

VIVA! ひめじ

English

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The newsletters for foreign residents

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Himeji Cultural and International Exchange
Foundation newsletter editing volunteers

<People> Mr. Kevin Nel

Kevin is from Benoni, a town near Johannesburg, South Africa and is currently employed as an assistant language teacher for the JET program since July 2017. He teaches at elementary and junior high schools in Himeji.



Q: Please tell us about your home town.

A: Benoni is a beautiful town located around 40 km away from Johannesburg.

South Africa is in the southern hemisphere with the seasons reversed compared to Japan. 11 official languages are spoken in South Africa with the main language of communication being English.

Q: What made you interested in Japan?

A: I learned Karate, when I was small. But I became busy and gradually stopped. I was influenced by my KARATE-DOU and Japanese culture. I majored in Industrial design at the University of Johannesburg. Through my studies, I was impressed with the creativity and history of Japanese design which follows a functional and simple design approach. I think average Japanese houses are smaller than houses in South Africa. Japanese manufacturers develop and produce products (electrical appliance and furniture) suitable for smaller houses which are functional and compact in size. It is really awesome. After completing my studies, I visited Japan twice as a tourist. Later I became interested in the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program. My twin brother is also a JET ALT in Sapporo. We have very similar interests and sometimes we get together when we're able to.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: I love taking photos and travelling. I've visited Kyoto, Ohmi Hachiman in Shiga prefecture and various other places in Japan. During one of my visits to Awaji Island, I took my bicycle to enjoy cycling and taking photos of Awaji's beautiful scenery. I would like to cycle Shimanami Kaido in Hiroshima prefecture one day.

Q: What are your dreams for the future?

A: I would like to open either a cafe, a furniture company, or a school through my networks in Japan and South Africa. My ideal cafe is to provide delicious unique cuisine and provide a stylish space for customers. I would like to incorporate my personally designed furniture in my own cafe. The aim for my school is educating students to open their creative potential and to realize their ideas.

Let's go out!



❁ Himeji-shi Shizen Kansatsu no Mori (Himeji City Nature Observing Forest)

8 km of nature observing paths are available in the 60 hectare site. You can even see the Inland Sea on the observation platform, if the weather is fine. At the on-site Nature Center, you can get a forest map, use a binocular microscope free of charge (for school children and seniors), and see panel exhibitions, books, and a corner of real animal bones (such as deer) that you can touch. A ranger, or nature commentator will guide you around the forest in the nature observing events. For more information about the daily program and access, please refer to the following website.

Opening hours: 9 am ~ 4:30 pm (Free of charge for entering and parking)

Closed: Mondays (Or Tuesday, in the case a national holiday falls on Monday)

Access: Get off at Yobe station on the JR Kishin Line. It takes about 10 minutes to walk to the entrance of the walking path, and about 50 minutes to the Nature-Center (Forest maps are available at the information desks of Himeji and Yobe stations.)

Alternatively, get on the Shinki bus bound for "Ooichi" at Himeji Station (north exit) and get off at "Shizen-Kansatsu-no-Mori".

Address: 〒671-2233 915-6 Ooichi, Naka, Himeji-shi TEL: 079-269-1260

Homepage: <http://park15.wakwak.com/~himeji/top/top.htm>

❁ Yumesaki no Mori Park

The park has plenty of greenery and water surrounded by the mountains. The promenades and observation platforms are maintained well. You can always walk around freely.

Many forms of life can be observed at places like the watersides of "Tsuhoji-ike".

Main events:

Monthly mountain-climbing (on the first Saturday)

May 3rd: "Let's enjoy mountain-climbing in the fresh green" (Application required.)

May 4th: "Fresh Green Festival", handmade market, sales of vegetables produced locally, concerts, walk rally, and so on.

Besides that, there are often events for handicrafts and flower arrangement.

For more details, please refer to "Information of the programs in April ~ June" delivered at City Hall, the Citizen Center, libraries, or the following homepage.

Opening hours: 9 am ~ 6 pm in May ~ August (5 pm in September ~ April)

Closed: Mondays (Or Tuesday, in the case a national holiday falls on Monday)

Access: Get on the Shinki bus bound for "Mae-no-shou" or "Yama-no-uchi" at Himeji station (north exit) and get off at "Mata-saka". It takes a 40 minute walk.

