



# Globetrotter

Volume 1, Issue 3

February 2006

## Greetings

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. We are happy to welcome everyone back from his or her winter holiday. Please share your holiday stories with the teachers. We are looking forward to hearing about all of your exciting times.

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---Next year, a new TOEIC test format will be introduced. If you would like to discuss some of the changes, please be sure to ask your teacher. Also, 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).



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## Teacher Spotlight Joseph

Hi everyone, my name is Joseph Miller. You can call me Joseph, Joe, or Joey. Often times people named Joseph are called Joey when are children, but Joe or Joseph when they are older. However, any of these nicknames are fine with me.

I moved to Japan from Florida, and I have lived here for about a year and a half. Actually, this is my second time living in Japan. About 5 years ago, I was an exchange student at Meikai University in Urayasu. You might not know it, but Urayasu is the sister city of Orlando, Florida!

I love reading, photography, and tinkering with computers. I don't like cold weather though, and am very much looking forward to Spring!



# Movie Review

## The Legend of Zorro

By Alando Garcia

*The Legend of Zorro* stars Antonio Banderas as “Zorro” and Catherine Zeta-Jones as his wife, Elena de la Vega. In *The Legend of Zorro*, California is **attempting** to become the 31<sup>st</sup> American state, but there are those who are determined to **disrupt** California’s joining of the Union. So, Zorro must decide which is more important to him, to save California from the threats of violence or to be a dedicated father and family man to his wife Elena and son Joaquin.

The movie is a little more than 2 hours and **moves at a good pace**. I did not find it **dull** or **boring** but it was only **mildly** interesting also. There were many good action scenes and some really **terrific** explosions, but an equal number of unbelievable fight scenes. On the one hand, it felt like an action movie, but on the other hand it was like watching a kung fu movie with all the acrobatic but unbelievable fights. Also, there were several jokes in the movie, but I did not laugh at any of them!

However, I was rather impressed by Catherine Zeta-Jones acting performance. I think she really makes you believe that she is Zorro’s wife, a **devoted** but **spirited** woman. Antonio Banderas is good as Zorro. Not great, but good.

Overall, I found the story line entertaining and there were some good action scenes and **explosions** and I thought Catherine Zeta-Jones acting was very good, so I will score the movie a **B-**.



### 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

### The Legend of Zorro

1. **attempting** – to try and do something or to try to accomplish something
2. **disrupt** – to stop or delay something, to cause disorder or to cause problems that lead to something stopping. Similar to interrupt but disrupt has a more negative meaning.
3. **“moves at a good pace”** – American idiom which can be used to refer to how interesting or entertaining a movie is. For example, if you find the movie very interesting and entertaining, then likely the movie is moving at a good or fast pace. If the movie is dull and boring, then likely the movie is moving at a slow pace. The “pace” refers to time – a slow pace for a boring movie. A fast or good pace for an interesting movie.
4. **dull and boring** – both words have a similar meaning. They are the opposite of interesting.
5. **mildly** – something that is not too intense or not too much of something. Mildly (mild) means something that is almost neutral.
6. **terrific** – similar to very good, great or wonderful
7. **devoted** – similar meaning to loyal. It can also mean to give a lot of your time to something or someone.
8. **spirited** – to be full of spirit, forceful, a spirited person usually likes to be in charge or to fight, a spirited person may be somewhat aggressive at times.

# What do you think?

By Jennifer Yun

## Valentine's Day Comparison

IS VALENTINE'S DAY FOR ROMANCE OR SHOPPING?

Valentine's Day is celebrated a little differently in America compared to Japan. For one thing, in America, there is no White Day in March. There is only the one day, February 14<sup>th</sup>, and both genders must participate.

Having only one day to celebrate Valentine's Day makes the holiday more for women than for men. It is actually the man's job to show his love and appreciation by planning a romantic evening or giving a gift of flowers or candy or lingerie.

There is definitely a double standard attached to this holiday. If a woman does not prepare something special for the man for Valentine's Day, it is acceptable, but if the man does not prepare something romantic and special, then he will definitely be in trouble.

There is a lot of pressure associated with this holiday, which causes a lot of suffering for some. For the man, he has a lot of pressure to express his love in a tangible and unique way so that the woman may be impressed by his gesture. For the woman, she has a lot of pressure to make sure that she has a suitor who will honor her with lovely gifts that she may show off to friends or colleagues. Coworkers or people in the same office usually do not observe this holiday and nothing special is done at the company. This holiday is purely for lovers.

