

# CrossTalk

September **CROSSROADS** Language Studio's Newsletter 2004

## BACK TO SCHOOL



When September arrives with its breezy weather and brief daylight, it often means back-to-school time in many countries. After a busy summer of travelling, working and socializing, students are once more faced with the task of hitting the books. Have you ever wondered what the school system is like in English speaking countries?

New Zealand, America, Canada and Australia have more or less similar school hours, from 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. while England's school days are longer, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

England, Canada and New Zealand require students to complete eleven years of schooling. They are permitted to quit school at the age of sixteen. American students must finish only ten years and can leave school from age sixteen to eighteen depending on state law.



Australian students must do ten or eleven years, and may quit at the age of either fifteen or sixteen depending on state law as well.

Public schools are subsidized by the government in all five countries, so education is free for students.

Lunch break is free time for students. They either bring a packed lunch from home or buy it at school. Lunch is often eaten in the cafeteria, and the lunch break is usually for an hour. American students have thirty minutes and in bigger schools, there are several different lunch breaks. There's no cleaning up to do by students, which is the responsibility of the schools' janitor.



So, what similarities and differences do you see between the school systems in English speaking countries and in Japan?

Story by Grace



## Glossary

(These words are in color in the story)

breezy さわやかな微風の

brief 短い

socializing 社交

permitted 許可される

depending on ~によって

subsidized 学費が支給される

responsibility 責務

janitor 用務員

similarities 類似点

# A Word From Us



**Joshua Says:** Well, I have no good news, nor bad news, to report to you about the West Japan Cricket Tournament because the “typhoon” (which *didn't* come) washed the game out! The tournament has been postponed to early October so, with any luck, I hope to be reporting on the game next month. In fact, the weather on the planned date for the game was just right for cricket. Was it the weather or the MCC that other teams were afraid of?

**Junko Says:** Last month we were able to see the Summer festival go along Okaido from our window on the second floor. Some of you came up to watch it with us. The view was pretty good too! Next month the Autumn Festival will also pass by our window. It won't be as colourful or as big as the last one, but we will be able to see the portable shrines go by, so if you want to watch, just pop in!



**Grace Says:** I'm so glad that September has arrived, because this means that autumn is just around the corner. I'll be so relieved when the temperature starts getting fresher, since it'll be more comfortable to live and to sleep at night. I'm also eager to see the leaves change colour once again. In Canada, autumn is really beautiful. The trees look like they're on fire when the sun is reflected off them!!

**Naomi Says:** Having spent the last month gallivanting around Shikoku it is now time to shift back out of beach mode and back into work. There are so many amazing sights to see here!! I recently walked through Ryugado Cave in Kochi. It was simply breathtaking!! If you get the chance to see it before it gets too cold, I recommend you do!!



**Greg says:** Well another Olympic games have come and gone. I must admit I was surprised at how well the Japanese Team performed. They excelled themselves by winning gold after gold (but, 2 less than Australia). Actually Asia as a whole did great. The next Olympic Games in China should be an exciting event with China out to prove to the world their dominance. However, the next four years will come and go just as quickly as the Sydney Olympic and the Athens Olympics did.

**Adam Says:** I've just moved to Matsuyama from Okinawa and let me tell you it's a big change. Okinawa is a wonderful place to live. While I was living in Okinawa I was able to visit many beaches and local attractions. My favorite attractions in Okinawa were Shuri Castle and Peace Memorial Park. I have many stories to share with you all so don't hesitate to ask when you see me.



**Natasha Says:** When in Sakhalin I drive my Nissan Sunny. The population in Far-Eastern Russia is 7 million and every year 200,000 used Japanese cars are imported into this area. This May, Vladivostok car dealers held the “Trans-Siberian Rally” – 20,000kms both ways from Moscow to Vladivostok – with 19 used Japanese cars to advertise the invincibility of these cars. Now in the Far-Eastern area of Russia, the used Japanese car business rivals fishery, forestry and mining as a major industry!

**Yuka Says:** Did you enjoy your summer vacation? I hope you did. This summer, my ten-year-old nephew brought quite a few beetles to our house and stayed with us for a week. Actually, I hate insects and can't even bring myself to touch them. But, thanks to him, now I can tell the difference between female and stag beetles and cockroaches!



# A Word From You

**Tomoko Says:** Last month I was invited to a wedding in Tunisia. It was the first time for me to visit Africa and I stayed at my friend's house. The wedding ceremony was gorgeous. We danced every night, but Muslims don't drink alcohol. They do like sweet tea and cake though. I had a nice time, but I didn't go sightseeing. Next time I would like to go to the desert.



**Kikuko Says:** At the beginning of August, my husband and I went to Aomori City to watch the "Nebuta Festival". We flew to Tokyo to transfer to Aomori Airport. The trip took 2 hours and thirty minutes in total. Nebuta is a kind of carnival. At first you see many people hopping and dancing to the sounds of flutes and drums. This is followed by a parade of moving floats along the road. These floats depict famous scenes of people from traditional times that are made with paper and are lit up. They are very colourful and we enjoyed watching them very much.

## Notice Board

If you have plans to go overseas for study, or just a holiday, tell us about it. We will help you plan a great trip.

### CRICKET

-The West Japan Cricket Tourney has been postponed to early October, 2004...

Results still to come.....>>>



## Easy English Lesson

### FALL

In keeping with the arrival of Fall (Autumn), here are a couple of idioms with the word "FALL" in them:

Fall in love -

Brian and Barbara **fell in love** with each other the moment they met.

Jan is hoping to **fall in love** and get married before she turns 30.

Diana has never **fallen in love** with anybody.

Fall through -

The deal between those two companies **fell through** ages ago.

I hope their plans to turn the park into an office block **fall through**!

He is one of the unfortunate people that have **fallen through** society's safety net.

## Net News

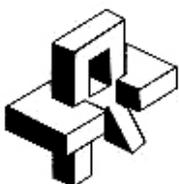
### NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

**NET SITE OF THE MONTH:** To read about the use of English around the world visit this web site:

[www.athens2004.com/athens2004](http://www.athens2004.com/athens2004)

Don't forget to take a look at the **NET NOTEBOOK** in our Open-house lounge. You'll find games, news and English study sites.



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