



# Globetrotter

Volume 1, Issue 20

May 2008

## Greetings

Thanks to all of the students who sent comments about the previous Globetrotter issue. Please continue posting your thoughts on the blog!

NEWS---Remember to check out the Global Communications website, which has great features such as blogs, downloadable worksheets and newsletters, video introductions of the teachers, podcasts, and much more!

NEWS---If you are preparing for the test, be sure to check out the e-test at [www.e-test.biz](http://www.e-test.biz).

Please give us your comments or any ideas for articles you would like to see in future Globetrotters! We always enjoy receiving your mail and hearing what you think.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
2. ELEANOR'S CORNER
4. ELEANOR'S GRAMMAR PAGE
6. IN THE NEWS

## Student Spotlight Hiroyuki

Hiroyuki is a dedicated English student who has been studying with Global Communications for about three years.

When Hiroyuki first enrolled with Global Communications his English skills were at a beginner level. Through diligent study and 1-2 classes per week he has improved to an intermediate level.

Hiroyuki's curriculum consists of free conversation at the beginning of his lesson followed by a review of his textbook, *New Interchange-Book 3*.

Hiroyuki's main reason for studying English is to be able to communicate with his foreign clients. Hiroyuki also finds that his English is very helpful when traveling to foreign countries.

Hiroyuki enjoys practicing his English skills by visiting English websites like CNN.COM and TIME.COM. He also enjoys conversations in English with his foreign friends.

We thoroughly enjoy Hiroyuki's lessons because of his enthusiasm for learning, and look forward to teaching him in the future!



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## Eleanor's Corner

### The Easter Bunny

I was talking to one of our students the other night and somehow the topic of the Easter Bunny came up. The student had never heard of the Easter Bunny, and when I started explaining who he is, I realized how strange the story sounds. When we grow up with cultural traditions, we often just accept these traditions without thinking very **deeply** about them.

Everyone in Japan seems to know who Santa Claus is, but the Easter Bunny hasn't reached the same level of **fame** yet. Halloween has become more and more popular over the past few years, so maybe Easter traditions will soon gain popularity here as well.

The Easter Bunny comes to children's homes sometime during the night before Easter Sunday. Like Santa Claus, he comes while the children are asleep. He leaves straw baskets full of chocolate eggs, jelly beans, marshmallow chickens, and decorated hard-boiled eggs for the children in the family. Usually, the Easter Bunny **hides** these baskets behind chairs or under tables. The children wake up on Easter morning and search for the baskets. When I was a child, my sisters and I would leave a carrot out on the table for the Easter Bunny. We thought that he would be very tired and hungry from delivering so many Easter baskets and would like a delicious carrot to give him some energy.

When we would get up on Easter morning, we would check to see if the Easter Bunny had eaten the carrot. We were always so excited to find the carrot with several **bites** taken out of it. Then we would search for the baskets that he had left for us.

It never **occurred** to us to **question** how the Easter Bunny managed to carry all the baskets to everyone's home, just as we never questioned how Santa Claus and his **reindeer** could deliver all those presents all over the world. on Christmas Eve. As strange as it may seem to me now as an adult, it certainly seemed very real when I was a child. Do Japanese children have similar beliefs? Are there any animals in Japan that visit children's homes while they are sleeping and leave presents?

On the Monday after Easter, there is an event called an Easter Egg Roll held on the South Lawn of the White House. This is a picture of President Bush with a very large bunny at the event this year. At the Easter Egg Roll, children who are seven years old or younger **compete** in rolling colored hard-boiled eggs with a spoon. In 1878, President Hayes first opened the White House to local children for this egg-rolling event. It is a very popular annual event with thousands of children participating.



[www.goldenbooks.com](http://www.goldenbooks.com)

# Vocabulary

**deeply** – to a thorough extent or profound degree.

**fame** – the quality of being well-known.

**hide** – to conceal from sight.

**bite** – a piece bitten off.

**occurred** – to suggest itself in thought; come to mind.

**question** – to challenge or dispute.

**reindeer** – a large deer or the Arctic and northern regions of Eurasia and North America.

**compete** – to strive against another or others to attain a goal.



# Eleanor's Grammar Page

## Reading Comprehension Exercise

### Autumn In and Around Tokyo



I am from New England, so I am used to crisp, fresh autumn weather and beautiful brightly colored leaves. When I came to Japan, I was afraid that Japanese autumns wouldn't be able to compare to the autumns I had at home. However, I have been pleasantly surprised to find that there are many places to experience the beauty of autumn without having to travel far from Tokyo. In fact, there are several places right here in Tokyo: Mt. Takao and Okutama are two places that easily come to mind.

