

THE GAZETTE

Winter in Korea

By Jinnie



What seasons do you like? I prefer winter. I want to introduce how different the weather is in Korea and activities you can do in winter. First of all, the average temperature in Korea is 5 degrees Fahrenheit, while the average low temperature in L.A. is 40 to 60 degrees. In Korea, we wear outer clothing called long padding, which is a padded jacket that covers your calves so you can endure the cold.

Let's find out what kind of activities we can do in winter! I want to introduce to 눈 오리 (noon-o-ri), which means "snow duck." There are various shapes of noon-o-ri, such as duck, heart, snowman, etc.

How to 눈 오리 (noon-o-ri):

- Grab your noon-o-ri maker on a snowy day.
- Put enough snow in the maker.
- Press the maker enough to make a dense noon-o-ri. (The more you press, the better noon-o-ri you get.)
- Open, the maker, then you're finished!



Second, I want to introduce 썰매 (sseolmae), which means sled. When the weather gets cold in Korea, it's the best time to go to sled parks. You can enjoy the speed and thrills of riding sleds there. There are also some courses you can ride with your family or friends.

Lastly, I recommend you try 팔죽 (patjug), which means red bean soup. It's a traditional Korean food. You can enjoy not only the soft texture but also the sweet and rich taste.

I hope one day you can enjoy winter in Korea with the activities that I introduced you to. Feel the cold winter in Korea!

L.A.'s 'Chill' Culture vs. Korea's 'Hurry Hurry' Culture

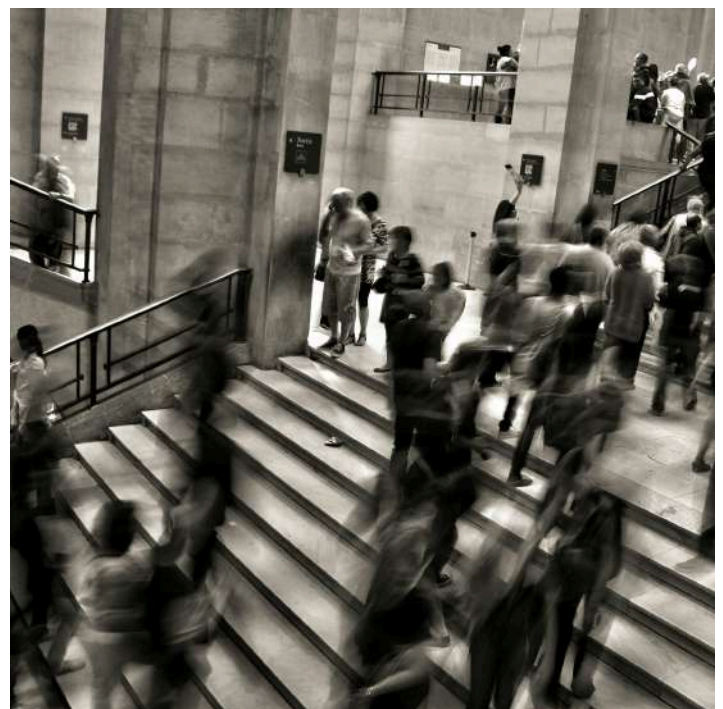
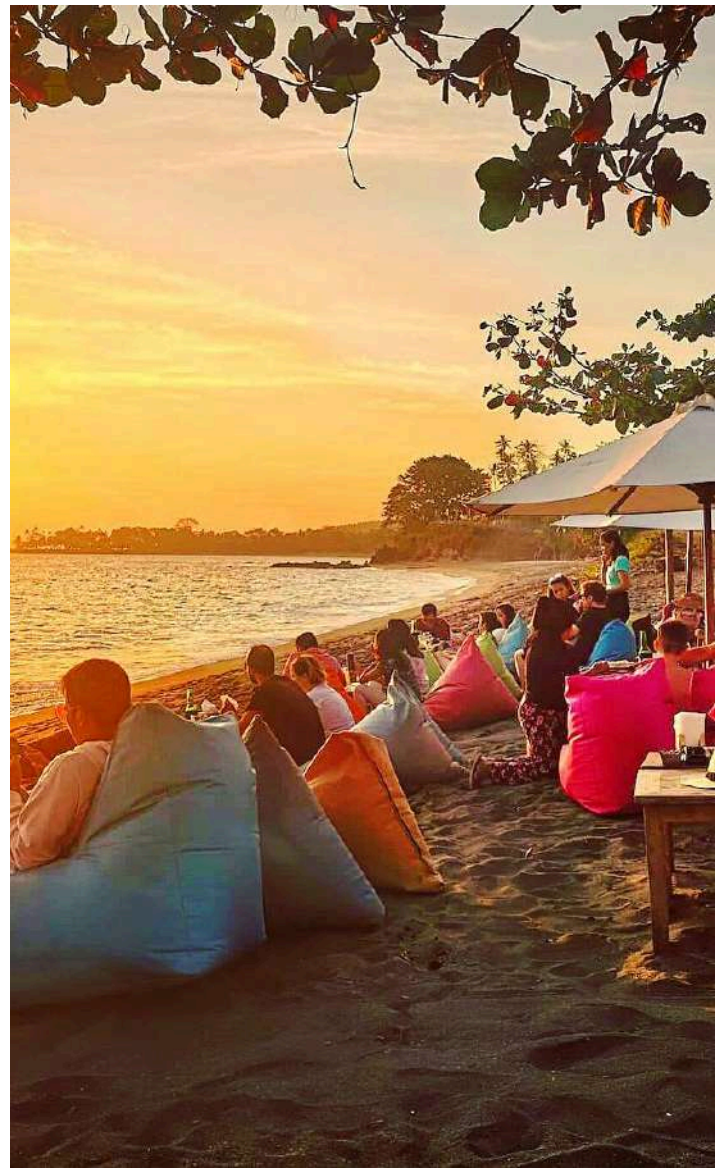
I think L.A. is the most chill city in the world and that's one of the reasons I chose to come here to study English. In contrast, my home country, Korea, has a fast paced culture. It is called "ppali ppali" (hurry hurry) culture.