Address: 〒671-2116 2160-2 Yumesakicho-tera, Himeji-shi TEL: 079-337-3220

Homepage: <http://www.yumesakinomori.server-shared.com/index.html>

★ Please take lunches and drinks with you because of no restaurants and shops in the both sites.

Don't take out any animals or plants.

Fire is prohibited.

Let's go out in the clothes with long sleeves and trousers for walking easily.



Let's stroll around Himeji Castle!

We have more chances for outings as it is getting warmer these days. Why not visit some facilities around the castle?

《🦒Himeji City Zoo》

Located next to the castle, you can tour the zoo looking at over 100 kinds of animals such as elephants, giraffes, and flamingos while viewing the castle. You can also enjoy some rides like a Ferris wheel, a train, and so on at the amusement area for an extra charge. The zoo has another section where you can touch or cuddle some animals.

【Hours】 10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm (no entry after 4:30 pm)

【Fee】 Adult: 200 yen, Child: 30 yen, Student (Age 5 to Junior High School): 30 yen.



《☆Himeji Art Museum》

The museum features red bricks. It displays works of artists who have some ties with Hyogo prefecture. Art from the sister-city in Belgium is also exhibited.

【Hours】 10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm (no entry after 4:30pm)

【Closed】 Mondays (Or Tuesday, in the case a national holiday falls on Monday)

【Fee for permanent exhibition】 Adult: 200 yen, High school & College students: 150 yen, Elementary & Junior High School students: 100 yen



《🏰Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History》

First floor, no-charge section You can enjoy a historical virtual theater, and you can dress-up in a suit of armor or a twelve-layered ceremonial kimono (three times a day, one person at a time by a random draw, free of charge). A small size for kids is available as well.

Second floor, section with fee You can learn a lot about Japanese history and culture on-hand at sections like “Festivals in Hyogo”, “Himeji Castle and its old town”, “Museum for Kids”, etc.

【Hours】 10:00am ~ 5:00pm (no entry after 4:30pm)

【Closed】 Mondays (Or Tuesday, in the case a national holiday falls on Monday)

【Fee for the second floor】 Adult: 200 yen, College student: 150 yen, Elementary & Junior High School students: free

※Extra charge for a special exhibition.



《🌸Shirotopia Memorial Park》

This area has served as a park since it was used as a site for Himeji Shirotopia Exhibition in 1989. It has an open stage along with a large lawn area, from where the castle's main tower is seen. You can enjoy cherry blossoms and the fresh greenery to your heart's content during the season. Try walking on the path of “foot acupuncture points” laid with stones of various size and shape. Stimulating your soles on this path is believed to be good for the health.



Let's Get Prepared For Emergency of Disasters!

~ What is the "Rolling Stock Method"? ~

The "Rolling Stock Method" is a method of how to reserve daily consumables, such as food and drink, to prepare for disasters. Simply buy and keep a little more food and daily items in stock than usual, and use it in order of purchase, and you won't need to buy anything extra for an emergency. You can also add whatever you need to your stockpiling at the time of an emergency, such as a long-term preservation food (see below). Let's try it!

◆Processes and Rules of the “Rolling Stock Method”

① Stockpiling

【Food and Water Examples】

- Water
- Rice, rice cakes, noodles
- Pre-cooked foods
- Convenience foods
- Dried foods
- Cookies

【Required Minimum Amount】

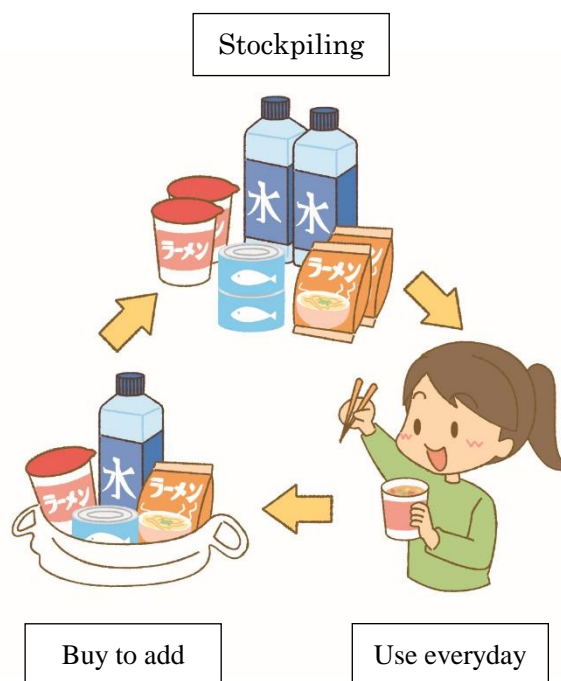
- Water: 3ℓ × 6 days × family members
- Food: 3 meals × 3 days × family members

