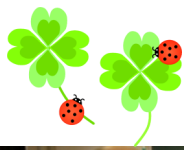


Topics

- Good Bye Ehime University
- A Message from Sam

- A Christmas Cracker: Hats, surprises and bad jokes.
- Reports from Intensive Class S2



Good Bye Ehime University

Glen Campbell



Hi everyone. It's time to go home, so here is my final message for the newsletter. I wanted to write an uplifting message (to those handful of students I have met who showed some spark) to sustain you through the bleak Winter days, but I thought it would be easier to just write generic pabulum, so here goes! 3 years has gone really fast, and I have enjoyed meeting you all and teaching the basics of English. I'm not sure where it will lead you or if you'll ever need it, but remember; learning a language isn't just a bunch of adjectives and verbs held together by some grammar, it's also a way of thinking and like all learning, requires discipline, time and effort to improve. I'll be returning to New Zealand with happy memories and hope you have gained as much from the classes as I have. I think I'll miss Japanese food most of all, but will console myself with the fact that I will be able to indulge in a high fat, high calorie diet which will dull my sense of loss. Thanks to the staff of the EEC and to my fellow foreign lecturers. I have genuinely enjoyed working with you and have learned some things along the way. Best wishes to the permanent faculty, I hope everything works out! For anyone coming to New Zealand in the future, you'll find me on a green, grassy sports field, or in a music room jamming away, or in front of a computer somewhere, so feel free to say hello! My final words of advice are even though you are pretty much the same as everyone else and nothing special, "Follow your dreams, never give up and get your Gangnam Style on!"



A Message from Sam

Sam will be starting to teach at the Faculty of Engineering from April.

Dear students,

Sadly, I'm leaving the English Education Center in March, but before I go I'd like to say thank you. I have thoroughly enjoyed my work here and a large part of that is thanks to you.

I hope you also enjoyed our classes, and found them useful and engaging. Also, I hope you realized that English is not just a classroom subject you need to study for tests, but a real tool for communication that I hope and expect to be important in your future.

Thanks again and all the best

Sam



A Christmas Cracker: Hats, surprises and bad jokes.

Mike Delve

For the first time in three years I was able to celebrate Christmas with my family during the winter holiday. There are good reasons for not going back sooner, but one Christmas custom that I really enjoy is pulling a *Christmas cracker*.

A few of you may be wondering "What is a *Christmas cracker*?" which is the type of question I would expect a curious university student to ask. A *Christmas cracker* looks like a big sweet and is made using a cardboard tube **wrapped** in brightly coloured paper, but the best **aspect** of a *cracker* is what you find inside. This includes a strip of paper treated with **silver fulminate** to create a mini explosion, a paper hat, a small toy and most importantly a terrible joke.



My father sporting a *cracker* hat

On 25th December many families sit around the table to eat Christmas dinner together. Each person has a cracker and pulls it with the person next to them. After pulling the cracker we put on the colourful hat, play with the toy (if you can find it) and tell the joke. Telling the joke is, perhaps, the highlight of Christmas dinner in England.

Christmas cracker jokes are based on **puns**, which are a form of word play using words that have two or more meanings. The best cracker jokes are always awful. Do you want to hear some? (You may need to use a dictionary to understand the pun)



What do you call a reindeer with no eyes?
→ No eye deer (No idea)

What kind of paper likes music?
→ (W)rapping paper



What do you call a man wearing brown paper trousers?
→ Russell (rustle)



Pulling a Christmas cracker

No-one really knows why cracker jokes are so bad, but one **theory** suggests that they are bad because bad jokes bring people closer together. For instance, a 'funny' joke for one person is not always 'funny' for everyone so this type of joke might result in half the table laughing and half not. In other words, the family is divided. However, when someone tells a terrible joke everybody can join in by **groaning** at it.

In summary, pulling Christmas crackers is a custom that gives people a surprise, makes them groan and brings families closer together. Why don't you try pulling a cracker next Christmas?

Glossary

wrap ~を包む aspect 側面、様子 silver fulminate 雷酸銀 highlight ハイライト、主要部 pun 語呂合わせ theory 説、論理 groan うめく

Reports from Intensive Class S2



We have 2 types of English S2 courses in February. S2 courses are for students who want to study more practical English. Let's look at these S2 courses!

20945/20939

English S2/TOEIC Intensive

Theme: Preparation for TOEIC test



20946

English S2 (Everyday English)

Theme: Preparation for travel and living in a foreign country



A Comment from Kristin

5 days of studying TOEIC. Does that sound like a dream or a nightmare? Sixteen students accepted the challenge and studied diligently in class doing 5 TOEIC tests in four days and an assortment of TOEIC inspired exercises.

Thanks for your hard work and good luck in the future.

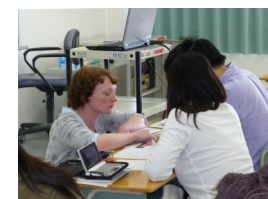
XX Kristin



A Comment from Sarah



This February, a small number of students gathered to participate in the "Everyday English" Intensive Course. Over 5 days, we talked about many topics including politics, healthy living, university, and job applications. At the end of the course, the students made some fantastic presentations comparing Japanese culture and overseas culture. Thank you to the students for their effort and enthusiasm all week, even on Saturday morning!



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