In L.A., I hear people say "take your time" or "no problem" almost everywhere. Both the lifestyle and people here tend to be slower in ways like walking slowly on the street, enjoying the natural beauty around them, and a more relaxed feeling in the workplace. However, in Korea, everyone always seems to be saying "hurry hurry" all the time. The Korean lifestyle and public systems tend to be fast-paced. They prefer efficient solutions to everything. So when they go anywhere by foot- it's a power walk. If a problem comes up in a shop or the workplace, they expect to deal with everything in a fast paced manner. If not, everyone will get stressed and upset with the situation.

Why is there a big difference between the two cultures? I would say the different environments lead to a big cultural difference. In L.A., the sunny weather and the mix of diverse cultures are the major factors of "chill" culture. In Korea, rapid economic development and a competitive society are the major factors of "ppali ppali" culture.

Both cultures have their pros and cons. I think the best way is to balance the two different cultures. At work, you can focus on your duty and deal with your duty in a fast paced manner. Also, during your time off, you should kick back and enjoy everything in a chill manner.

Remember, you only live once and you get the life that you choose to live.



By Summer



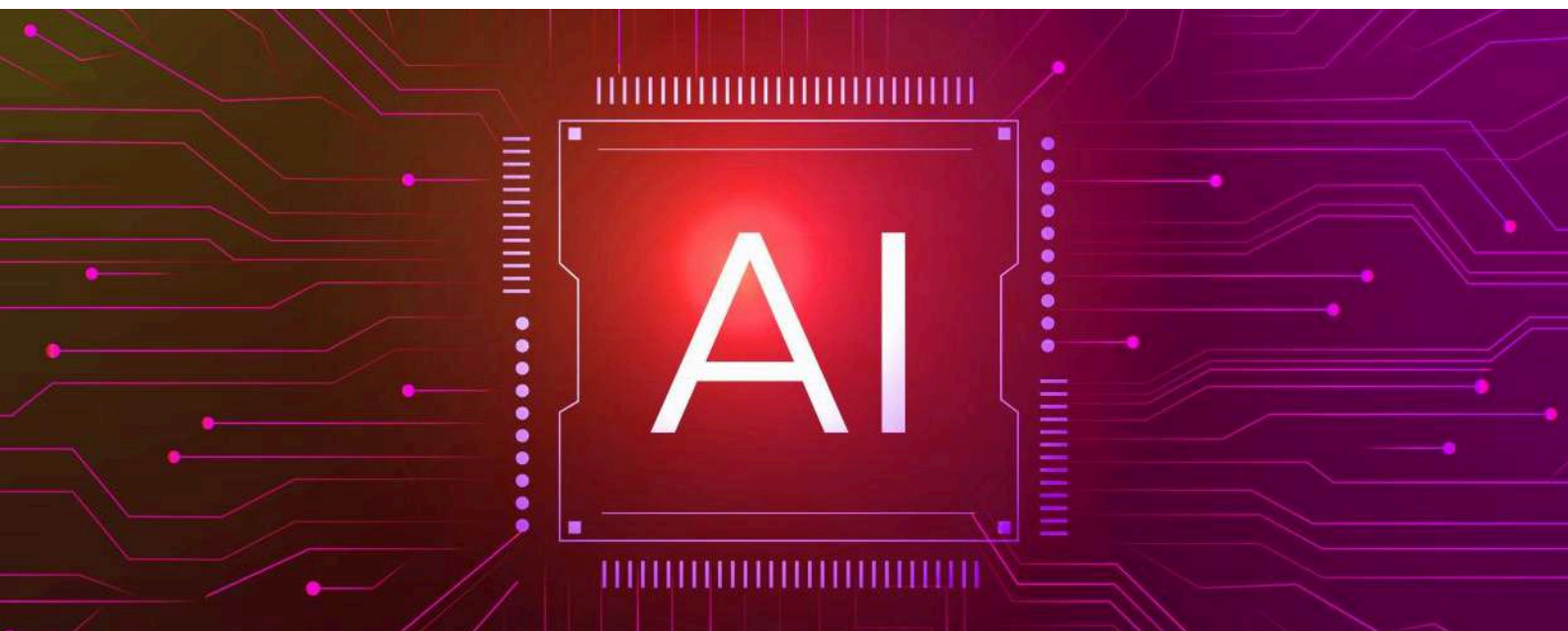
EFFECTIVE USE OF A.I.

BY GUILHERME

Artificial Intelligence is a powerful tool nowadays. It can be used in different areas of knowledge and perform different functions. A.I. can help improve your productivity, analyze data, and create, and organize ideas. However, we need to be careful when we are using these tools, and we need to avoid putting our personal information and data there.

If you want better results for your research, you have to be specific and precise in your writing prompt. The more details you give, the more complex your output will be.

If you “train” your A.I. by giving it more data about the theme you are interested in, the tool can give back better information more efficiently. For example, if you are a team manager of a company, and you’re trying to create new strategies to engage your team and improve their productivity, you can use A.I. to input information about your team (e.g. how many workers there are, their function, and how the current dynamic of work is). Then you can ask how to improve it, based on real strategies and real cases from real companies. You can ask A.I. how to apply a strategy that already exists, but modeling it for your business. A.I. has the power to model personalized ideas.



The differences between carnivals in Brazil and Canada

Even though Canada and Brazil both have events called “carnivals,” there are so many differences in the culture, food, costumes, and even purpose of celebrating. Both of them are celebrated in February, but since they are in different hemispheres, Canada’s happens in the winter and Brazil’s happens in the summer.

In Brazil, they celebrate freedom with joy, dances, and a lot of music. They celebrate it right before Lent, so it is a religious festival. People usually wear colorful clothes and team up in groups called blocos and walk through the streets singing, dancing, and drinking. They usually play samba, axe, frevo, and marchinhas in these festivals.

In Rio de Janeiro, they have a big event where they close a whole avenue to have big parades where different samba schools compete. There are usually 3000 to 5000 performers. These performers wear very colorful and creative costumes, and each school must have one huge float. In the end, the floats and the costumes are judged and a winner is chosen.



