

GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d & W e s t w o o d

WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF

Hey Oliver, I'm writing to you from 10 years in the future. There are a few things I want to tell you, but before I start, remember that everything you're doing is great! School might be challenging for you right now, but don't worry. You will excel in high school and make mom and dad proud. Another thing to remember is that you may lose some friends, and that's completely okay because the few true friends will stick by your side. By the way, you should advise Dad to invest a significant amount of money in Bitcoin. Trust me, you won't regret it. But coming back to the main point, don't worry too much about friends or family members. Focus more on yourself and what you want to do in the future. I only recently figured out what I want to do, less than a year ago, so it would be better for you to figure it out a bit earlier. Anyway, you won't make any major mistakes in your life, so enjoy it in your own way! Best wishes, older Oliver.

By Oliver Wohkittel



WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF

You have been dancing for approximately 7 years, and you will continue dancing for the next 17 years. However, your current aspiration is to become a pastry chef, whereas during high school, you will have a desire to become a PE teacher. It seems like you have limited time available due to dancing six days a week. Wednesdays after school are the only free time you have, and you are unable to watch TV or hang out with your friends. Despite this, it's crucial for you to continue dancing because it will provide you with a full exemption to attend high school. So, if you want to spend time with your friends, it is important to keep dancing. Once you graduate from high school, you will receive full exemption, and as a teacher, you will receive numerous offers from different schools. You will have the freedom to choose the school you want to work for. Looking back, the only significant memory I have from my teenage years is dancing.

By Minayo Senko





MY HOMETOWN

I currently live in LA, but my original hometown is Osaka. Osaka is recognized as the second most urban city in Japan after Tokyo. In the United States, it's often compared to how Tokyo is like New York, and Osaka is like LA.

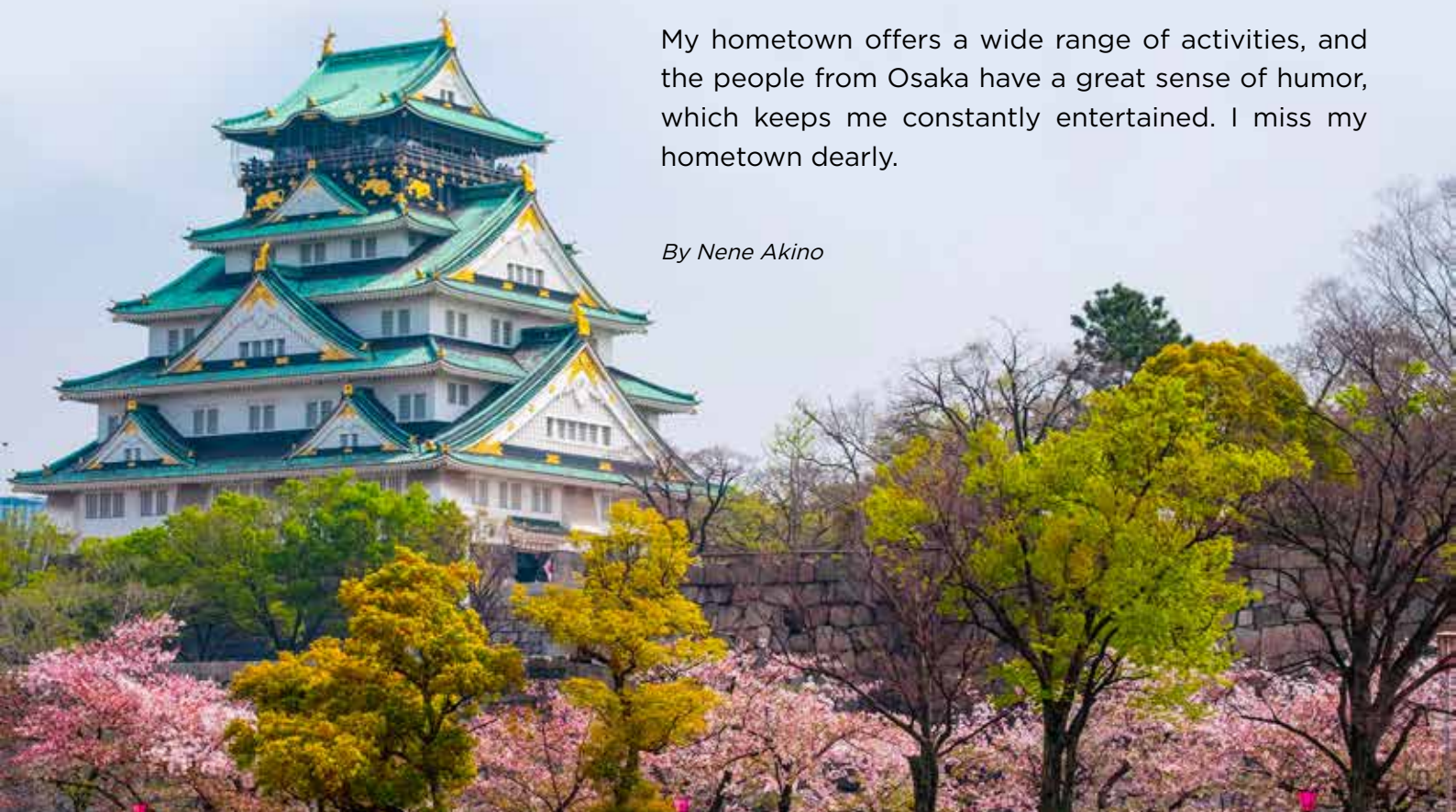
First, as mentioned earlier, Osaka is a big city with a relatively small size. While it is considered urban, it's actually the second smallest city in Japan in terms of area. However, there are numerous activities available for people to enjoy, including malls, restaurants, and even Universal Studios. Despite being a sizable city, it is not as crowded as Tokyo, making it an easy place to live.