Last autumn, though, I decided to go just a little farther and went to Nagatoro. It was a beautiful day—the sun was shining, the sky was bright blue, and the air had the perfect amount of autumn coolness to it. On the walk from the station, there are many restaurants and gift shops along the small road that leads to the Ara River, but it was the ice cream shop that caught my attention. I couldn't resist buying an ice cream even though it was still rather chilly in the late morning. Mmmmm.... It was delicious!

When I got to the end of the road, I was struck by the beautiful scenery in front of me. There were trees covered in beautiful autumn colors as far as I could see. The trees were on both sides of the river, and there were colored leaves covering the ground, falling from trees, and floating on the river.

I was surrounded by the sight, smell, and even the sound of autumn leaves. For me, it was like heaven! I was instantly reminded of so many wonderful autumn days in New England, and even remembered things I hadn't thought about for years, for example, my father raking huge piles of leaves in our yard for my sisters and me to jump in when we were children, and collecting leaves on my way home from elementary school and then pressing them in books.

As an added attraction, nature provided me with a full moon that evening. Looking at the full moon shining down on the river and trees was a perfect way to end a very special day.

**Based on the reading passage from the previous page, please decide if the following statements are true or false. If the statement is false, how could you change it to make it true?**

1. The writer is not accustomed to autumn weather.
2. Before coming to Japan, the writer thought autumn in Japan would be more beautiful than autumn in New England.
3. There are many places to experience the beauty of autumn outside Tokyo, but there are none inside the Tokyo area.
4. The writer went to Nagatoro on a warm day.
5. It was difficult for the writer to pass up buying an ice cream.
6. All the leaves had already fallen from the trees by the time the writer visited Nagatoro.
7. The leaves were floating on the lake.
8. The writer used to play in the leaves that her father would rake up in the yard.
9. The writer would collect leaves on her way to school.
10. The writer couldn't see the full moon because it was cloudy.

**Answers:**

1. False. The writer is accustomed to autumn weather.
2. False. Before coming to Japan, the writer was worried that autumn in Japan would not be as nice as autumn in New England.
3. False. There are several places in Tokyo to experience the beauty of autumn.
4. False. The writer went to Nagatoro on a cool day.
5. True.
6. False. Some of the leaves had already fallen from the trees.
7. False. The leaves were floating on the river.
8. True.
9. False. The writer would collect leaves on her way home from school.
10. False. The writer could see the full moon shining down on the river and trees.

## In The News

### Learn to Read the News in English

*Reading the news is an ideal way to practice your English reading skills. Every month, the Globetrotter will include a new English news article with key vocabulary and definitions. We hope you enjoy this feature of the Globetrotter!*

*This month's article is about the Olympic torch relay. Did you find this month's article interesting? Let us know!*

### 2008 Olympic Torch Relay

The 2008 Beijing Olympic torch will travel a 137,000-km, 130-day route across six continents. Torch runs around China begin May 4 and continue through every province and region of China before reaching the Olympic Stadium in Beijing on August 6. Climbers plan to take the Olympic flame to Mount Everest's 8,850 m summit on a day with **favorable** weather conditions in May

The 2008 Olympic torch relay has been **marked by controversy** including protests regarding China's **human rights** record, and the ongoing unrest in Tibet. The torch's route has been modified on several occasions, with the torch being extinguished by organizers several times during the Paris leg.

On March 24, 2008, the Olympic Flame was **ignited** at Olympia, Greece, site of the Ancient Olympics. Next, the Olympic torch arrived in China where it was welcomed by Chinese legal chief Zhou Yongkang. The torch was then transported to Almaty, Kazakhstan on April 2. Next, the torch relay continued in Istanbul, Turkey on April 3. On April 5, the torch arrived in Saint Petersburg, Russia for a 20 km route from Victory Square to Palace Square. The next destination for the torch was London, where it arrived on April 6.

### 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](mailto:office@globalcom-online-english-school.co.jp).

We look forward to hearing how you feel about this topic.

## Vocabulary

1. **favorable:** affording advantage, opportunity or convenience; advantageous. "Climbers plan to take the Olympic flame to Mount Everest's 8,850 m summit on a day with **favorable** weather conditions in May."
2. **marked by:** designated or distinguished by: "The 2008 Olympic torch relay has been **marked by** controversy including protests regarding China's human rights record, and the ongoing unrest in Tibet."
3. **controversy:** contention; dispute; debate; discussion; agitation of contrary opinions: "The 2008 Olympic torch relay has been marked by **controversy** including protests regarding China's human rights record, and the ongoing unrest in Tibet.."
4. **human rights:** fundamental rights; the basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled: "The 2008 Olympic torch relay has been marked by controversy including protests regarding China's **human rights** record, and the ongoing unrest in Tibet."
5. **ignited:** to set on fire: "On March 24, 2008, the Olympic Flame was ignited at Olympia, Greece, site of the Ancient Olympics."