



Globetrotter

WEDDING EDITION

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Greetings

Thank you very much to the students who sent comments about the previous Globetrotter issue. We always enjoy receiving your mail and hearing what you think. We look forward to getting more emails from all of you.

NEWS---The new Global Communications website is now available. Please check out all the new features, such as: blogs, downloadable worksheets and newsletters, video introductions of the teachers, podcast, and much more!

NEWS---If you are preparing for the test, be sure to check out the e-test at www.e-test.biz.

Please enjoy our **WEDDING** theme Globetrotter! Also, please feel welcome to share your own wedding stories on the Global Blog.



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Student Spotlight

Isao

By Jennifer Yun

Isao is a retired school principal living in Akita prefecture and has been a student with Global Communications since 2001. Since he has advanced abilities in communicating in English, he prefers to have a free conversation style lesson that includes using news articles as topics. The news articles regularly used come from sources such as CNN, Newsweek, Time, and VOA.

Isao has great interest in world events and regularly keeps up with world news through mediums such as TV and internet news sites. Through his extensive knowledge and keen interest in what is happening in the world, he can have very well rounded conversations and debates about any topic. As an instructor, I thoroughly enjoy Isao's lessons because of his enthusiasm for learning and also his deep insight about society and cultural affairs. I find that I look forward to his lessons because I am also forced to study more about world news.

Isao has taken his interest in world events and English communication to the next level by enrolling in a course at Akita International University to study topics relating to International Relations. I greatly admire Isao for his strong sense of self-motivation and his courageousness for continuing to expand his mind. He is a wonderful role model for anyone who appreciates self-improvement and doesn't allow any obstacles to enter their path.

Movie Review

Meet the Parents

By Alando Garcia

Meet the Parents, starring Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller, was released in the year 2000 and is one of my favorite comedy movies of all-time. In this movie, Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) is in love with his girlfriend, Pam and wants to marry her. But first, he must meet Pam's parents, including her **formidable** father, Jack (Robert De Niro). Unfortunately for Greg, everything that can go wrong does go wrong! And rather than **impressing** his girlfriend's parents, Greg ends up causing a lot of trouble. And Jack thinks Greg is a liar and drug user!

Some of you may have already seen this movie, but if you have not, this is a great DVD rental. Though sometimes American comedies are difficult to understand for non-native English speakers, there are **plenty** of laughs in this movie that you will understand and enjoy, I think.

Both Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro are really terrific in this film. And the film co-stars another popular American actor, Owen Wilson. This movie is full of laughs. I have watched it many times and I think you will enjoy this movie that **gives you a glimpse** of what it can be like when you have to "**meet the parents**".



Movie Reviews Grading System

- **A** = Outstanding acting, storyline, visuals and/or special effects.
- **B** = Very good acting **and** storyline, visuals and/or special effects are good.
- **C** = Good acting **or** good storyline **or** good visuals and/or special effects.
- **D** = Poor acting, storyline, visuals and/or special effects.
- **F** = Everything was terrible!

Vocabulary

Meet the Parents

1. **formidable** – someone that is strong and in opposition to you; also, someone that makes you anxious or nervous or that gains respect. A person not easily defeated. For example, "he was a formidable opponent."
2. **impressing** – to make a good impression; it means that someone thinks positive things about you .
3. **plenty** – a lot or many
4. **gives you a glimpse** – this is an American idiom which means to show you what something is like. For example, this movie shows you how nervous someone can be (Greg) when he has to meet his girlfriend's parents for the first time.
5. **meet the parents** – In American culture, often times couples that want to get married meet each other's families before they get married. Sometimes they meet the families very early when the couple starts dating, but sometimes if the families live far away (in another state, for example), they may not meet each other's families until the couple plans to marry. Typically, we consider this to be a very nerve-racking situation that causes us a lot of anxiety. It is particularly difficult for the man, because he is sometimes expected to ask the woman's father for permission to marry their daughter.

What do you think?

By Jennifer Yun

A Wedding Story

HOW TO KEEP THE MOTHERS HAPPY

Planning a wedding can be the most wonderful, memorable experience, or the most horrific and stressful situation you will ever deal with in your life.

When I first started planning my wedding, my goal was to have as simple and as inexpensive wedding as humanly possible. In theory, this is a very easy task. You could elope to Hawaii and have a private ceremony at a resort, or you could just go to the Justice of the Peace and sign the certificate that declares you legally married and leave it at that. I say this is easy to accomplish "in theory" because if you have any family whatsoever, they will not let you easily slip out of traditional obligations without a fight.

It is my opinion that the wedding ceremony and reception is more important for the parents of the couple than for the bride and groom. Many parents begin dreaming of their children's wedding day when their children are born, building up many well defined plans as to how it should occur. This can cause tears and headaches if the bride and groom want to express a distinct style or personality in their wedding.

The way that I took care this problem was to handle everything decisively and firmly. At the very beginning, I let both sets of parents know exactly the kind of wedding we were going to have. Secondly, I carefully picked a well-suited activity for my mother and my husband's mother to be in charge of. For example, I asked the mothers to help design the centerpiece decorations, which ended up being small potted flowers and herb plants that the guests could take as gifts. The appearance of the centerpiece design was very charming, both mothers were very happy to be involved, both mothers were very quiet because they were busy raising their flowers and herb plants, and the guests were so pleased to receive such a gift that was truly given with love and happiness.

What do you think?

Send Us Your Comments

What do you think about the following article? Voice your opinion by sending your comments to:

office@globalcom-online-english-school.co.jp.

