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IEP Student Newsletter

Intensive English Program
THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI



Hello, everyone! I am happy to be writing this during the cooler morning temperatures that tell us fall weather is on the way. As the senior director of the Intensive English Program, I want to express how happy I am that you have chosen to study with us at the University of Mississippi. I hope that you have been enjoying your time with us so far, though I know that studying full-time in another language is difficult. I want to encourage you to continue to work hard, but you should also make time for developing friendships and having fun.

Making American friends can seem like an impossible task! And while it isn't impossible, it can be hard. One important thing to remember is that most Americans would really like to be friends with you—they just don't know how to do it! You might have to smile and introduce yourself

to a lot of people before you find a new friend, so be brave. Sharing an interesting story or fact from your culture is a good way to break the ice, and if you are having difficulty finding people to talk to, remember that you can take advantage of the many activities that are happening every day here on campus.

I hope that you continue to have a good fall semester here in the IEP, and I wish you good luck with your classes!

Dr. Whitney Sarver
Senior Director
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The first impression of the United States of America

By Tin Tin, Yurika, Koise and Chen

When we first came to the U.S., there were so many differences between the U.S. and our home countries: Vietnam, Japan and China. There are some of the first impressions we would like to share: the differences between the US and Asian countries, such as food, study life and lifestyle.

Firstly, we would like to write about the food. We all agree that American food is oily, salty, sweet and unhealthy, which would less likely happen in our home countries.



In Vietnam there are more vegetables on the side of the food, and we'd rather steam the food than fry it. Besides that, food in Japan doesn't use a lot of oil, sugar and salt. That's why the Japanese students think it is probably the reason making many Americans obesity. Chinese student said that they don't eat raw food as same as Americans or other countries'.



Secondly, there are many differences between the study life in the U.S. and in our home countries. For example: in China and Japan, the normal classroom is available for fifty to sixty five students in each class, where teacher cannot focus on each student like American teachers do. Moreover, in Vietnam students are not allowed to speak out in class which is somehow considered as disrespectful to teachers. But in the U.S. teachers encourage students to speak out their ideas and what they are thinking. This makes the class more interesting.



Finally, we also have many differences in lifestyle,

which can be considered as culture's differences. For example, Japanese take a bath in a hot tub every night but Americans only take a quick shower in the morning.



Chinese students tend to be shy and do not like the party in their house, which is different from American students.



They like to host the party at their house and invite a lot of friends to come and join the party. In addition, in Vietnam when we go to restaurants, we like to make a signal to get the waitress or waiter attention by waving them. But

Americans only wait until the waiter or waitress come and ask them what they need.

In conclusion, all countries have all different cultures, which somehow make the world become a more interesting place in the universe. It will bring people together when they are learning another language and culture. This essay may help some foreign students to have the small idea that how different between their home countries and the U.S.



First impression of the US

By Chaeyoung Kim, Sachi Tamaki, Mizuki Kato

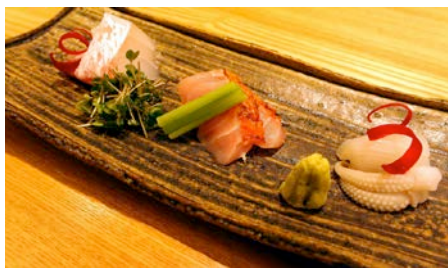
When we came here first time, we realized there were many different things between our countries and the US. We're going to talk about food, language and people. There are many positive things and negative things.

Firstly, American food is very different from our countries'. Almost all foods are salty here, for example, pizza. We thought pizza is preserved with salt. In addition, food is also too oily for us. For example, most fried foods, snacks, even vegetables are too oily. Once we eat American food, we feel that our mouth remain oily for a long time. Lastly, the amount of food is much bigger than in our countries. If we go to the restaurants here, we don't need to order a lot of food. So we can save our money.



difficult to understand. Second, they use a lot of slangs. Sometimes we can't catch what they say. Third, English words have similar pronunciations, so sometimes we misunderstand them. For example, "won't" and "want" are very similar to us. Our friend once told us "I won't go to the party" but we heard as "I want to go to the party". Lastly, they speak too fast, so we can only catch a few words.

Secondly, although we learned English for a long time, we still face language barrier. First, People in Oxford have different accent from what we used to learn, so it's



Finally, we found American's personalities are very different in comparison with people's personalities in our countries. Firstly, they are racism. Sometimes we felt that they ignore Asians. Secondly, they are not punctual. For example if we make an appointment to meet at 8:00, but they come at 9:00 without contacting us earlier, and they don't say sorry at all. But they are friendly. They usually say "hello" or

"how are you" to us although we meet for first time. Furthermore they have "lady first" habit. They always open doors for ladies and wait for ladies.