In my opinion, the Japanese style of celebrating Valentine's Day is fairer and everyone can participate, whether you are in a couple or not. It's a nice gesture to separate the holiday for men and women so that both may receive gifts or be honored. I feel that there is less pressure on people because generally, everyone receives chocolate or cookies at the office, so everyone is included in the festivities. In Japan, however, it seems to not really be a holiday about love, but just another reason to go shopping and give gifts. The gifts seem to have little to no significance.

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

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

## True Geisha Comments

The movie gave me some nostalgic feeling. The feeling may have been brought about from the old houses and sceneries I saw in the film. In addition, I felt pathos about Sayuri. The geisha girl was beautiful. Her beauty, her youthfulness, and probably her life may have made me feel that way. Several familiar faces were in the screen.----Isao----

At first I thought "Why do Chinese act as geishas?" I think they only wanted to use popular Asians that many Americans know. They don't care about traditional Japanese culture. I heard there are many strange scenes. For example, how to put on the Kimono was wrong. ----Chiho----

# Vocabulary Builder

## Medical Vocabulary

1. crutches = NOUN = long sticks held under the arms for support when walking
  - After I broke my leg, I had to use **crutches** to get around for two months.
2. sling = NOUN = cloth tied around the neck to hold a broken arm stable
  - After I broke my arm, I had to wear a sling for two months.
3. stitches = NOUN = sewing the skin together to repair a deep cut
  - I had to get 6 stitches after cutting myself while chopping vegetable.
4. wheelchair = NOUN = a chair with wheels
  - It is difficult to use a wheelchair when going up steep hills.
5. cast = NOUN = a hard white shell placed over an injury to all the bones to heal properly
  - It is the custom to write a message on a person's cast.

# Test Your Skills

## Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct word to complete the reading sample and answer the following comprehension questions.

### The Origin of Cupid

Cupid has long played a ( 1 ) in the celebrations of love and lovers. He is known as a mischievous, winged child, whose arrows would pierce the hearts of his victims causing them to fall deeply in love. In ancient Greece he was known as Eros the young son of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. To the Roman's he was Cupid, and his mother Venus

One legend tells the story of Cupid and the mortal maiden, Psyche. Venus, the goddess of love, was ( 2 ) of the beauty of Psyche, and ordered Cupid to punish the mortal. But instead, Cupid fell deeply in love with her. He took her as his wife, but as a mortal she was forbidden to look at him. Psyche was happy until her sisters convinced her to look at Cupid. Cupid punished her by departing. Their lovely castle and gardens vanished with him and Psyche found herself alone in an open field

As she searched for her love, she agreed to perform a ( 3 ) of tasks for Venus, each harder and more dangerous than the last. For her last task Psyche was given a little box and told to take it to the underworld. She was told to get some of the beauty of Proserpine, the wife of Pluto, and put it in the box.

Psyche was warned not to open the box. Temptation would overcome Psyche and she opened the box. But ( 4 ) of finding beauty, she found deadly slumber

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| 1. _____         | 3. _____   |
| a. role          | a. group   |
| b. teacher       | b. series  |
| c. player        | c. line    |
| 2. _____         | 4. _____   |
| a. competitive   | a. instead |
| b. interested in | b. despite |
| c. jealous       | c. however |

Which word best describes Cupid's character?

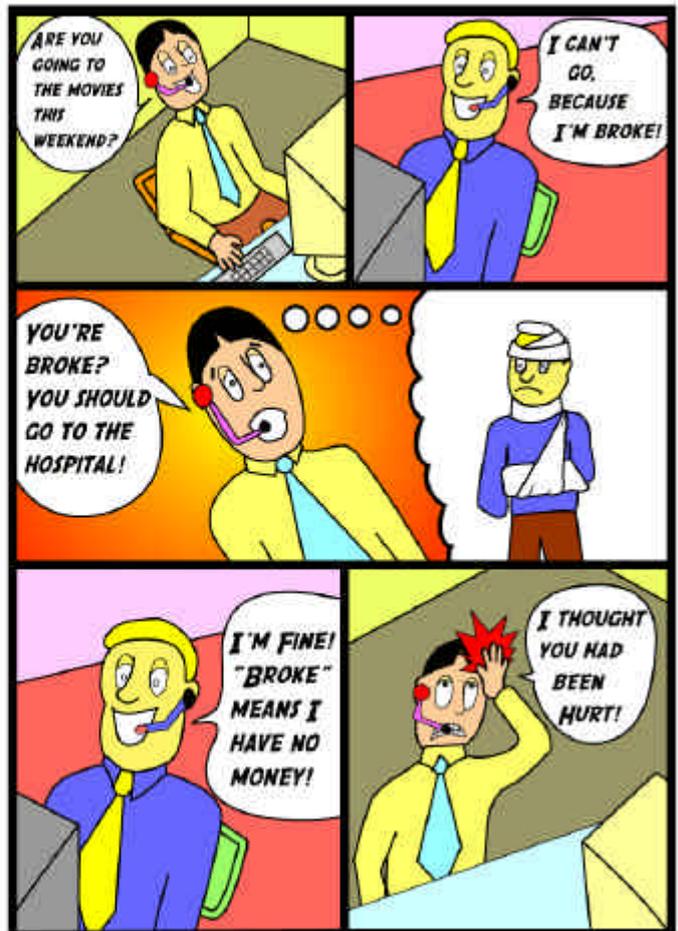
- A) obedient
- B) intolerant
- C) naive
- D) naughty

