

GAZETTE

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

LOVE, AN ART TO BE LEARNED



Love may seem like a natural emotion for everyone. We dream of fateful love at first sight, just like in movies and novels. But as the German psychologist and social philosopher Erich Fromm once said, "Love is not a mere feeling, but an art that must be learned." If that's the case, why must we learn to love?

According to Fromm, Love is something we do, not something we fall into. Many people perceive love as an intense emotion, believing that once the feeling fades, love ends. However, true love goes beyond emotion; it begins with action. Only when we take responsibility for our partner, try to understand them, and make continuous efforts can love deepen and have true meaning.

Also, Love is about giving, not receiving. When we love, we often ask ourselves, 'What can I gain from this?' This could be emotional comfort, devotion, or even material things. However, love is not a transaction; it is complete only when we are ready to give freely, without expecting anything in return. The most important thing for this is knowing how to love ourselves first. Love should not be a means to fill an inner void. Only when we grow into whole individuals can we experience love that is truly fulfilling.

Humans cannot live without love. Through love for friends, family, and a loved one, we grow, and in that process, life itself becomes more complete. But before we can love another, we must first be ready to love.

Now, we should ask ourselves, "Am I ready to love?"



By Soyeong

GRATEFUL FOR LOVE AND LIFE

This past Valentine's Day was the first time my boyfriend and I spent this special date together. Two weeks ago, we had a car accident, but thanks to God, we are safe. Although we still have some body aches and our car was damaged, we are deeply grateful to God because we have life and good health. For now, we don't have a car, which makes things a bit difficult since we are limited as to where we can go (even though we do not live together).

Even so, we decided to celebrate in a simple but meaningful way. Last Friday, our "Valentine's date" was going to therapy together and then we ate tacos for dinner, one of our favorite foods. It was at a special place because, when we were getting to know each other, we used to have dinner there. Later, we watched one of our favorite movies, and that is how our day ended.

In my opinion, Love and Friendship Day shouldn't be celebrated just once a year but every single day. However, we often forget the true meaning of love and do the opposite. True love isn't just about happy moments or gifts; it's about being there for each other in hard times, supporting one another, having faith together, and being grateful even in the middle of challenges. God has shown us his love in every detail of our lives, and it's our duty to reflect that love with everybody.

By Lesli



VALENTINE'S DAY IN MEXICO

In Mexico, El Día del Amor y la Amistad (Valentine's Day) is celebrated on February 14th too, and it is a very special day for both couples and friends. In many schools and offices, the famous "Secret Friend" tradition takes place, where each person receives a surprise gift from someone else. It is also very common for people to write letters or send beautiful messages to express their love and gratitude to their loved ones.

Something I find beautiful about this day is the tradition of serenades. In many parts of Mexico, some people surprise their partners with mariachi or musicians who sing romantic songs under their window. It is a gesture full of love and tradition.

By Lesli



LIVING IN AMERICA

I have been living in America for two months. I had previously lived in America for ten months. Generally, I don't expect many things here. I came here to find an internship and improve my English or if something fun happens, I am ready to accept it. Every time I participate in groups and activities, I feel left out or end up talking to foreigners. I think the main deterrence is people's mindset. So far, I don't have any American friends. I was thinking, "What's the problem?" Many people may think that the main problem is the language barrier or cultural differences.

A stylized illustration of a person with dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and orange pants, standing and gesturing with their right hand. A blue speech bubble above their head contains the word "HELLO" in white capital letters.

HELLO

When I was in a group, I was the only one who was an immigrant and I had no single chance to slide into the conversation because the people in the group were talking about things that only they knew about.