Second, Osaka is renowned for its comedy scene, attracting many comedians. It's not only comedians, but also clerks, waiters, and other individuals involved in the entertainment industry.

Lastly, Osaka is famous for its flavorful cuisine, including popular dishes like Takoyaki, Okonomiyaki, and Kushikatsu. When visiting Osaka, people have the opportunity to try Takoyaki from various shops while strolling around.

My hometown offers a wide range of activities, and the people from Osaka have a great sense of humor, which keeps me constantly entertained. I miss my hometown dearly.

By Nene Akino





Some people believe that online customer reviews are a reliable way to assess the quality of businesses, while others argue that directly talking to past customers is a better method for understanding the credibility of establishments.

In my opinion, relying on customer reviews online is a more dependable approach to evaluate the quality of a business. Here, I will provide a few reasons to support my viewpoint.

Firstly, online customer reviews offer the most realistic way to obtain feedback on the majority of products available on the internet, whether it be during online shopping or when trying a new service in a different location. It is highly unlikely for an individual to have direct contact with a past customer of a specific business they wish to try. For instance, I recently relocated to a new city and needed to find a tailor to fix a pair of pants. Since I didn't have any friends or acquaintances in the area who could provide recommendations, referring to Google Maps and online reviews became the only reliable solution.

Secondly, customer reviews online provide a broad range of feedback, as it is often possible to find multiple reviews for a particular product or service. Imagine a scenario where an individual has direct contact with a past customer of a service. It is possible that this previous customer enjoyed the service, such as a barber, based solely on personal preferences, without considering objective factors. However, another customer might not have the same positive experience due to the barber being too slow or talkative. By examining online reviews, one can mitigate such biases, as multiple reviews typically present a more comprehensive picture of the service or product, facilitating decision-making by considering all aspects.

In conclusion, I consider online reviews to be a more convenient and comprehensive means of acquiring information about the quality of a business.

By Tatsiana Sukhanos



ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF REMOTE JOBS

I am in favor of remote jobs. I had never considered them before COVID-19 became a global issue, but recently, some companies have made remote work their main focus. For my next job, I also want to find a position that allows me to work remotely. In my opinion, remote jobs offer several benefits. Firstly, if your job can be done remotely, you can work from anywhere, even if you live in another country. I believe this is a strong point, especially for people in international marriages. For instance, if you live in the USA but cannot speak English fluently, you can choose a job that uses your native language. Secondly, not having to commute to the office can save you a significant amount of time. Traffic jams and crowded trains are common occurrences in America, causing stress for many people when going to the office. Eliminating this commute time can lead to improved job performance. In conclusion, opting for a remote job allows you the flexibility to work from various locations and saves valuable time. As technology continues to develop, remote job opportunities will likely increase worldwide.

By Saya Ohnishi



HAS ANYBODY HAD A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON YOUR LIFE?

A person who has profoundly influenced me is Kenny Ortega. He is a filmmaker, tour manager, and choreographer. I first learned about him when I was ten years old after watching "High School Musical," a movie he directed in 2006. As a child, I used to watch Disney Channel instead of Japanese TV programs, and this sparked my curiosity about American life. When I saw the movie, I was captivated by the lives of American high school students, and it fueled my desire to study abroad, which eventually brought me to the US. Kenny Ortega played a significant role in making me appreciate American culture even more. Over the years, I have watched other movies that he has directed, and what I love about them is not only their captivating stories but also the delightful songs and dances. I still listen to the soundtracks, and I have even tried to dance along to them, albeit with limited success!