In Canada, it is totally different. While in Brazil the whole country celebrates, the Canadian carnival happens only in Quebec. They play traditional Québécois folk music, along with modern music. Since it happens in winter, they wear warm clothes with a traditional sash – the ceintures fléchées. People come together to celebrate winter, snow, and the cold weather. Some people take off their clothes, then sing and drink in the middle of the snow. In spite of that, the Canadian carnival is more like a family event, with different activities for children and adults.

Therefore, these two carnivals are completely different from each other and have different purposes, even though they are both focused on celebrating. The Brazilian one is more for adults, with loud parties and a lot of crowds. The Canadian one, on the other hand, is more family-friendly, with activities for little kids. These celebrations come from completely different cultures with different lifestyles.



INTERESTING SUPERSTITIONS IN KOREA

By Chaemin

In Korea, certain daily actions are believed to bring bad luck or even summon unwanted guests. Here are three common taboos that you should keep in mind to avoid any misfortune.



1. Don't whistle at night: In Korea, we believe that when we whistle at night, it will call in a snake or ghost and that will bring bad luck. It's a superstition born from communal etiquette, encouraging people to keep quiet at night. In the past, when houses were close together, whistling could disturb the peace in the village.
2. Never write a name in red: We never write our names in red. In the past, we used red to write the names of dead people in Korea. If you write someone's name in red, it's like you are wishing death or misfortune upon them.
3. Avoid seaweed soup on exam days: Seaweed is very slippery and if you eat seaweed soup on an exam day, you will 'slip' and fail the test. On the other hand, we eat sticky foods like rice cakes (chapsaltteok) or taffy (yeot) to help us 'stick' to the results and pass!



Whether you believe in them or not, these taboos are a fun and unique part of Korean culture, so keep them in mind....just in case!!!



SMALL CULTURE SHOCKS IN THE UNITED STATES

BY JIJI

This is my first visit to the United States, and I would like to talk about the culture shock I felt when I got here. Before visiting the United States, I thought I would get a big culture shock, but the shock came from small things.

First, I was surprised when I saw people sitting on the floor. Many people sit on the street, on campus, at a park, or in front of a store or coffee shop. In South Korea, people don't usually sit on the ground without a mat because they are worried about their clothes getting dirty – and sitting on the floor or on the street is a pretty easy way to attract attention or look strange. However, in the United States, I see people sitting in the streets and making calls, or lying down in the park – even without a mat – studying and having lunch or coffee.

At first I thought it was strange but now I feel like Americans don't care about other people and just behave confidently. It might take me some time to sit on the ground like beside a tree and be comfortable, but I love that chill vibe.

Second, I was shocked when I saw the price of fruit. I love fruit, especially apples, but the price is high in Korea. So Koreans call it a “golden apple.” It's even been on the news. However, in the United States, I can buy four apples for the price of one Korean golden apple. In addition, places like Trader Joe's and Costco sell apples and bananas in bulk for an affordable price, such as \$3. I can also choose different colors of apples, such as red, yellow, and green, and different kinds such as Fuji, SMIC, Sugarbee, Gala, and so on. Before visiting the United States, I thought it would be difficult to maintain a healthy diet because of high prices, but I can afford to eat an apple every morning.

These experiences made me uncomfortable at first. Now, I'm learning and enjoying these small differences!

JAPANESE WAYS OF CELEBRATING



By Hana

Japan has a unique celebration known as Coming of Age Day, which takes place once a year. This event is held for young people who turn 20, the age at which they are officially recognized as adults in Japanese society. It is a meaningful occasion that marks an important transition in life.

One of the most distinctive aspects of Coming of Age Day is the tradition of wearing the Kimono. Each participant wears a carefully chosen Kimono, making the ceremony colorful and elegant. The venue for the ceremony is determined by where a person grew up, which often leads to reunions with old friends. In some cases, people even reconnect with their first love and these reunions may eventually lead to marriage.

The Kimono is considered one of the greatest charms of Japanese culture. There are many different types of Kimonos and they are typically worn on special occasions. For example, Japanese children participate in a traditional celebration called Shichi Go San at the ages of three, five, and seven. During this event, children wear Kimonos to celebrate their healthy growth and to express gratitude for their well being. In recent years, Kimono rental services have become increasingly popular, allowing people from other countries to experience this traditional culture. As a result, not only Japanese people, but also visitors from around the world can enjoy wearing the Kimono and experience this beautiful aspect of Japanese tradition firsthand.