Why wasn't Psyche allowed to look at her husband?

- A) because he was too shy
- B) because he was a God
- C) because his mother wouldn't allow it
- D) because it was the traditional custom

Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A) Cupid was known to people by more than one name.
- B) Psyche was persuaded by her sisters to betray Cupid.
- C) Venus told Psyche that Cupid was in the underworld with Proserpine.
- D) Psyche opened the box because she was curious.

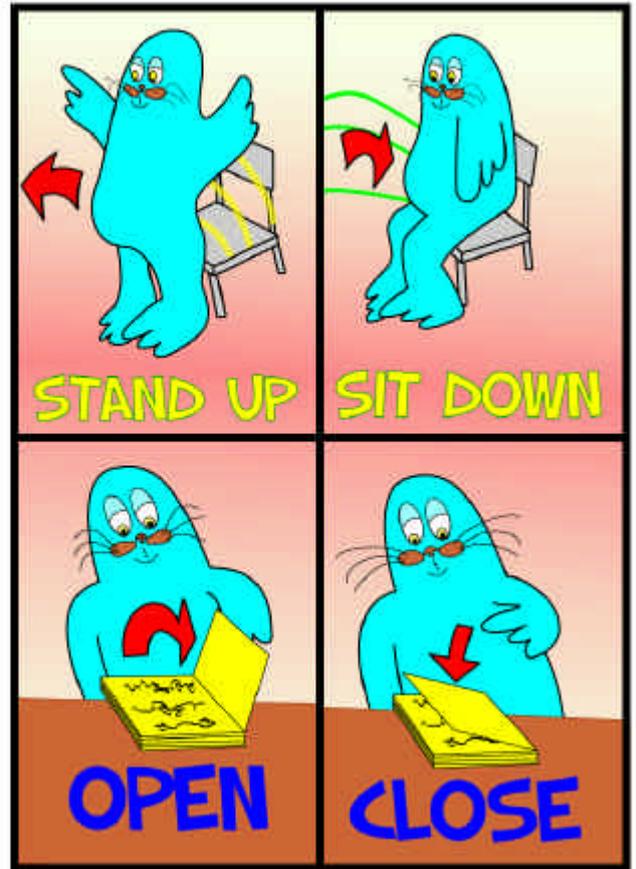


# Kids Corner

## Word Find

jump      laugh      look      play  
run      sing      swim

r e t n j r l n k s t k f  
a j u e d h o h d p b w z  
h f y x a l o g v l o i v  
y u u c k o k h f x g h y  
h u x t r t a t i a n t m  
g o a p p u n c i r o o d  
n o i m r b n h g u a l w  
i s n u o o r q o n r i o  
s h q j v r a i u h l a q  
r o i o r k t n b r a u b  
a u m p o h e s w i m z l  
t e s p s r t g m i v v a  
s p l a y d i y b t i t v  
y u f e a c h q r h m i x



## Matching Game

Draw a line from the word to its correct picture.



heart

chocolates

lips

letter



## January Answers

### Test Your Skills (pg. 4)

Fill in the Blank

1. c (agreement)
2. a (site)
3. b (widely)
4. c (well)

Multiple Choice Questions

1. b (the Confederate Army)
2. d (French food)
3. c (Mexicans)

### Which word does not belong (pg. 5)

1. truck
2. tree
3. mailman
4. rice
5. Africa

### Unscramble the Words (pg. 5)

Where was golf invented?

Scotland