HIGH
SCHOOL
MUSICAL

I had the incredible opportunity to see Kenny Ortega in person during a visit to Japan. Though I only caught a glimpse of him from afar, it was a thrilling moment for me as he was a superstar in my eyes.

If I were to meet him again someday, I would want to express my gratitude for the impact he has had on my life. I eagerly anticipate his future projects and look forward to watching his new movies.

By Rina Yamao



MY JOURNEY IN LEARNING ENGLISH

Speaking English fluently was a significant obstacle in my life. English classes in Korea mostly focused on preparing for the university entrance exam, which only covered the listening and reading parts. Although I achieved a high score on the exam, I had no opportunity to learn speaking at school. As a result, I could barely communicate with others in English during travel or business trips. Realizing my low English speaking skills, I decided to take conversation classes with native instructors to practice speaking.

Initially, I couldn't even describe simple situations using pictures. There were several reasons why I struggled with speaking. One of the main reasons was that I couldn't instantly translate Korean words into English when forming sentences, as I didn't need to do so when practicing the reading part for the exam. However, with consistent practice on various topics, I started becoming more accustomed to using different words and expressions.

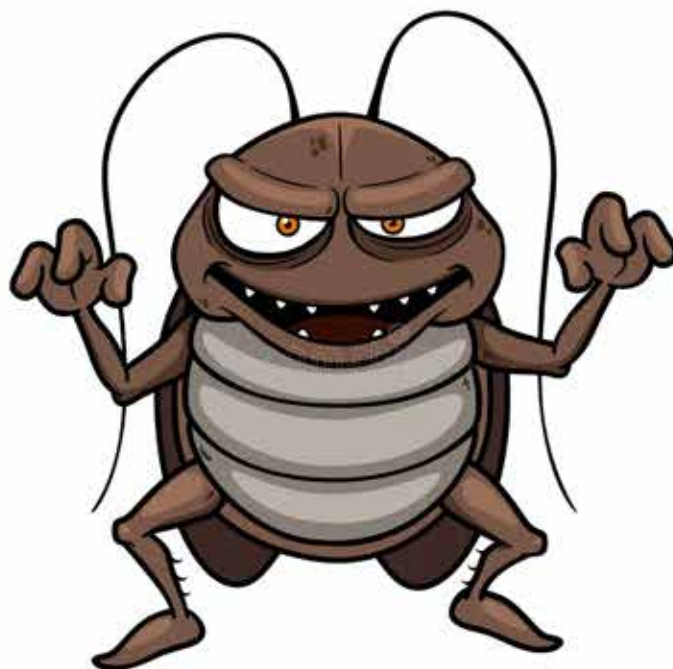
In this ESL class, my goal is to further expand my English expressions to be able to use them confidently in everyday conversations.

By Jiyoung Hwang

WHAT IS A SCARY DREAM THAT YOU REMEMBER

I'm going to write about my scary dream. Four days ago, I had a very bad dream in which a big cockroach chased me. I tried to escape from this giant cockroach multiple times, but my efforts were futile. To make matters worse, there was nobody around to ask for help. The dream seemed to repeat itself several times, intensifying my fear. When I woke up, I was still feeling frightened, and my face had turned pale. One of my roommates rushed over to me and asked if I was okay. I shared the story with her. This is my most recent scary experience, and I hope I never have to go through it again for the rest of my life.

By Fuka Nakamura



HAVE YOU EVER HAD A PARANORMAL EXPERIENCE?

Yes, I have felt really scared. It happened one night during my vacation in Rio Bamba. I traveled from Guido to Rio Bamba to enjoy the carnival festivities. My cousins accompanied me on this trip, and throughout the day, we had a blast playing with water balloons, covloca, and other games. As the night fell, we came up with the idea to visit the cemetery at 3:00 a.m. Initially, it seemed like a fun and adventurous plan, but as we entered by jumping over the walls, the atmosphere turned eerie, quiet, and heavy.

We felt a mixture of normal excitement and slight fear, but nothing too alarming. We were laughing and joking until we suddenly got the unnerving feeling that someone was watching us. It was around 3:40 a.m. when we heard a strange noise coming from behind us. Curiosity got the better of us, and we decided to investigate. To our astonishment, we saw something moving inside one of the graves. In Ecuador, some graves have transparent crystals, allowing you to see inside. This sight scared us to the core, and we immediately sprinted towards the exit, trying to get away from the eerie scene as fast as possible.

We were incredibly scared, and the events of that night haunted our thoughts. None of us could sleep, and all day long, we kept pondering what it was that we had seen in the cemetery.

By David Cevallos