By Jay

Seollal: the Lunar New Year's Day in Korea

Have you ever heard about Seollal? This is one of the big holidays in Korea. It's similar to Chinese New Year's Day. They are both on the same day but they each have a whole different culture. In Seollal, many people travel to their hometown to gather with family. They make food together and do rites for their ancestors.

Hanbok is a traditional Korean costume. Hanbok is made up of a top called Jeogori and bottom called Baji (for men) and Chima (for women). The colors of Hanbok are based on 5 colors: red, yellow, blue, black, and white. If you visit Korea during Seollal, you can see many people in Hanbok.

The most famous food for Seollal is Tteokguk. Koreans believe that we get one more year if you eat Tteokguk. It is a kind of soup made of rice cake called Tteok, vegetables, seaweed, and eggs. You must eat Tteokguk when you visit Korea.

Finally, we have a tradition to give money to younger people in Seollal. If younger people bow down to older people, they have to give money to them. We called it "Sebaetdon". It's a kind of new year's money gift. This tradition means two things. First, younger people show respect and admiration to older people. The older people show their hope for younger people and get luck and fortune by giving them money.

Including these, we have a lot of traditions for Seollal. If you visit Korea during the Lunar New Year celebrations, you can feel some of the traditional Korea deeply. Let's find out the real Korea together!



KOREAN CAFES

By Joy

How much do you know about cafes in Korea? In the U.S., most people think of a cafe as a place to relax with a cup of coffee or tea, and sometimes with a sweet dessert. However, in Korea, there are many different types of cafes. In this essay, I will introduce some of the most popular ones.

First, we have the “manga cafes”. These cafes let you read comics while you are there. They have a wide variety of genres such as romance, fantasy, comedy – almost anything you can imagine! The best part is that you can enjoy your food while reading. The dishes are so tasty that some people even visit here just for the food.



Secondly, there are board game cafes. These cafes let you play board games with your friends. There are so many different kinds of games that you'll never have to play the same game twice! These cafes also offer video games, like Nintendo consoles - which makes the experience even more enjoyable!



Finally, there are the pet cafes. These cafes have various animals. Usually, you can see cats and dogs and some cafes even have pigs, raccoons or capybaras. You can spend time with the animals, petting and interacting with them. It feels very comfortable and cozy.

In conclusion, Korean cafes offer more than just coffee. How about a coffee with a manga or a game or even an exotic animal. People in Korea can have fun in many different ways and this is why cafes in Korea are so popular.



KOREA'S TRENDY NEW DESSERT

By Sophie



Do you enjoy desserts and sometimes crave sweets? There's a crazy trendy dessert in Korea called a Dubai *jjondeuk* cookie (Du-jjon-coo). It's a combination of Dubai chocolate and *jjondeuk* cookie. The *jjondeuk* cookie is made with melted marshmallows, and "*jjondeuk*" means "chewy" in Korean. As you may have guessed from my explanation, the cookie tastes like Dubai chocolate with marshmallows.

This trend shows some cultural aspects of Korea. First, it's very common to stand in line for food in Korea. We don't just wait 10 to 20 minutes. We can usually wait at least 30 minutes, or sometimes one or two hours! We even have some waiting list apps called "Tabling" and "Catch-Table." You can easily find restaurants on the app with queues of 50, 80, or even 100 groups. That's how much we're really crazy about eating.

Second, Korea is a small country, so trends spread very fast nationwide. When something becomes popular, every shop starts selling it, and people are always willing to wait one or two hours for it. But the funny thing is, these trends usually die out just as fast. *Tanghulu*, fresh fruit covered in melted sugar, was extremely popular in 2023. It was everywhere. Now suddenly, no one cares for it anymore.

Right now, *Du-jjon-coo* is spreading in L.A.'s Koreatown. If you want to experience Korean desserts and fast-moving trends, you should definitely give it a try!



