, and because people can spend a cheerful time there with their friends.

Yuri Miyazawa



This issue shows the high level of writing in English achieved by Hokkai-Gakuen University students. An ongoing interest of our writers is the international homestay and travel experience. In addition, past issues have contained topics as varied as cooking rice and surfing the Internet.

Thank you for 11 years of writing. You will be able to find future examples of the EFL writing program on-line at hguweb.jp