

THE EASYEIGO NEWS

Published by easyeigo 英語教室 - 両国

February 2012

School Holidays in March

The school will be closed on:

- Tuesday the 20th
- Thursday the 22nd
- Friday the 23rd
- Saturday the 24th

Fantastic School Party

Thanks to everybody for making the January party so much fun! But you guys drank so much!! About 40 cans of beer, 2 bottles of wine, 1 bottle of sake, and some tequila as well. I believe that's a record.

At this party, I took the unusual step of opening up 2 seats to non-students, and posting an open-invitation on the website. Because of this we could share our time with two new faces (Atsuko and Naomi), and enjoy some new conversations.

Thanks too to Sonoko for taking photos and sharing them with us. Anyway, I hope to see everyone again at the next party.



Nice girls ... both very original

Poor Bryce

“可哀想” is a little tricky in English for many of my students. Most students make the mistake of a simple translation, using “poor”.

For example, thinking “ブライスは可哀相ね”, they say “Bryce is poor”. However, this actually means “Bryce has no money.”

Using “poor” is ok, but we usually only use it with **one or two words**, like this.

- **Poor Bryce!** His students call him “fat”.
- Ayaka's boyfriend is a nerd. **Poor girl.**
- **Poor old guy!** He looks cold and hungry.

Do you see? We usually only use it with someone's name, or short description.

But there is another way, using the phrase “**I feel sorry for PERSON.**” Please check out these examples.

- I saw a documentary on families in Africa. Their life is difficult. **I feel so sorry for them.**
- **I feel sorry for the Royal Family**, because they have no freedom.
- You are so stupid. **I feel sorry for you.**

This method is a little more flexible when we want to express 可哀相. Please try it out, when you get the chance.

New Tuition Rules

Last year, about 30%-40% of students were late to pay **tuition** (月謝) in any given month. I'm sure you can understand this is an unacceptable situation.

I'd like to remind you that the tuition system has changed this year.

At the beginning on every month, I will give out the **tuition envelope** (月謝袋), and ask every student to submit next month's tuition **by the 25th**.

I'm looking forward to your help in simplifying my workload.

Shadowing Practice

Since the beginning of this year, we have been doing a lot of shadowing practice.

I want to thank all the students who practised hard. There has been a big improvement in your fluency, timing and intonation. Very well done!!

Waterfall Training

As you know, I was invited to try Waterfall Training 滝行, by my martial arts teacher.

To be honest, the idea of getting into a pool of water in the middle of winter was quite scary. But I couldn't give up the chance to try something totally new.

So early on a Sunday morning, feeling tired and hungover from the school party the night before, I drove to Mitake-san. To my surprise I found Sensei waiting for me, alongside some adult students and about 20 children.

So we hiked for about an hour to the waterfall, changed clothes and began. The youngest kids were first. They were so cute, standing in the water, punching the air, but crying loudly all the while.

The older kids were next, shivering terribly, with brave faces. I was quite impressed. I doubt that I could have done that when I was their age.

The adults went last, and I can tell you that the water was really, really, really, really cold! Just standing in it for about a minute was quite painful and made my toes go numb.

Some guys actually got underneath the waterfall, but most didn't. I didn't go underneath it either, and I kind of regret that now. I should have done it.

So next year, I'm definitely going to go under. Anybody else want to come?

A Change of Name

One of my New Year Resolutions this is is to improve the "brand image" of this school. As part of that, I am planning to install an illuminated sign on the outside of the building.



Waterfall Training at Mitake-san with Abe Sensei

However, while I was thinking about the design of the sign, I started thinking that it may also be a rare chance to change the name of the school.

I thought of the name "easyeigo" when I first opened this school, about 5 years ago. To be honest, I still kind of like it, but I'm wondering if I can't come up with a better name, and a good mascot too.

The name would have to:

- be easy to remember
- be catchy
- reflect the character of the school

And I want to have an original mascot or character, to represent the image of the school. This is going to be difficult too.

Anyway, I do have some ideas in mind, and I'll be testing those ideas against you in the coming weeks. Please give me your honest opinions, because I really need your help.

Additionally, if you have any ideas for a name and a mascot, please don't hesitate to tell me.