American culture is very different from our countries'. As we said the food tastes different, language accent is different with what we learned before, and American personalities are also different compare to our countries'. Although we face many challenges and problems, we are sure we'll get used to this culture.

The reasons why Japan is famous for traveling

By Tomomi Inoue, Maki Higashida, Shiori Fujii, Sunmin Lee



Japan, located in the Pacific Ocean, is an island country in East Asia. The population of 126 million is the world's tenth largest. Approximately 9.1 million people live in the core city Tokyo, the capital of Japan. Tokyo is the sixth largest city in the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), and the fourth leading global city in the world. Japan is a good place for traveling because there are so many attractions and tasty traditional food. For instance, Japan has many conventional places like temple and castle. Temple is the place for worshipping Japanese Buddhism.

Almost every Japanese state has at least one temple, while in large cultural center like Kyoto, there are hundreds of temples. There are also many traditional castles in Japan, such as Osaka Castle. On the other hand, there are a lot of urban places in Japan, such as Tokyo Sky Tree and good downtowns. Furthermore, there are so many delicious endemic foods made of fishes and shellfishes in Japan. Because many areas in Japan are comprised of islands so, it is suitable to take many fishes and shellfishes. This essay will introduce three best cities in Japan; Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto.

First, Kyoto is a famous place for traveling. There are so many things attractive to tourists. Especially, visitors can experience Japanese traditional culture. For example, people are able to see many traditional temples and shrines. One of the most famous temples is Kiyomizu temple. People can enter the temple and overlook the town of Kyoto. The view is beautiful.



In addition, the traditional sweet called "Wagashi" is attracting visitors. Wagashi is a Japanese traditional sweet, which is like a small ball and mostly filled with sweet red bean paste, but sometimes it is filled with jellies, fruits and nuts. You can feel the Japanese taste while eating them. Tourists are able to see traditional things in Kyoto. Therefore, Kyoto is one of the most famous places for



tourists.

Second, there are also many interesting places in Osaka. The most popular place in Osaka for foreign tourists is Shinsaibashi. It's a big downtown, with a lot of restaurants, shops and entertainments. If people want Japanese products like electric appliances, cosmetics or souvenirs, they can buy all of them there. Also, people can go to party at night. There are so many dance clubs and bars. Many foreign tourists would like to visit Shinsaibashi these days.



Because of this, many restaurants have menus written in your country's language, especially in English, Chinese and Korean. You won't be in trouble in language. If tourists plan to visit Osaka, they should go to this town, and they can find everything there. The second most popular sightseeing site in this area is Osaka castle. It was built in 1868 by Hideyoshi Toyotomi, who was a military commander in Japan around 400 years ago.

It looks luxurious and it makes people imagine the strength and power of Hideyoshi. If people are interested in Japanese history, they will enjoy visiting there.

Third, Tokyo is popular for visitors as well. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan. In Tokyo, the Tokyo Sky Tree is famous as a broadcast tower, and it is now more popular than Tokyo tower, because it is the tallest tower in the world, and the second tallest structure in the world. You can see the panoramic view of Tokyo. Also, Kaminarimon in Asakusa is famous because there is a Japanese huge red lantern, a symbol of Asakusa. In addition, food in Tokyo is also famous. First, it is Monjayaki. Monjayaki is a local food in Tokyo. It is like Okonomiyaki, which is Japanese savory pancake containing a variety of ingredients. Monjayaki has a longer history than Okonomiyaki,

so people should try Monjayaki before Okonomiyaki. Second, it is Sushi. People can eat fresh low-cost fish in Tsukiji Market. For example, in Tsukiji Market, people can eat a bowl of rice topped with fresh seafood at a low price, and they can see a tuna filleting display as well. Therefore, a lot of tourists visit Tokyo.

In conclusion, Japan is one of the most famous places in the world for traveling, especially in Kyoto, Osaka and Tokyo. Kyoto has a lot of traditional things. In Osaka, people are able to shop products made in Japan. In addition, most restaurants in Osaka have menus with different languages, so tourists don't need to worry about languages. Tokyo has some famous food like Monjayaki and Sushi. Therefore, visitors will enjoy in Japan, and Japan is popular for traveling.

