

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.3

~ Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM ~ Dec. 1st, 2021

My Embarrassment!!! ~ English expressions that aren't taught at Japanese schools ~

The following is a real dialog(=conversation) between a station attendant and me at a train ticket counter in Switzerland. We were talking through a window that has a lot of holes at the ticket counter while my wife & I were traveling on our honeymoon (just after the wedding)! Of course, I'm an English teacher, so I wanted to impress my wife with a good scene where I could speak English fluently!



Toru (me): Excuse me, but I wonder if you could tell me the way to the nearest washroom from here.

A staff: Which washroom do you want to go, "Number 1" or "Number 2"?

Toru (me): I don't care about the numbers! Please tell me the way to the closest restroom from here!

The staff: No way! Let me know which restroom you want to go, "Number 1" or "Number 2"!

Toru (Me): I just want to know where the nearest toilet is! Please tell me the way to the nearest toilet!

The staff: I know you want to go to a toilet, but I cannot show you unless you tell me the number!

Toru (Me): Why do I need to say a number? Numbers aren't important for me now! Tell me the way to the closest toilet, please!

Some of you might notice something! This trouble came from English expressions that I hadn't been taught at Japanese schools! Do you understand??? Shall we see the next part of the dialog? My wife & I saw his gestures through the window that has a lot of holes at the ticket counter. Please imagine the scene!

The staff: Look at me, please! "Number 1" means "A small business at a toilet"! (He gestured as if he had urinated beyond the window!) "Number 2" means "A big business at a toilet"! (He bent down to the floor and gestured as though he had defecated!) Do you understand???

My wife & I understood everything through his gestures, and I was so embarrassed! At the same time, I felt sorry for him because he made a great effort! I had not been taught these English expressions at school, so I was very moved because it was a chance to learn real English! (I have to say sorry to you because this story needs improper expressions to explain with!)

I hope the KIRITAKA English Journal will be accepted by students and their parents, and become a regular issue. (Toru Hoshino)



★T's Power Song★

Let me introduce my Power Song again! This song was made by a Japanese rock band, and its characteristics are the lyrics written in mainly Japanese! We can recognize their lyrics very clearly, and then their powerful messages can reach our hearts directly! They debuted in 2009, but their contract was cancelled in 2011! And then they continued their music and made their second debut in 2020! They never gave up!
<https://youtu.be/6kRGuNdouy8>



Kiwi Corner



It's December!

I can't believe how quickly this year has gone by. Have you had a nice 2021?

Speaking of December, what comes to mind for you when you think of this month? Maybe celebrating on New Year's Eve by watching "Downtown no Gaki no Tsukai" with your family while eating buckwheat noodles.

For me, December is all about one special event:



Giving presents to friends and family, eating lots of good food, going to the beach, swimming in the sea... What?! You don't swim in the sea at Christmas time?? But of course you don't! It's far too cold! 🥶

In the last edition of Kiwi Corner, I mentioned that New Zealand is in the southern hemisphere. That means that when it's winter here in Japan, it's... SUMMER! So instead of a "White Christmas", in New Zealand we have a "Golden Christmas." We go outside and enjoy the glorious summer weather by going to the beach! It's impossible to imagine doing in Japan, right!?



New Zealand's Golden Christmas



Surfing Santa doesn't need a sleigh

Speaking of the [beach](#), what's hard to imagine not doing at the beach? Surfing! In the cold, wintry northern hemisphere, each Christmas Santa visits all the good children by travelling on a sleigh pulled by reindeer. However, because it is summer in New Zealand, Santa arrives by... you guessed it! Surfboard. Surfing Santa!

A typical Christmas day in New Zealand starts with opening [presents](#) by the Christmas tree. Then we have a big lunch with all the family. As it is the middle of summer, we often have a [barbeque](#)



Barbeque for lunch and Christmas cake. We also have [Christmas cake](#), but it's very different to that found in Japan. It's much heavier and more dense, and doesn't have strawberries or cream on it.

outside. We also eat a lot of seafood, like fish, crab, crayfish (like a small lobster), and so on. And then it's time for dessert!

When you think of Christmas food in Japan though, you think of fried chicken (usually from KFC, right?),

Traditionally, it is made ONE MONTH before Christmas Day.



Campbell family Christmas 2016



Christmas Cake in New Zealand



Pulling a Christmas Cracker.

At the end of lunch, we often pull a "[Christmas Cracker](#)" with the person next to us. Inside this cracker is a small firework, and when pulled, it makes a small *bang*. Also found inside is a paper hat shaped like a crown, along with a small toy and a list of dad-jokes (what you would call 親父ギャグ in Japanese). It's a very amusing way to end the meal, don't you think?

After lunch, we usually have a long nap, and then in the afternoon we go and visit other relatives to give gifts and wish them a wonderful holiday. This is the typical "Kiwi Christmas!"

I hope you've had a wonderful 2021, and I wish you all the best for the coming year.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



(Liam Campbell)