

# LANI・CAFÉ だより



September 2018

2018年9月号

## Short Interviews with English Teachers at Aichi University

Overall, there are around 30 or more foreign language teachers working full-time or part-time at Aichi University.

For this edition of the Language Café newsletter, four of the English teachers (myself included) will share with you some personal information about ourselves, our hometowns, and our experiences living in Japan. Finally, each of us will then offer you some advice about how to make the most of your time at the Language Café.

*The four teachers include: Michael Boyce, April Day, Peter Lyons, and Anthony Young.*

Just to make it fun, you will not know which answer belongs to which teacher. Try and guess! You can make a game out of it with other students sitting with you at the Language Cafe. The answers are on the bottom of the next page, but no cheating! Only check the answers after you have tried to match each of the responses to one of the teachers. Good luck!

### Question 1) Where are you from and what is it like?

- My home town is a place called Brisbane. It has a population of about 2 million people. It has a big Asian population so there are many great Thai and Vietnamese restaurants.
- My hometown is Birmingham in the U.K. It is the second largest city, and while it may not have many must-see sights, its friendly people and multi-cultural style make it a vibrant, bustling city.
- My hometown is a small town on the Sunshine Coast. It has beautiful beaches, lakes and a river and it is

very popular with tourists.

- I was born in Vancouver, but after living in Hamamatsu for over twenty years, I think of Hamamatsu as my hometown.

### Question 2) What is one word to describe yourself?

- Persistent. I have been told that I can be very persistent when I find something that I believe is important.
- Friendly. I like to think I'm approachable so anybody can come and talk to me if they have any problems or questions. I also like to think I'm a good listener and can offer some good advice.
- I would say I am easygoing. I like to be organized but I try not to let little things worry me.
- I would describe myself as creative, because I write short stories and sometimes poetry.

### Question 3) Why did you first come to Japan?

- I first came to Japan on holiday. I had taught a lot of Japanese students in Australia and from what they told me, Japan sounded like an interesting place so I came here for three weeks.
- I came over here as an exchange student. My major at school was Japanese.
- I first came to Japan for adventure. When I came here there was very little information about this area, and there was no internet. Every day in Shizuoka was a big adventure.

- My family is full of teachers going back for generations. I always thought I'd become a school teacher, but decided to come to Japan for just a year to try language teaching and have a great experience – that was seventeen years ago!

**Question 4) What has been the best thing about living here?**

- The best thing about living in Hamamatsu is that we can easily go to the ocean or the mountains. I like spending time outside, so it is perfect for me.
- The best thing for me has been the opportunity to live my life the way I want to live it. I have done many things in Japan like playing in a band and owning my own business. I'm not sure I'd have done so much living in the U.K.
- The food is one of the best things for me. I love seafood but it is usually too expensive to buy in Australia. Here I could eat seafood every day if I wanted to.
- I love how Japan is both highly developed and very tradition at the same time. The differences make Japan a very interesting place to live.

**Question 5) What do you find is a good way to try and improve your Japanese?**

- As soon as I hear an interesting new word on TV I try to say use it in a sentence myself. I find that gives me the best chance to remember it.
- My Japanese is terrible because I haven't had much time to study yet, but when I learnt Chinese, I found that the best way to practice and gain confidence was to go out and

use the language every day, not only in class.

- I first started learning Japanese through aikido and surfing. I think that finding something that you love doing, and then doing it in the language that you are studying is the best way to learn.
- Don't worry too much about the grammar and focus on collecting the vocabulary. Don't just write things down, but aim to use them in conversation – only then do you really know the word.

**Question 6) What advice would you give students who come to the LC?**

- It does not matter how good your English is. What matters is how long you can keep yourself speaking only in English. That is the challenge!
- The Language Café is a place where everyone is welcome. Your English doesn't need to be great to try and communicate with people. Just come and try!
- Take risks and say things in English, even if you're not sure they are correct. Also, borrow DVDs to watch and books to read in English.
- I think that being willing to make mistakes is the best advice that I can give to all students joining us in the Language Cafe.

***The answers to the questions:***

- Q1) Anthony Y., Peter L., April D., Mike B.  
 Q2) Mike B., Peter L., Anthony Y., April D.  
 Q3) April D., Anthony Y., Mike B., Peter L.  
 Q4) Mike B., Peter L., April D., Anthony Y.  
 Q5) Anthony Y., April D., Mike B., Peter L.  
 Q6) Anthony Y., Peter L., April D., Mike B.*

*Written by Anthony Young*

2018年9月  
LANGUAGE・CAFÉ 5限の部 プログラム

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 EC Introduction  Mark Campbell	15
16	17 EC Course Overview, introductions  April Eve Day	18 CF 休暇はどうだった?  Régis Olivero	19 EC Course Overview, introductions  April Eve Day	20	21 EC How to agree and disagree  Mark Campbell	22
23	24 EC Introducing yourself and other people  April Eve Day	25 CF 経歴についてインタビューする  Régis Olivero	26 EC Listening and responding  April Eve Day CINE CLUB	27	28 EC How to express your opinion  Mark Campbell	29
30	<p>EC=English Café CF=Café français CINE CLUB プログラムは変更することがあります。</p>					

LANGUAGE・CAFÉ 昼休みの部 : English Café 月・火・水・金 中文茶座 火 Caf  fran ais 金  
Peter/April/Michael/ Tony/Kuniyoshi/Staci 張 筱平 Olivero