Is language barrier the main problem? I think language barrier is not a significant cause of stopping me from making new connections. Even with my poor English, I have no problem communicating with foreigners whose English is not their mother tongue. Even with basic words, there are no obstacles in expressing our opinion, feelings and thoughts. I have even seen intercultural couples (Americans and foreigners) who

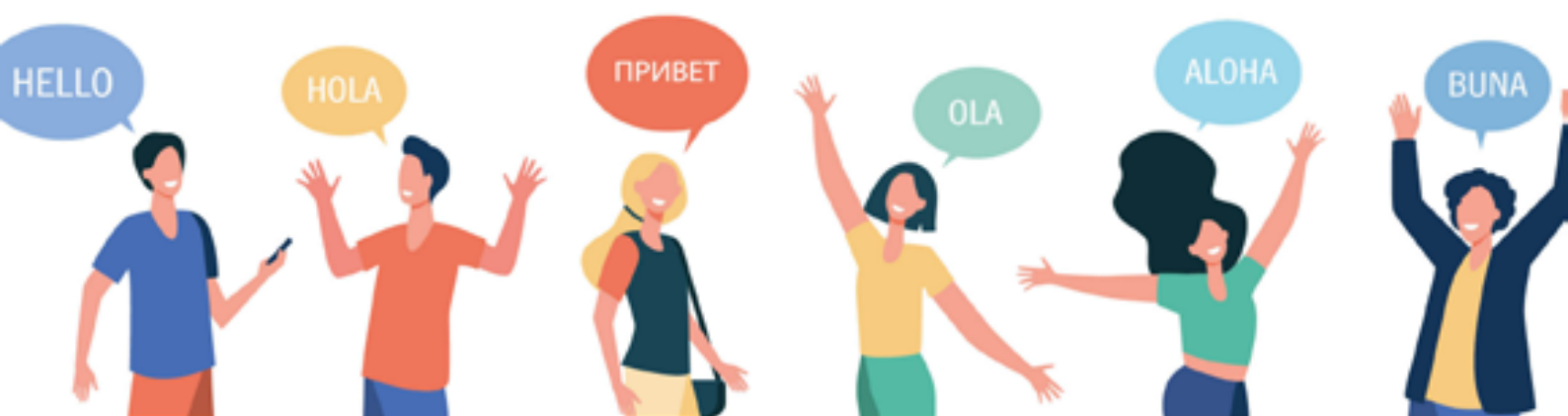
don't seem to have problems having a conversation. When I was in Korea, I met some international friends who were trying to learn Korean. Even if their Korean was not perfect, I became their friend. I made hangout requests to them and had a wonderful time.

I think the most important thing in relationships is mindset, not the conditions. I think everybody can try to be patient enough to explain and break down difficult things like mothers raising their kids and teaching them. That sounds overwhelming, doesn't it? Actually, I tried. It was not that difficult. Slowing down my speaking and repeating words is doable and everybody can do it.

I think that inviting someone into their circle and trying to find a mutual interest can change people's mind and make them feel accepted. I am willing to ask questions and learn new words. I don't want to be a burden but someone interesting. I look forward to one day feeling welcomed and accepted.

Also, America is a country for immigrants. Whenever I ask people's ethnicity, it's hard to find a native American; they are all from all over the place. Comparatively, many cultures coexist thanks to them.

By Nuri



WHAT I MISS ABOUT MY COUNTRY

Now I am at the point where I miss some things I used to enjoy.

The first thing is my hobby. Since I came here, I have lost my hobby. When I am alone, the only thing I can do is take a walk or go jogging or spend money experiencing something. I like to play piano and go to singing rooms and go jogging at night, which I have not done for 3 months. I can't find any place to play piano. I am afraid I could lose my ability. Singing rooms here are in public. It's hard to find a private singing room and it costs more than in Korea where there are coin singing rooms where if you put in about a dollar, you can sing 3 songs. You can sing as many as you can and it's very cost effective. However, singing rooms in the US count the price per hour. So, it pushed me to pay a lot more than I want,



which holds me back from singing and releasing my stress. Jogging at night meant a lot to me, which you can still do here in the U.S. but it's not recommended. I miss running in the cold wind in Korea.

The second thing I want to point out is transportation. I feel so grateful that I was able to depend on my father's car if needed. When he couldn't provide a ride, I took a bus. When I went on a bus, I could see students, elders or workers. I never encountered unsafe situations. However, in the U.S., at many bus stops, I can see many homeless people or people who want to take something from you. Even when I went on a bus, I could see people out of their minds, talking to themselves or yelling. I never depend on someone close or ask for a ride. Every risk is on me. I think I am getting used to taking buses here but still worry about the possible consequences.

