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H O L L Y W O O D E D I T I O N



By Santiago

FIFA
World
Cup 2026

The FIFA World Cup will be one of the most exciting tournaments in football history. For the first time ever, the competition will be in three different countries – the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Another important thing about this World Cup is the size of the brackets. Forty-eight national teams will attend – more than in past years – giving more countries the opportunity to live the dream. These 48 teams will make the tournament more intense and unpredictable. People around the world are ready to support their teams because this will be the most important and watched event in history. All the stadiums are going to be crazy with all the people feeling the passion of football!



BRAZILIAN CARNAVAL (HOLIDAY PARTY)

BY GUILHERME

Carnaval is the biggest holiday and party in Brazil! It happens 47 days before Easter, so the date always changes. Carnaval culture was brought to Brazil by the Portuguese during the colonization period. It started as a joke but over time, it turned into a big party and an official national holiday.

The holiday mixes music, dance, culture, and schools of samba (the most popular musical genre in Brazil), and it reinforces Brazilian culture. This big party also impacts the economy of the country, generating jobs in tourism and billions of dollars.

The curious thing about Carnaval is that some people love this party, and some people hate it. It's a good time to have fun, drink, dance, and enjoy the moment with your friends. However, at the same time, people lose control and mess up, fight, or get in trouble. Also, there are a lot of robberies, assaults, and drugs during those parties.

It all depends on your own experience - the way you behave, where you go, and who you are with. If you are careful and conscious about the dangers around you, you're going to have a good time and enjoy yourself with friends and family!



WHAT'S YOUR MBTI?

Have you ever heard about MBTI? It stands for Myers-Briggs Type Indicator - 16 psychological types based on how people think and make decisions. These days in Korea, MBTI is extremely popular, especially among the young generation. It is also used in daily conversation or small talk in Korea when you meet new people or introduce yourself.

Since MBTI became a part of young culture in Korea, I would like to introduce it to you and offer a simple test for fun to find out your MBTI.

The test uses four points of opposite personalities - Introversion or Extroversion, Sensing or Intuition, Thinking or Feeling, and Judging or Perceiving. In your results, you get four letters out of eight (I/E, S/N, T/F, and J/P) - for example: ENFP or ISTJ.

So let's find out what MBTI you are by answering four questions:

- [Extrovert or Introvert]

How do you get your energy?

- Being around people like your friends, family, etc. (--> E)
- Being alone (--> I)

- [Intuition or Sensing]

What do you think about when you ride in a car?

- What I should do if an accident occurs (i.e., imagine something) (--> N)
- How long it takes to the destination (realistic thinking) (--> S)

- [Feeling or Thinking]

What would you say if your friend said, "I dye my hair because I feel blue"?

- "Why do you feel blue? What happened?" (-> F)
- "What color did you get? What style?" (--> T)

- [Perceiving or Judging]

How do you feel if your schedule is suddenly canceled?

- It's okay. I'll find something else to do. (--> P)
- I feel anxious and stressed. (--> J)

What is your MBTI? If you have a chance to talk to Korean friends, MBTI would be a good topic for conversation.

YOUNG JAPANESE GIRLS SHOULD COME TO THE U.S.

By Airi

This is the 3rd time I've come to LA. The first time was 4 years ago. Back then, I experienced a lot of culture shock. For example, there are a lot of homeless people here and the Metro and buses are very dirty. On the other hand, people here are also so friendly.

I was shocked at how women are treated with so much respect in LA. In Japan, the media usually tells women "How to dress for men", or "Men really like this makeup". However, here in LA, women are respected for who they are. In Japan, if I wear a sexy dress, people will ask me, "Do you want a boyfriend?". I honestly don't like some of Japan's culture so much when it comes to things like this.

It's so refreshing to see women being respected like this. In the U.S., women can dress however they want for their own selves. I love that! My country should be like the U.S. That's the biggest difference I've noticed after coming to LA.



The best ways to enjoy spring in Los Angeles

Spring in Los Angeles is the perfect time to enjoy outdoor activities. Officially, spring here begins in March and lasts until June 20. Under mild heat and wind, which lasts about three months, it is the best season to look around the city. I will introduce three places to you.

The first is Lake Hollywood Park. You can enjoy a picnic with a view of the Hollywood Sign - one of the most famous landmarks in LA! It gives you a chill vibe, and you can enjoy nature in the middle of the city.

Second, I recommend Santa Monica Beach. How about riding a bike along the coast? You can feel the breeze from the ocean. Furthermore, you can embrace the beautiful view of the sunset and the palm trees. The closer summer comes, the harder it is to ride a bicycle. Spring is the best season to ride a bike at Santa Monica Beach.

Lastly, I suggest visiting the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). It's especially worth looking around there at night. You can take a walk under the LACMA Urban Light, which is a public art installation in front of the museum. It's a very photogenic place, so you can get an instagramable photo.

