

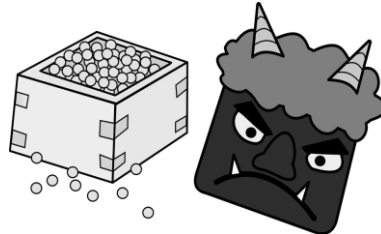
What's New?

Niihama City

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More than one English?

Tom Wilkinson

When I decided to move 10000 km across the world, from my home in England to Niihama, I expected a big culture shock. I expected to struggle with the language, customs, and the peculiarities of Japanese daily life. I did not expect, however, to struggle with my own language – English.

As a British ALT in Japan, I am faced with the surreal situation of teaching and mostly communicating in a form of English that is slightly different from the language I grew up speaking. In Japan, the English taught in schools is “American” English, and the majority of foreign English teachers in Niihama (and all of Japan) are American citizens. The influence of America and its culture around the world has allowed American English to become the most popular form of the language to learn.

British English and American English are incredibly similar – and someone learning one version should be able to understand the other with little difficulty. However, the differences in the language does make teaching and communicating in English a slightly more difficult task for a British person living in Japan.

There are numerous differences in spelling and vocabulary. For example, the sentence “I left my child's *dummy* in the *pram* and its *nappy* in the *boot*”, might be written as “I left my child's *pacifier* in the *baby carriage* and its *diaper* in the *trunk*,” by an American. This means that while I am helping teach English, I need to be aware of the spellings and words used in the textbook, so I can teach my students consistently.

A lot of the time I will teach both the British and American words. However, I am more careful with spellings (which can be very confusing for

students). I have taught myself to write many words the American way - color, center, and program, rather than colour, centre, and programme. Another difference between the British and American English is in the names of building floors. The 1st floor in America is the ground floor in England, and the 2nd floor is the 1st floor, and so on. There has been more than one occasion where I have walked to the wrong floor of my school because of this.

Living in a foreign country, and teaching a different type of English to my natural language, is a constant challenge. It is also a very enjoyable challenge! I have had many discussions/arguments with American friends over what a *biscuit* is, why I walk on the *pavement*, and why you should avoid asking a British person about their *pants*. Living in Japan is not only teaching me about Japanese culture, but about different cultures around the world!

Tom Wilkinson is an Assistant Language Teacher living in Niihama since August 2016




colour ? color? centre? center? trunk? boot?

programme? program? judgment? judgement?

Information in English & Chinese on the Web

*What's New?

*How to sort garbage and trash

Visit  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

December 23 ~	Resident Evil: The Final Chapter	2D English, 3D Dubbed
January 21 ~	SILENCE	2D English
January 27 ~	DOCTOR STRANGE	2D English / 3D Dubbed
February 3 ~	Miss Peregrines Home for Peculiar Children	3D Dubbed
February 10 ~	ALLIED	2D English
February 24 ~	La La Land	2D English
February 24 ~	xXx: The Return of Xander	2D English

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019(in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.



SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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*The editors for this month are K,Kumata & T,Oishi

☆ February Event

The 27th Niihama Global Party

Join us for an afternoon of fun performances, delicious treats and friendly conversation! If you're looking to make friends from all over the world here in our very own Niihama, come on over and join the Global Party!

Date: 2/12 (Sun.)

Time: 1:00~3:30 p.m.

Venue: Niihama Women's Plaza

4-4-19, Shonai-cho, Niihama

Tel: 0897-37-1700

Admission: 500 yen/person

Free for children age 6 and younger



If you are interested, please contact:

Niihama City Office Local Community Section

Tel: 0897-65-1218



Toy's Clinic

If you have a broken toy, please bring it to the Global Party.

Toy doctors will be waiting at one corner of the party to give your toy free treatment.



Dome Market

Meat, fresh fish, fresh fruits and vegetables directly from the farm for sale

Date: Feb. 20th (Fri.) ~ 26th (Thurs.)

Time: 10:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.

Place: Dome Niihama



Hoping that we will do a good Job in the Next Sports Festival

(From Monthly City News, December issue, 2016)

The 2016 National Sports Festival For People With Disabilities was held in Iwate Prefecture. Four athletes from Niihama participated in it and showed excellent results. They made a courtesy visit to the Mayor to report their remarkable results.

