

Please note: Though I would like you to talk about the topics I have chosen below, if you do not wish to talk about any of them, feel free to choose your own topic.

May: Self-Introduction Practice

Once again, it's time for us to say G'day (the Australian way of saying "hi") to each other!

Even though many of you may already know each other, please introduce yourself! Introducing yourself is an important skill and needs to be practiced...

Introductions don't have to be serious. They can include humor, too...

If you like, you can talk about your hobbies, where you grew up, some of your experiences when growing up, what you have done or are doing for work, and so on.

Of course, we'd all like to know what your plans are for this year...

If your introduction is short, feel free to talk about any topic that you'd like to introduce to us...

June: Making New Friends!

I think one of the reasons you joined this English Salon is because you want to improve your English conversation ability. That also may mean that you like talking!

Do you find it easy to start conversations with strangers? When you meet a stranger for the first time, do you start the conversation or do you wait for the other person to begin talking?

Have you made any good friends through the chance meeting of strangers in Japan or overseas? If you have, tell us about the situation or situations.

Feel free to talk about any other topic, if you like.

July: Is AI Good or Bad for Our Lives?

Have you been using AI? Has it improved your life? Has it made your life easier?

Tell us about your experiences with AI. What AI service or services do you use? How often do you use AI? Do you use it every day? What have you used it for? Has it made mistakes? Have you had any problems with AI?

If you have not used AI, feel free to talk about any other topic.

September: Music in Your Life

Tell us about your musical interests. What kind of music do you like? Have your musical interests changed?

Do you like the same kind of music that you listen to when you were a teenager or even as a young adult? Is there a particular song or piece of music that you never tire of listening to?

When you were young, did you play a musical instrument? Do you play a musical instrument now?

How about karaoke? Do you enjoy singing with friends? Do you have a repertoire of English songs that you can sing?

If music is not an important part of your life, feel free to talk about any other topic.

October: Pets

At different times while I was growing up, my family had several pets: dogs, cats, tortoises, and I even had a large lizard!

Did you have pets when you were growing up? Do you have a pet or pets now? Tell us about your pets, past and present, and your experiences with them.

If you've never had a pet and don't want to have one now, feel free to talk about any topic that interests you.

November: Disasters

On 11 March 2011, the Tohoku region of Japan was struck by the most powerful earthquake recorded in Japanese history!

Where were you on that fateful day? What were you doing at the time? How were you personally affected? Were any members of your family affected?

Are you well prepared for Japan's next earthquake? How have you prepared? Give us your recommendations.

December: The Year In Review

What kind of year did you have this year? Looking back, was it a good year for you?

Were you able to do all the things you wanted? Tell us some of the things that you achieved. Tell us some of the troubles you had or the mistakes you made. What were you disappointed with?

Feel free to talk about your family members, too... Perhaps your children or grandchildren did something to make you proud or disappointed.

January: Keeping Healthy In Winter

Winter is the season of coughs, colds, fevers, and aches and pains!

Do you do anything special to keep healthy in winter? Do you eat any special foods, drink any special drinks, or take any supplements like vitamin C? What are your secrets to keeping healthy in winter?

Also, as everyone knows, exercise is also important for keeping healthy, but when it's cold outside, it can be difficult to exercise. Please share any hints that you might have for keeping active and fit in winter.

February: Humor In Your Life

In English, we have an expression, "Laughter is the best medicine."

Is there a humorous program on TV that you regularly watch? Do you watch rakugo (落語) on TV or do you go to live performances?

I've been to yose (寄席) performances in Asakusa and Ueno several times. Of course, I couldn't understand everything, but nevertheless, I found myself laughing many times! Do you sometimes go to yose performances?

Tell us about some humorous events that you experienced in your life... If someone is unhappy, what do you do to cheer them up?

If this topic is not suitable for you, feel free to talk about any topic.

March: Any Topic You Like!!

This is your chance to talk about whatever you want!

Feel free to talk about whatever interests you. We'll be "all ears."