From a relaxing picnic and wonderful sunsets to a night walk, L.A. gives the best ways to enjoy and embrace the season. Don't miss the best moments, and make unforgettable memories in Los Angeles!



By Daryna

HOW DREAMS CHANGE A PERSON'S LIFE

Every person has a dream. Some people dream about a good job. Some want to travel and some want to have a happy family. I think dreams are very important because they make my life more interesting and they give me hope.

First of all, a dream gives me a goal. When I know what I want, it is easier to move forward. I begin to try harder, study more, and work better and better. The dream helps me to not give up, even when things don't go my way.

Second, dreams make me stronger. On the way to the dream, there are often problems, but I learn to be patient, brave, and believe in myself. In this way the dream changes my character. One more thing. Dreams can inspire other people. When a person follows a dream and does not stop, it shows others that everything is possible. I think dreams make not only one life better but can also give light and motivation to the people around us.

Also, dreams can completely change your life. For my dream, I moved to LA, changed my career and started a new life in the U.S. Sometimes one dream can open many new chances. However, dreaming is not enough. It is very important to do something for your dream. Even small steps can bring huge results. If I take action, my dream can become very real. In the end, I want to say that dreams play a big role in my life. They give me strength, hope, and meaning. That is why it is very important to dream and believe in yourself and not to be afraid of anything.



WHY DOES LA NEVER STOP RUNNING?

BY SUMMER

In my opinion, LA is always so crowded because of heavy traffic and people running everywhere - even on the streets. After I volunteered in three different marathons (Rose bowl, Redondo, Los Angeles), I'm starting to become curious about why there are a lot of marathons and runners here in L.A.

Here's the reason. As everyone knows, LA has terrific weather all year round, so chances are high that if you head out for a run, you'll be enjoying sunshine every day. Additionally, LA is full of natural areas like the Santa Monica mountains and endless beaches. This is a gift to the people here in LA. Second, people in LA really value their health and appearance. For them, running isn't just about exercise, it is their lifestyle. They believe that a good runner is a healthy and energetic person. Third, celebrity culture is kind of a motivator. Many people dream of running like the celebrities they see in the media. They are inspired by movies and TV shows. Finally, there are a lot of community running clubs and running events all throughout the year here in LA! These events provide a great opportunity to meet new people and make friends while running.

For these reasons, people in LA usually enjoy running and participating in marathons. So for them, running isn't just exercise - it's a lifestyle. If you ever plan to visit LA, how about joining a running event under a sunny sky near a beautiful beach.



BIRTHDAY TRADITIONS IN KOREA

By Joy

Birthdays in Korea are meaningful occasions that combine traditional customs with modern celebrations. They are not only a time to celebrate getting older, but also an opportunity to reflect on family, express gratitude, and enjoy time with friends.



In Korea, people traditionally eat seaweed soup (miyeok-guk) on their birthday. This custom comes from the belief that it helps people remember their mother's care and the day they were born. Seaweed soup is rich in nutrients and mothers often eat it after giving birth, which is why it became closely connected to birthdays. Eating this dish symbolizes appreciation for one's mother and family.



Among friends, birthdays are often celebrated in a lively and playful way. One popular tradition is giving the birthday person "birthday hits" (saengil-pang). This involves lightly hitting the person on the back as many times as their age. Although it may sound surprising, it is meant to be funny rather than painful and it often creates laughter and bonding among friends.

Overall, Korean birthdays combine meaningful traditions with playful and social customs, making the celebration both special and memorable!



By Marina

DON'T USE YOUR PHONE TOO MUCH

Overall, we know that cellphone use is bad for your health. Staring at your phone for hours on end can injure your eyes. It can also cause headaches. People often have problems with sleep because of phones. The blue light affects your brain and you may feel tired during the day. Your posture can also become worse. Simply put, cellphone use is just bad for your body.

Another big issue is the loss of real communication skills. People are spending less and less time speaking to each other in real life. They prefer texting instead of direct communication. Relationships become weaker and you end up feeling lonely even though you are continually messaging. Real conversations are more meaningful and it's important to see and hear emotions and reactions. Face to face communication builds stronger connections.

Social media wastes your time. You can spend hours scrolling social media and time goes very quickly when you use your phone for entertainment. You may end up forgetting about important tasks and you become less productive during the day. It becomes hard to focus on your goals and you may even delay important work that needs to be done on time. In short, time management becomes more difficult.

Another problem with social media use is that it influences your mental health. Recently there have been more studies showing people are feeling more insecure. People begin to compare themselves with others and this can lead to low self-esteem. Reports show a rise in stress and feeling of anxiousness, while negative content affects overall mood.

It's important to take breaks from your phone and to control your overall phone use by limiting screen time every day. Try to spend more time on real activities. For example, you can read a book, go outside for a walk, or meet with your friends more often. Living a balanced life is a great way to maintain good mental and physical health and to be a happier person.



By Jay

THE SPECIAL AGE FOR KOREA

On January 1st of each year, all Koreans gain a year to their age. It seems ridiculous, but it's used everywhere except for official documents. So if you want to visit or stay in Korea, you should know how to calculate your age the Korean way.