They are Mr. Hajime Siozaki, Ms. Reina Miki, Ms. Honoka Okabe, Ms. Etsuko Hisamatsu. Mr. Shiozaki said “I was so impressed by the contribution of volunteers. I’d like to cooperate with volunteer activities at the next sports festival in Ehime.

Ms. Okabe said, looking back on the festival, “I want more people to know that the National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities will be held after the National Sports Festival in Ehime. I want to do something to give more people the chance to know about the Festival. “

Food and our Life

(from Ehime Shimbun, December 1, 2016)



I enjoyed squid fishing for the first time in my life. I was excited with the feeling a strong tug on the line and the beauty of the oval squid was breathtaking. I usually buy a packaged, pre-cut squid at the store. But I timidly cut the squid with a knife thanking it for giving me its life. The bottom of the eyes shone emerald and the transparent ink bag was filled with black squid ink. I really understand that “Itadakimasu”, the Japanese expression said before a meal, means gratitude for the precious life.

This fall I was given brown rice from the terraced rice field where I took part in rice planting. I was glad to get the harvest. But I was puzzled with many questions in my mind. “How can I keep rice in my small house in the city?” “How can I polish rice?” I was embarrassed that I have no idea how to polish rice though I eat rice every day.

I had heard that the remains of the oldest field in Japan, called the Bunkyo Remains, which are from the late Jomon to the early Yayoi periods, were located at Ehime University, so I went to listen to the briefing session about it. It was as small as a backyard vegetable garden, 10 meters in width. Researches discovered that ancient people used their hands to loosen the soil and cultivated the land. It is a pity that the cultivated vegetables or agriculture tools have not been found. When I think of the ancient people cultivating the field deliberately 2500 years ago, I cannot help imagining a lot of things. They must have shared the food from the small field with their family members.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“場”と“場”

A : 今度の日曜日にグローバルパーティーがあるんですが、
行ってみませんか。Kondo no nichiyōbi ni gurobaru pāti ga
Arun desu ga, ittemimasen ka. (The Global Party will be this coming
Sunday. How about going?)

B : 場所は どこですか。Basho wa doko desu ka.
(Where will it be held?)

A : ウィメンズプラザで、会場は 3階です。
Wimenzu puraza de, kaijō wa sangai desu.
(At Women's Plaza; the venue is the 3rd floor.)

駐車場が あまり ないので、乗り合わせて 行きましょうか。

Chūshajō ga amari nai node, noriawasete ikimashō ka.
(The parking lot isn't very big, so shall we go in the same car?)

C : 私は家が近いので、自転車で 行きますね。

Watashi wa ie ga chikai node, jitensha de ikimasu ne.
(My house is nearby, so I'll go by bicycle.)

A : 自転車置き場は、建物の南側に ありますよ。

Jitensha okiba wa tatemono no minamigawa ni arimasu yo.
(The bicycle parking is on the south side of the building.)



A : 最近、マラソン大会に 出場する 人が 増えて きましたね。

Saikin, marason taikai ni shutsujō suru hito ga fuete kimashita ne.
(Recently the number of runners taking part in marathon races has
increased, hasn't it?)

B : 実は、わたしも 今年の 愛媛マラソンに 出るんです。

Jitsu wa watashi mo kotoshi no ehime marason ni derun desu.
(Actually I'm also going to take part in the Ehime Marathon this year.)

A : えーっ！ すごいですね。 Ee! Sugoi desu ne. (Really?! That's great!!)

A : 日帰りバス旅行に 行きませんか。

Higaeri basu ryokō ni ikimasen ka.
(How about going on a day-trip by bus?)

B : どこから 乗るんですか。Doko kara norun desu ka.

(Where do you catch the bus?)

A : 駅の 東側の バス乗り場です。Eki no higashigawa no basu noriba
desu. (At the bus stop on the east side of the station.)



「ば」・・・乗り場 置き場 売り場 広場 場所

「じょう」・・・駐車場 駐輪場 運動場 会場 式場 出場

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

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