

Topics



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- 'Summer' Vacation in Australia
- Yarinaoshi Eigo Juku Begin
- Reports From Hawaii 1,2



- International English Experience -

TALK! TALK! TALK! to Start Up!

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!		
Schedule		
● Mon	Sarah Glen	13:00-13:30 14:40-15:10
● Tue	Kevin Ashley	11:30-12:00 16:30-17:00
● Wed	Kristin Mike	10:30-11:00 10:30-11:00
● Fri	Sam	16:30-17:00
※No lessons on Thursday		

TALK! TALK! TALK! will begin from October 29. You can enjoy talking with a native English speaker and Aidai students. Why don't you try this program? Sign up at the EEC office.

Yarinaoshi Eigo Juku Begin

Yarinaoshi Eigo Juku is a remedial program for students who want to brush up their English. The teacher of this program is Japanese, so you don't have to worry about your English skill. More information at the EEC office.

Class Schedule

17:00-18:00
(Every Tuesday)
From October 16
@Aidai Muse 24

'Summer' Vacation in Australia Kristin Armitage

Hi everyone and welcome back from your summer vacation. I had a great time back in Australia escaping the heat of Japan (it was winter) and doing some fun things. First we went to Tasmania to visit my mum. It's a great place to see, with amazing wilderness, wild animals like the Tasmanian devil and beautiful views. There are many World Heritage Sites so if you're an adventurer check out www.tasmania.com/ and start planning your trip.

After Tassie we headed to Melbourne and stayed on Phillip Island, a 2-hour drive from the city center. Phillip Island is home to my 93-year-old grandmother and also the cutest little fairy penguins that you'll ever see. They come out of the water at the end of a day fishing and head to their nests. We spoke to many Japanese tourists who were having a wonderful time so go to www.visitphillipisland.com.au to get more information.



(me and my grandmother, Margaret Armitage)

Lastly we headed to Sydney ... one of the most beautiful cities in the world. We got a bird's eye view of it when we climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge. (www.bridgeclimb.com.au) It wasn't even scary. It's expensive but one of those unforgettable experiences. So save up your money for the climb and also dinner at one of the top 10 Australian restaurants, Tetsuya's. Tetsuya Wakuda is known for his innovative cooking and the clever fusion of Australian produce and Japanese flavors. www.tetsuyas.com/

Most websites have information in Japanese and if you want to chat about Australia come and see me anytime.

Reports From Hawaii 1 - International English Experience -

My Homestay Experience



I did a homestay in Hawaii for three weeks this summer, and I had many valuable experiences. My host family let me use a room with a bed and a desk. Also, they told me some rules at the beginning of my stay. For example, after I finished eating dinner, I had to wash my dishes by myself. And I must not eat in my room, because that attracts some bugs like cockroaches. These things may sound that my host family were quite strict, but actually they were nice and made me have an exciting experience. For instance, they took me to various places on weekends. One of the places I liked the most was Hanauma Bay.



It is one of the most beautiful beaches in Hawaii and I was able to see many tropical fish and turtles swimming just around my legs. Compared with staying in hotels, there are many opportunities to talk with someone in English during your homestay. It is very good for English learners. If you want to improve your English skills, I recommend you to do a homestay.



Tomoki Mita

Reports From Hawaii 2

Studying Abroad Opens a New View Tomoki Mita

I went to Hawaii and stayed there for almost three weeks this summer. And after that, I thought studying abroad is one of the best ways to open a new view to the world.

First, I had many opportunities to encounter people who have different customs or ideas and believe in different religions. For example, there is a custom of giving tips in Hawaii and other foreign countries as well. In many situations, such as having meals in restaurants or taking a taxi, we have to tip to clerks or drivers at least 15 percent of the fee. At the beginning of my stay, tipping was quite confusing to me, because Japanese people don't have this custom. So most Japanese travelers don't know about tips well and some of them don't even give tips. I think this is a bad manner and this sometimes leads to problems in Hawaii. But I was able to learn how to hand tips and when I should give it through my experiences I actually gave tips during my stay in Hawaii. Now I understand that tipping is a common and ordinary custom in Hawaii, which is not in Japan, and that tipping is deeply rooted into everyday lives for Hawaiian people. By doing things that I never did before, like tipping to clerks and drivers, I am able to look at things occurring around me differently.