Finally, I miss the cheaper price and variable options for cute stuff. Since the dollar is stronger than Korean currency, I have to set aside money. In Korea, there are tons of quaint and cute things to decorate our life at a cheaper price. We have Daiso, where you can buy products that cost mostly less than 3 dollars. The products are reliable and durable. Here, I have to limit myself from spending more money. The housing is three times pricier and dining is 2 times pricier.

I hope to earn money and financially detach from my parents. But my internship here will be unpaid. The only thing I can do is save. Hopefully, I'll spend my money more wisely and live well at the same time.

By Nuri



WHAT CITY MEANS TO US

We spend our entire lives either staying in one city, regularly leaving for another city, or holding a city we can never forget in our hearts. Today, I want to talk about our cities. This isn't an essay about my personal thoughts, but everyone's experiences. Rather, since most of us are people who will stay in Los Angeles for only a short time, I want to discuss the cities we love, hate, feel conflicted about, or miss forever.

I spent most of my life in Daejeon, South Korea. I was born in Suwon, but I barely identify as a person from Suwon because my memories there are faint. Still, whenever I visit Suwon, I feel welcomed. Even if someone has no connection to me, they react warmly when they know I was born in Suwon. For me, a city is closer to something intangible. How I feel about a city matters more than where I physically live.



Here is an example: London. It is one of my favorite cities, maybe my most beloved in the world. I love London because being there makes me happy. Even if I don't know if the city loves me back, I'm certain of my love for London. Now let me talk about Berlin. I used to despise Berlin. Every time I went there, I felt extremely small and like I was an exotic thing. Before visiting there, I thought I would love Berlin. How ironic! But no. Berlin became my worst city. Then, one day, I visited Berlin to get a tattoo. It was winter, and dry, twisted leaves were slowly falling onto the snow. After getting a tattoo, I stepped outside and felt strange. The sunlight pouring down, the cold wind, the quiet trams moving around.... In that moment, I realized I'd finally fallen in love with this city. It was surreal. The realization that I now loved Berlin, a place I'd once feared and hated, was overwhelming.

To me, a city is like a person, a season, a space. What fills that city shapes my impression of it. I think I will love Los Angeles after all. Maybe I already do! If you are reading this... I want to know about the cities you love. The ones you hate. Who knows? You might come to love them someday.

By Hyunjung



CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY

(WHAT LEADS TO LONG TERM HAPPINESS FOR MOST PEOPLE)

Long-term happiness is the things that are close to us. The definition of 'Happiness' is the state of being happy. Happiness can be described as a feeling of joy, delight, or glee. Feelings are subjective things, so they could differ from person to person. However, there is one general factor that happiness shares. Happiness comes from positive emotions. To lead this happiness into long-term happiness, people need to form positive social relationships and social welfare should be adequate.

Creating positive social relationships can lead to long-term happiness. The secret to a happy life is that people need to build good quality relationships. Close social connections are made with family, friends, and communities, and people feel happier. They might even live a longer life than the people who didn't make good relationships with others. If people are isolated from people and have no interaction with others, they tend to feel unhappiness and are more likely to be ill. They may think of themselves as people with no values in society. A series of these negative



thoughts are likely to turn into depressive feelings. People who are involved in positive relationships can be supported by their friends and families. They may feel that they are respected by others. They have people to rely on. Accumulation of this confident experience will lead to long happiness.

People living in countries with well-organized social welfare systems are more likely to feel happy. People in the happiest countries like Denmark receive benefits such as public health care, and good-quality educational environments. These benefits help their life to be stable and relaxed. A competitive mindset is also different. They tend to not compare themselves with others. A competitive culture which is prevalent in Korea is one of the factors that make people unhappy. Comparing can lead to feelings of decrease in self-worth because many people tend to compare their bad parts with someone's good parts. Many people will become frustrated because they think they are not good enough. Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. If social welfare is well-organized, people are more likely to be happy, and this will lead to long-term happiness.

Finding and gaining long-term happiness is easier than you think. Long-term happiness can be fulfilled when people try to gain good relationships and keep away from comparison. Keep in mind that many people compare their worst parts with someone's best parts. If people realize that happiness is near them, they can find long-term happiness more easily.