THE BIGGEST FESTIVALS IN CHINA

By Lele



Chinese New Year is huge – culturally, emotionally, and visually. It's not just a holiday, it's a whole season. It's the biggest festival celebrated in China and among Chinese communities worldwide. It's also called Lunar New Year or Spring Festival. It's based on the lunar calendar, and usually lands between late January and mid-February. Each year is associated with a Chinese Zodiac animal; 2026 is the year of the horse.



What happens during Chinese New Year? Families gather for a big reunion dinner on New Year's Eve. It's the most important meal of the year. The traditional foods are dumplings, fish, rice cake, and oranges. They symbolize wealth, abundance, growth, and good fortune. Lion and dragon dances are common in public celebrations. In addition, people like wearing red clothes or underwear, symbolizing luck, happiness, and protection. Money is given to children or unmarried younger relatives, symbolizing luck and blessings.

By Millie



TIPS FOR FOREIGNERS IN KOREAN RESTAURANTS

Every country has its own restaurant culture. American and Asian dining cultures are quite different. So as a Korean, I'd like to share some useful tips with you!

First, in Korea, there is no tipping because the service is already included in the price. Good service is considered a basic part of the job, not something that requires extra reward. Second, when you visit a traditional market, it's better to go with a Korean friend because some vendors may charge foreigners more since prices are often not clearly marked. The foreigner may not realize that they are being overcharged. This practice is commonly referred to as a "tourist trap" - the same as it is here in the U.S. Finally, you should know how spicy Shin Ramyun is. Shin Ramyun is a famous Korean spicy instant noodle and it's often used as a reference for measuring 'spicyness'. If you ask "How spicy is it?", most people will say, "It's about as spicy as Shin Ramyun", or more or less spicy than that.

It might sound a little unfamiliar at first, but if you know these things, you can enjoy Korean food much more!

CLOTHING CULTURE IN KOREA

By Yumin

Being here in Los Angeles, I feel that Americans wear their clothes more freely than in Korea. The other day, I saw a man wearing only pants on the street. It was astonishing because I only see this at the beach or the waterpark in Korea. So now, I want to tell you about Korean clothing culture.

First, Gen Z'ers tend to prefer the color gray. They always wear gray hoodies and gray sweatpants. Also, puffy jackets from The North Face (especially in black) are in style now. You'll know if you're near a school if you start seeing lots of gray sweatsuits and black North Face jackets.

Second, I'm going to tell you about the outfits worn by working people. In the past, most workers were required to wear a suit. Today, many companies in Korea allow a casual dress code. My friend who works at Sk Hynix wears sweatpants in the office!

Third, people who exercise usually cover both the upper and lower body - they're not shirtless! I think Koreans usually think that they are not pretty even though everyone is pretty. Something interesting to know is that Koreans care a lot about what other people think. Unlike here in L.A., Korean girls who work out don't tend to wear leggings outside of the gym.

In summary, Korea definitely has a more conservative clothing culture than the U.S. I wish Koreans were more open-minded about clothing!





By Chloe

KOREAN-STYLE PIZZA

Many places have their own style of pizza (such as Italy, New York, Chicago). Among them I'll introduce the unique characteristics of Korean pizza. First of all, Korean pizza has many options. You can even choose the dough. These days, dough made with black rice and milk is popular. This is because Koreans like the chewy texture and savory taste. Another distinctive feature is adding cheese to the edge of the pizza (we call it "cheese crust"), which is almost essential.

We also have traditional toppings made with bulgogi, but we don't have pizza made with kimchi. (This is the biggest misunderstanding.) While there are many delicious pizzas in America, I sometimes miss Korean-style pizza.

By Yuki

WHY ARE JAPANESE PEOPLE RESERVED?

From a global perspective, Japanese people are often seen as shy, not very assertive, and lacking confidence or strong opinions. There are reasons for this. Japan is a society that values group harmony, and people who stand out or behave differently are more likely to be criticized. This is why students don't often speak up in class, and individuality is not encouraged.

However, there are also positive reasons. Do you know the word "wabaisabi"? It means a uniquely Japanese aesthetic that sees depth and richness in simple and quiet things. I like this word. Japanese people are often said to be good at reading the atmosphere. This means being able to act appropriately depending on the situation and being considerate of others. I'm proud of this culture and I want to say that Japanese people's character is not only about the negative aspects.