② Use it everyday

※Use stockpiled products in the order of purchase. (Keep freshness in your stockpiling)

③ Buy to add

※Top up the supply to recover what you used. (Keep the required amounts in your stockpiling)



◆Apply it to other daily consumables

- Portable gas stoves and gas cartridges
 - So you can cook when lifelines stop.
- Newspapers, cling wraps, plastic bags
 - When you cannot wash dishes, craft an emergency dish using newspaper, and cover with cling wrap or a plastic bag.
- Batteries, wet paper towels, disposable warmers, etc.



◆Try it everyday

Let's make recipes by using stockpiled supplies (canned food etc.) for cooking.



What does this word mean?



Have you ever heard a word frequently, but not been able to work out what it meant, even after looking it up in the dictionary?

We can answer these questions!

FILE 4

「^く食う」 *Kuu* = eat, take time or money, make a living, receive an undesirable act, etc.

You probably think of food when you hear the word "*taberu*" or "*kuu*" (eat).

But there are lot of meanings in "*kuu*" and it may be used in a meaning totally different from food.

Let us introduce some words you might hear often.

① 「^{みちくさ}道草を^く食う」 *Michikusa o kuu*

= Hang around on the way to a destination and spend some time.

ex) ^{みちくさ}道草を^く食ってないで、^{はや}早く^{かえ}帰ってきてね。

Michikusa o kuttenaide hayaku kaette kitene.

/ Do not hang around on the way, come back soon

② 「^{おな}同じ^{かま}釜の^{めし}飯を^く食う」 *Onajikama no meshi o kuu*

= Close relationship that shares trouble by living together or working at the same place.

ex) ^{わたし}私たちは^{ながねん}長年^{おな}同じ^{かま}釜の^{めし}飯を^く食った^{なか}仲だ。

Watashitachi wa naganen onajikama no meshi o kutta nakada.

/ We are close friends who shared trouble for a long time.)

③ 「^ひ冷や^{めし}飯を^く食う」 *Hiyameshi o kuu*

= Receive cold treatment.

ex) ^{しほくば}職場で^{みす}ミスをしてから、^ひずっと^{めし}冷や^{めし}飯を^く食っている。

Shokubade misu o shite kara, zutto Hiyameshi o kutteiru.

/ I am getting cold treatment since I made mistake at work.

④ 「^く食って^かかかる」 *Kutte kakaru*

= Argue, resist in an intense manner and tone.

ex) ^{かれ}彼は^{おこ}怒って^{わたし}私に^く食って^かかかってきた。

Karewa okotte watashi ni kutte kakatte kita.

/ He started argue with me in a fury.

Please tell us if you have any words which you can't understand. Contact us at the address written at the end of the last page.

☆☆Information about the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation☆☆

◆Japanese course for foreign residents in 2018 (First phase - 10 lessons: May to July)

Professional instructors teach elementary level Japanese (grammar, conversation, reading and writing).

<Class>: Elementary A to F, Elementary and Intermediate,
Intermediate (8 classes)

<Capacity>: 20 students per class

<Tuition fee>: 3,000 yen (10 lessons)

<Venue>: 4th floor, Egret Himeji Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Center

<Application>: Application required in advance

※We accept your application in person at the contact office written below

<Application date>: Available on April 1st



※※ Editor's Postscript ※※

Hi, folks. The new school year will begin soon. As for my family, we have two school entrance ceremonies.

My eldest son wears a bigger size school uniform and my eldest daughter wears a bigger Japanese school bag on her back.

Two of them are looking forward to going to school. I am also anxious about many new things every day. Your children may be in the same situation. If you have any troubles in your daily life, please feel free to contact us.

We will answer them in “VIVA! ひめじ” articles and welcome your requests.

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These names are used with the contributors' permission.

Their assistance is much appreciated.

You can read back numbers of “VIVA! ひめじ” at the website of the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation (International Exchange Section)(<http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/>).

The next issue of “VIVA! ひめじ” will be available in June. Don't miss it! We invite your comments and suggestions. We are always looking for translators and native speakers to assist us with translating and proofreading upcoming editions of “VIVA! ひめじ”. If you are interested, please contact us at the following address.

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