By Yoonbin



A NICE PLACE TO DRINK

Have you visited All Season Brewing Company? It is a brewery located in the historic mid-century modern Firestone tire shop in Mid-Wilshire. I visited this place with my friends. It serves draft beers, cocktails, and ciders. I highly recommend this brewery to people who love alcohol and food. Not only is the draft beer great, but also the food is great. I ate pizza, fries, and tacos. And they are all tasty and not salty. The pizza and fries were crispy and the tacos were the best. They were the best tacos I have ever had in Los Angeles.

And I should mention the vibe here. It has several tables outside the brewery and if you go at sunset, you can enjoy a beautiful sunset outside. Some places in Los Angeles have very high prices with awful-tasting food and bad atmosphere. But I bet you can enjoy great tastes and atmosphere at a reasonable price at All Season. It is only \$5.48 after tax when you go to happy hour (Mon-Fri 3pm-7pm). Because I had a great time there, I want to share this place with other students. I hope to meet you there!

By Hayeon



PARIS: THE CITY OF LIGHT-AND MACARONS

I would like to share the most ideal travel spot. I want to enjoy a lot of content at once. I wish I could enjoy every spot at once. I want to visit a museum and eat delicious food. I think France is the originator of dessert like the macaron. Also, their pasta and meats are perfect. I could see the Mona Lisa and the Eiffel Tower. Lastly, I want to emphasize that the Paris night sites are the best. At sunset, the city of lights truly lives up to its name. The Eiffel Tower, the city's most iconic landmark, sparkles and shines, illuminating the night sky. The Seine river reflects the light of the city, creating a romantic and enhancing atmosphere.

By Hyemin



DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF YOSEMITE

Our group was talking about the ideal travel destination. One of us suggested Yosemite National Park. The place has spectacular scenery and we can go camping and hiking, cycling, and go on more adventures there. Yosemite National Park can be accessed from San Francisco, so we could go to the park in the morning at first and walk along the river. Then we can pitch a tent and prepare to barbecue. Finally, we can relax at the campfire.

VANCOUVER: TAKE OFF TO THE GREAT WHITE NORTH



My ideal travel destination is Vancouver. I have been there once. It has very beautiful nature and delicious food. The town is very clean. There isn't any garbage on the streets, and the buses and trains are very comfortable. It takes about an hour to go from the city to the sightseeing spots in the mountains by ship and bus. You can feel the big power of nature there. So if I could take another trip, I would visit Vancouver again.

By Yuka Suwa

WHY ASKING SOMEONE'S AGE IS IMPORTANT IN KOREA

When you meet Korean people, you are often asked, "How old are you?" or "What year were you born?" This is deeply related to Korea's honorifics culture, especially with the people around your age. When you address someone who is older than you, you must use certain honorifics after their first name. Because if you don't it sounds rude and impolite. There are several honorifics, and their usages depend on the situation. If you are male, you have to use "noona" for females and "hyung" for males who are older than you. Otherwise, if you are female, you should use "unnie" for females and "oppa" for males who are older than you. For example, a boy who is 15 years old calls Rachel, who is a 17-year-old girl, "Rachel-noona."

Since Korea had a history of believing that everyone gets a year older at the same time on January 1st, we usually ask the year of birth to make the order clear. So, if you are born in the same year, there is no need to use honorifics when you address each other. However, if someone's year of birth is ahead of yours, you must use honorifics after their first name.

Now that you have learned about Korean honorifics and the importance of age in Korean culture, why not surprise your Korean friends by using the appropriate honorifics next time you interact with them?



By Hyunjin

MALAYSIA: TRULY ASIA

There are a lot of ideal travel spots around the world. If you want to travel to a city, you should go to New York, San Diego, and San Francisco. If you want to enjoy nature like forests and hot springs, I think Japan is the best choice for you. My ideal travel spot is Malaysia. I have been to Malaysia just once, but I fell in love with it. I traveled to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, last year. It was an amazing place. There are especially a lot of delicious foods like Mi Goreng, and beautiful beaches. You can enjoy really great food at a reasonable price. You only have to pay half the price in Korea to eat seafood. And I was so surprised by the taxi fees. I took a 20-minute taxi ride and paid only one dollar.

By Minji

