

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.16

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ December 21st, 2022

My embarrassed experiences abroad <Part 3>

When I was in the 4th grade in my university days, I had a friend who was in England to study English for a year, so I planned to go there with my other friend to see him there. My friend and I made a reservation of flight tickets and hotels, but he suddenly cancelled all the trip because he found it difficult to finish writing his graduation thesis. He told me he was in a crisis that he would not graduate from the University. So, I could not help managing my trip alone. At that time, I had never ridden on an aircraft and I had never been abroad. I mean it was the first flight, the first trip abroad.

I lost not only a traveling companion, but also a great comfort that eases my anxiety while traveling abroad for the first time. I gradually got into a negative thinking, and worried about an airplane crash; my friend who cancelled the trip would be able to escape from the accident, and people might think I should have cancelled the trip together afterwards.

In conclusion, I decided not to give up the trip even if I felt lonely and uneasy because my friend in England was waiting for me to go there. He must have felt lonely because he spent almost a year alone without any help.



I could not get a direct flight ticket to reach England Heathrow Airport because it was expensive, so I had to change planes at Germany Frankfurt airport. As a total of flight time, it took more than 15 hours at that time. If the passengers next to me had been friendly, I could have tried to talk to them and might have enjoyed talking with them during the flight. In spite of my expectation, the passengers next to me on the plane from Japan to Germany were those who were spending their honeymoon and expressed their love each other in front of all the passengers all the time. They could not see anything but themselves. That was why I gave up trying to talk with them.

Unfortunately, my seat was by a window, so I had to say sorry to the couple next to me whenever I went to a washroom. During the trip of more than 15 hours, I could not talk to anyone, furthermore, I got into a negative thinking and worried about a plane crash. Finally, all the bad factors brought me a stomach ache; terrible diarrhea! So, I had to go to a washroom over and over again, and I had to say sorry to the couple each time.

After I reached Germany Frankfurt airport, I was standing at the head of the line at a gate of Check-in counter for an aircraft to England Heathrow Airport. An airport staff member spoke to me, "Can you understand English?" I replied, "Probably." "I want you to tell other passengers to choose your seat freely. You don't have to follow the seat numbers on your ticket." I said "OK."

I thought it was easy instruction for me and explained to other passengers standing behind me. I felt proud of myself because I could understand English instructions given by the airport staff member and I could make myself understood in English in German airport!

I walked through the gate and got into the plane, walked down a narrow aisle, chose a good seat for me, and sat down on the seat, but it was strange because nobody showed up close to me.

An attendant came up to me, and asked me, "Would you show me your ticket?" I explained to him, "Before going through the gate, an airport staff member told me to choose a seat freely. Is that a wrong instruction?" "No, that's right. You can choose your seat freely, but this is a First-class area. Your seat is in Economy-class!"



★T's Power Song★

Let me introduce a song "Deep down".

This is one of the ending songs of "Chainsaw man", which is TV animation drama. This animation drama is composed of 12 stories, each of which has a different ending song made by different artists. This is very unique, so you can enjoy different tastes of each ending song. "Deep down" is made by Aimer, and she gave you a message about this song;

"Not for the chainsaw man,
but for her.

A song dedicated to the ladies." <https://youtu.be/X75Qy-GiW4Y>

著作権
に配慮

Though I had been waiting for a long time at the head of the line, but I could not choose a good seat, and I was obliged to take an empty seat in the middle of the passengers. This is one of my embarrassed experiences abroad. At that moment, I had not reached England, yet. OMG!

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

P.S. Fula crossed the rainbow bridge on Dec.20.
Thank you, Fluffy! Fula lives in my heart forever!

Kiwi Corner

Hi everyone! We have finally reached the end of term two! What a long term it has been! I'm sure you've all worked very hard, and are looking forward to the winter break. I really am! During the winter break there is a big surprise coming up! No, not eating soba noodles on New Year's Eve! No, not going to see the first sunrise of 2023! Before all that, it is, of course,

In the last edition of the Kiwi Corner, I wrote about **comfort food**. With it being my favourite holiday, I thought it would be fitting to introduce my favourite Christmas meals, along with other cuisine served in New Zealand at this time of the year.

Christmas



A typical Kiwi barbeque. Beautiful steaks sizzling there. It is so nice and warm. This typically includes steak, sausages, and various vegetables. We also often eat a leg of ham, and many people also eat fish or lobster, as Christmas is **often celebrated at the beach**. After the main meal, with lots of fresh salad and other vegetables, we then move on to my favourite part: **dessert**.

First of all, as I explained in Kiwi Corner Vol. 3 around this time last year, right now it is summer in New Zealand, so the food we eat at this time of the year is not the stereotypical Christmas meal you see in movies. First of all, in my family, we eat pancakes for breakfast. Then for lunch, we often have a **barbeque** outside, as



Christmas pudding. Yum yum!

Near my family's house is a large berry farm, so we would buy **kilograms and kilograms of berries**! Strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, boysenberries, blackberries... all the berries!



Pavlova is a New Zealand dessert (not Australian!)

We also eat lots of **ice cream** (of course!), along with **pavlova** (a traditional dessert originating in New Zealand and NOT Australia!), **Christmas fruit mince pies**, and finally **Christmas pudding** served with custard.

Of course, this is quite a large meal, so afterwards, we would all have a nap and go to sleep for several hours. For dinner, if we were still hungry, we would eat the leftover food. And that's what we typically eat on Christmas day. Anyway, **I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

For this month's article, I'd like to introduce this song. It's a new version of a classic Christmas song, which has been remade for a Southern-hemisphere (New Zealand) audience. Some of the words may be a little difficult to understand, but it's a fun and happy song. You can listen to it here: <https://youtu.be/uW-l2ei92PU>

(Liam Campbell)



Lauren's Newsletter



Let's Countdown to Christmas!

December is here and Christmas illuminations are shining brightly in the streets of Kiryu! In the USA, Christmas songs are playing on the radio, people are putting up Christmas trees in their living rooms, and the magic of the holidays is in the air. During December, some people also put stockings above their fireplace, bake Christmas cookies, and make gingerbread houses with their family and friends. Some people also celebrate the countdown to Christmas with advent calendars.



A classic Christmas advent calendar

Advent calendars are originally from Germany, but are now used in different parts of the world (including the USA!). Advent calendars usually have 24 gifts. These gifts are opened one by one each day starting on December 1st, and the last gift is opened on December 24th (Christmas Eve). Each gift is numbered based on the day of the month and must be opened in chronological order.

The classic Christmas advent calendar has one piece of chocolate for each day. However, advent calendars come in many varieties! From chocolates and candy, to beauty products and children's books, there are a variety fun and unique options when choosing an advent calendar to celebrate the holiday season. There are even advent calendars for dogs and cats!

Here are some fun examples of advent calendars:

Dog toys



Popcorn



A wooden house with chocolates inside



Advent calendars are a fun way to celebrate the days before Christmas, and anyone can use them! You can even find them at your local Kaldi store, so please try using one! I hope you all stay warm this winter and enjoy the holiday season!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,

(Lauren Taylor)



I would like to introduce my favorite Christmas song of all time: "Last Christmas" by Wham!
Please enjoy listening to it here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8gmARGvPII>
Merry Christmas!