Second, I found the difference of the lifestyle between Japan and Hawaii. For instance, Hawaiian people did not think punctuality is so important. When I went to university or went back home, I used the bus in Hawaii. And the bus usually didn't come to the bus stop on time. So I always aimed to get an earlier bus. In addition, the bus stops didn't have names, so I wasn't able to know exact time the bus will come. In Japan, every bus stop has its own name and the buses always come on time, but I found out that what is ordinary in Japan is not always so in other countries.

Third, I was surprised at the low quality level of customer service in shops in Hawaii. I went shopping and bought some clothes. After I finished payment, the clerks put my items into a plastic bag without folding them up. It was like throwing the items into a bag. It was unbelievable in Japan. When I buy clothes in Japan, clerks always fold them up neatly and put into bags. I think most Japanese don't like this Hawaiian behavior.

Certainly, putting items into bags without folding them up is not good at a first glance. But during my three week stay in Hawaii, I gradually got used to this, because I was able to get my items earlier and consequently I was able to save my time.

In conclusion, I was able to have many experiences that I had never had in Japan through my studying abroad in Hawaii and these experiences gave me a new view to the world. I think it helped me to think something from various angles and it is important for my future. Finally, three weeks I spent in Hawaii are very valuable time for me.



- International English Experience -

My Summer Vacation in Hawaii Kie Nakano

This Summer I had many unforgettable experiences in Hawaii. This was my first trip to go studying abroad. I learned many things through this trip.

First, I learned that it was important to be curious when I talked to people. I was the only Japanese person in my homestay. Most of my friends had two or three Japanese people in their house, so they could speak Japanese in their house. But I couldn't communicate with people without English. This situation was good for me. Every day I tried hard to tell my thoughts, opinions, and feelings in English. My host family talked about many things especially during dinner time, for example, today's news and social problems. I was surprised at the wide variety of topics they could talk about. At first, I didn't like dinner time because I couldn't keep up with their conversation. Especially, the topic of social problems was difficult for me, so I couldn't comment on this topic. When my host family asked me whether Okinawa was a part of Japan or not, I really didn't know what I should



say. It was because I thought this topic was very delicate and I didn't have enough vocabulary to explain about this. I regretted that I couldn't express my opinions well enough. I wanted to join their conversation. So, I tried to understand what they talked about. When I found difficult words in the

conversation, I memorized and checked them in my dictionary after dinner. I often nodded and smiled to show that I was listening to them. And, I asked them questions frequently. My behavior was effective. I could talk to my host family little by little. If I stayed longer in Hawaii, I could tell not only agreements but also my opinions. I wanted to talk to my host family more. I know it is difficult to be able to speak English fluently in only three weeks. But I want to speak English well. I have to study English harder in Japan. And, someday I want to discuss many things with them.

Second, I learned how to do effective presentations. I was in a High Intermediate class. I had to do my presentations three times. My first presentation was bad. I couldn't tell information well. I just spoke with looking at my notes all the time. I didn't look at my classmates' faces during my presentation because I was very nervous. I had a classmate who was an office worker. His presentation was very good. It was easy to understand because he used a blackboard effectively. I was surprised. I didn't know such a way of presentation. I often use Power Point in Japan, but in this class, we didn't use it. So, it was difficult for me to think about how to show my presentation. In my final presentation, I wrote key words on a blackboard with chalk like him and made eye contact with my classmates and the teacher. Of course, I was nervous, but it was my best presentation I have ever done. Finally, my efforts were highly recognized by my teacher. She said to me "You gained confidence in presentations." I was happy to hear it.



This summer vacation was wonderful. I have never spent such fruitful days. I spoke English every day. Sometimes I felt it was hard to use English more than Japanese, but I think my English was improved. If I have a chance, I want to go to study abroad again.

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