We anxiously look forward to knowing how the readers feel about the topic.

Volunteer to Volunteer Comments

I have a bitter experience about the volunteer activity from my younger days. I did it only 6 months and stopped it. I forgot the reason why I stopped. Perhaps there had been many reasons, I suppose. If I joined volunteering again, I want to continue it not only one or two years but more than ten years. If I continued my gratuitous service more than ten years, it would be to get trust as a valuable fact. It is considerably difficult to find what kind of volunteer activity is suitable to me. ---Takuma---

Vocabulary Builder

Love Vocabulary

1. "to have a crush on" = IDIOM = to have some romantic interest in another person, but the interest is not as strong as love, and usually does not result in a relationship
 - I have a major crush on my Math teacher because he is so good-looking and kind.
2. "to have the hots for" = IDIOM = this idiom is the same as "to have a crush on" but is even less stronger and usually the interest in the other person is due to only physical appearance, not personality
 - I have the hots for the girl that works at the convenient store because she is so cute.
3. "my type" = IDIOM = the type of person that I am interested in
 - David is not my type because he is really into computers and I hate computers.
4. "to be whipped" = IDIOM = (for men only) to be easily controlled by your wife
 - Tom never drinks with his coworkers because his wife will get angry. He's definitely whipped!

Test Your Skills

Reading Comprehension

Complete the reading sample and answer the following True / False comprehension questions.

The Origin of the Honeymoon

The word "honeymoon" first appeared in the 16th century. The word "honey" is a reference to the sweetness of a new marriage. And the word "moon" is not a reference to the lunar-based month, but rather a bitter acknowledgment that this sweetness, like a full moon, would quickly fade. The term 'honeymoon' comes from the tradition of the bride drinking mead (a brewed, fermented drink made of honey) for one month after the wedding to encourage fertility, and a male child in particular.

One legend claims that in ancient times, many of the first marriages were by capture, not choice. When early man felt it was time to take a bride, he would often carry off an unwilling woman to a secret place where her relatives wouldn't find them. While the moon went through all its phases, (about 30 days) they hid from the searchers and drank a brew made from honey. Hence, we get the word, honeymoon. Another legend states that the Teuton people began the practice of the honeymoon. Teuton weddings were only held under the full moon. After the wedding, the bride and groom would drink honey wine for thirty days. After the wedding, newlyweds would leave their family and friends to go and do what newlyweds are supposed to do. Today that purpose survives, only now a vacation is incorporated, usually to a romantic get-away locale.

Decide if each statement is True or False.

1. The main point of this article is to analyze the effects of "honeymoons" on contemporary culture. **[TRUE / FALSE]**
2. The idea of a vacation for the new couple was the reason why "honeymoons" were started. **[TRUE / FALSE]**
3. Women traditionally drank honey wine to increase their chances of having a son. **[TRUE / FALSE]**

World Views

A Hindu Wedding

By Adam Stefan

Attending a wedding is an excellent way to learn about a different culture. A wedding can introduce you to the religion, food, music, clothing and traditions of a culture. Sometimes, going to a wedding can feel like traveling to a distant country—even if only for one night. Recently, I attended a friend's Hindu wedding. I experienced the sights, sounds, smells and tastes that make an Indian wedding very different from a traditional American wedding.

The first thing I noticed when I entered the wedding hall was the colorful clothing worn by the guests, especially the women. Many women wore a *sari*, a long piece of colorful fabric that is wrapped many times around the body. As I took my seat, the music began. The families of the bride and groom entered the hall, but everyone was waiting for the bride. In Indian tradition, the bride is believed to be a goddess, and is carried to the altar on a bed by her family members. Finally, the bride, covered in jewelry, was brought to the altar and the wedding began.

After the bride and groom were seated at the altar, the priest began speaking in a language called *Sanskrit*. Of course, I didn't understand what he was saying, and nobody else understood either, because Sanskrit is only spoken by priests. After the priest spoke, the bride and groom stood and the priest tied the bride's sari to the groom's clothing. Joined together, the bride and groom walked seven times around a fire in the center of the altar, each time exchanging vows. After the seventh time around the fire, they were married!

Before the reception began, food and drinks were offered to the guests. I like spicy food, so I enjoyed eating many different Indian dishes, including curries, meats and vegetables. I was happy when we were seated for the reception because I was full, so I was very surprised when another meal was served. Although I was full, the food smelled delicious, and I continued eating! Soon the families were announced, and the guests began dancing to Indian and American music. As I danced late into the night, I nearly forgot that I was still in America.

Kids Corner

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Circle the word and that does not belong in the group
And write the answer on the line provided. Decide if it is a NOUN, VERB, ADJECTIVE, or ADVERB?

EXAMPLE: house, car, Jimmy, pretty
house, car, Jennifer = NOUN
pretty = ADJECTIVE

1. tall, happy, bicycle, moody

2. running, eating, sleeping, quickly

3. chicken, salty, bacon, hamburger

4. later, singing, quietly, soon

August Answers

Test Your Skills (pg. 4)

Fill in the Blank

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. c (awkward) | 2. a (up) |
| 3. c (connection) | 4. b (control) |

Multiple Choice Questions

- b (adrenaline)
- d (the fear of turning red)
- a (insomnia)
- b (Blushing is a natural way the body protects itself.)

Kids Corner (pg. 5) : Recognizing Adverbs

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. outside | 2. quickly |
| 3. soon | 4. late |

