

Conversation Leaders: Charlotte, Ruth, Cliff & Jon

Students: Hyun ju, Jung mi, & Yoko

Weekend Review: Yoko told us about her trip to PNC Park to see the Pirates lose. Fans in the stand were watching the Penguins on their electronic devices and were cheering loudly when the Pens scored, despite the fact that the Pirates were losing badly. Hyun ju said her family had gone to the Korean church in Pittsburgh. Jon asked what religion the church is affiliated with and she said it is a Christian church. Yoko told us there is also a Chinese church in Pittsburgh but there is no Japanese church because there are fewer Japanese immigrants in the area. Jung mi arrived a little late with her two small children, who played quietly in another room. Jung mi has an international drivers' license and just has to have it transferred to a Pennsylvania license. She doesn't have to retest here. She bought a car last week to drive herself and the children to St. Brenan's for the conversation group.

New: Charlotte explained four new idioms we took from the Easy Read News. They all were money related and we thought of others as we spoke about them.

Ruth introduced a crossword puzzle Jon had made with some wedding-related words, in anticipation of Thursday's discussion about weddings. Some of the words were new to the students and we discussed them. The solution words were listed by length of word on the flip side of the puzzle so most were able to figure it out. We let them take it to finish at home so we could move on to the day's discussion.

Coffee Break: Ruth had noticed Yoko's mispronunciation of "stadium" and gave her the correct, long "a" sound, during coffee break. The students had asked us to do this.

The discussion topic today centered on articles the students brought in

Hyun ju read us an article about Dennis Rodman going to North Korea to try to "de-escalate" things. He believes he can just sit down and talk through differences and arrive at peace. We discussed this for a few minutes. The students thought perhaps Kim Jong-un will not set off any missile tests while Rodman is in the country.

Yoko brought an article she'd downloaded from the Internet about a hotel in Japan that is staffed by robots. She read us the story and we discussed how we would like or not like to be a guest in such a hotel. The hotel is near the Tokyo Disney Resort and is the second robot-staffed hotel in Japan. Eighty percent of available rooms have been booked between now and March, 2018. It was a very interesting article and the discussion moved to other robotic jobs, such as pharmacists.

Jung mi read us a short article about the Stanley Cup win. We asked if she watched the final game and she told us that she and her family watched from eight until eleven pm and cheered for the Penguins. Ice hockey is not a big sport in Korea or Japan.

We adjourned at 12:00. A good time was had by all.