First, the Korean age starts at 1 when a person is born. It's different from the other age which starts at 0, and you add one year every January 1st. You should keep in mind that the legal age is the same as the other age. But there is an exception for drinking. Even though the drinking age is actually 19, we are allowed to drink alcohol on January 1st, despite being only 18 legally. That's because you turn 20 according to your Korean age.

If you visit Korea on December 31st, you can see many young people on the street near midnight. They are just waiting to turn 20. What about your Korean age? How old are you now?

By Ami



DIFFERENCES FROM OTHER FAMILIES

Something that sets my mother apart from the rest of my family is that she can speak English and is friendly to everyone. However, there were also times when my parents were very strict with me when I was little. For example, I had an early curfew and I had to go home sooner than my other friends. I always wanted to play for just as long as everyone else. The second one is the fact that there were many restrictions on mobile phone usage. There was a time when I also sought more freedom – just like my friends at school.

Nowadays, I feel incredibly proud of my mother and love her dearly. However, looking back on the past when I was going through my own rebellious phase, it feels like the unpleasant moments outweighed the good ones. I think my mother is very kind. She supports me in doing what I want to do. When I reflect on it, including the way I was raised in the past, I realize that it was all rooted in love. Looking back now, I am glad for that strictness, which set my family apart from the others.

By Yumin



HOSPITAL SURPRISE: KOREA VS. U.S.

Have you ever been to a hospital in the U.S.? I've been to an urgent care center here in the U.S. and it was an experience that tested my patience. I required urgent medical attention, yet they required a prior appointment and the processing time was incredibly long. This experience highlighted the significant differences between the Korean and American medical systems. I'll provide some details.

First, there's a huge difference in speed. In Korea, we have clinics like ENT, Orthopedics, and Internal Medicine. These clinics don't require pre-booking. You can simply walk in and wait for your turn. Only university hospitals strictly require appointments. In contrast, the U.S. system is heavily appointment-based and walking in without one will likely lead to a long wait time.

Second, there's also a difference in the bill. In Korea, thanks to the National Health Insurance system that covers everyone, medical bills are incredibly cheap. Sometimes, a visit costs only as much as two cups of Starbucks coffee. Also, it's standard to pay right after your treatment. In the U.S., however, medical costs are so high that having good private insurance is a must. Another thing that surprised me was the billing process. Instead of paying on the spot, I was told that I would be billed later. The whole payment system is completely different.

Finally, there's a big difference with pharmacies. In Korea, pharmacies are almost always located right next to or in the same building as the hospital. If a clinic is on the 2nd floor, the pharmacy is usually on the 1st floor. In the U.S. however, you have to go out of your way to find one, like a CVS or Walgreens. It's like the pharmacy is a small section inside a giant retail store. Also, medicine in Korea is heavily subsidized by insurance, making it incredibly cheap. In the U.S., without good insurance even basic prescriptions can be surprisingly expensive.

In conclusion, there is a world of difference between the Korean and U.S. healthcare systems when it comes to time, billing, and the way pharmacies operate. Through this experience, I learned the hard way that staying healthy is absolutely vital in the U.S. If you want to save your time and money, just don't get hurt and stay healthy!



THINGS I'VE LOST SINCE COMING TO THE U.S.

BY C.K.

I came here almost 3 months ago, and everything has been going well. However, there are some things I've lost since coming to the U.S. Let me tell you about that.

First, definitely money. The cost of living here is crazy. Eating out is so expensive, and on top of that, I also have to pay tips which is a huge burden for a student like me. Even when I buy groceries at the market, some items have tax added. Plus, since the exchange rate is so high, converting Korean Won to Dollars is incredibly painful. My bank account is draining much faster than I expected. It really feels like money just evaporates in the L.A. air.

Second, the moisture (or lack of it) in my eyes. I had LASIK surgery 3 months ago and LASIK makes the eyes drier. Combined with the hot and dry weather, I can't survive without thousands of artificial tears. I'm actually putting them in right now as I write this.

Last, patience. Back in Korea, everything was fast and efficient. However, I've had to learn the hard way that waiting is part of daily life in LA. For instance, my SSN, which I applied for almost 3 months ago, still hasn't arrived. I also spent five hours at an Urgent Care facility for my friend to get a simple bandage. It was incredibly slow and inefficient.

In short, I've lost my money, eye moisture, and patience in the U.S. However, the chill vibes and the sense of freedom in the U.S. makes all these losses worth it!



By Yuichiro

JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY

One interesting part of Japanese culture is the tea ceremony. It's a national activity in which we prepare and drink green tea called "matcha." The tea ceremony is not just to drink tea. We learn about showing respect, being polite, and enjoying a calm moment. For example, every part of the ceremony is slow and careful. So people focus on the present moment, and try to create a peaceful atmosphere. I think the tea ceremony is special because it teaches people to appreciate simple things and to stay mindful.

