

Conversation Leaders: Linda, Joyce & Joan

New Idioms Introduced Today: to twist someone's arm; to sit tight; to fly by the seat of your pants; to go cold turkey;

Notes from Joyce:

There was a lot of interest in talking about families and what they did Memorial Day weekend. Everyone participated and the students talked a lot. Jung mi brought a PowerPoint video of their weekend at Annapolis which was beautiful and helped her to talk a lot about her weekend.

The idioms were okay and they took notes on them. Two suggestions we had when discussing the class afterwards was that perhaps we should have the idioms written somewhere. We also thought that we needed to have them practice them - perhaps put them into a sentence.

The coffee time with conversation in English seemed to go well.

We divided into two groups. The conversations from each group were enough for them to talk quite a while.

They shared that in Japan they have smaller families than here and sometimes they live with three generations. The Korean women talked about stress between daughter in law and mother in law. Men don't help around the house in Korea and the women must serve. Korean mothers-in-law sometimes criticize the daughters-in-law. They wrote "work late" but I don't know what that means.

They also shared that Korean families are closer than here but they do interfere with their children's lives. After the Korean women have children they stay at home. Sometimes the grandparents watch the children for working women. There are few day care centers in Korea which are only for pre-school. Some people have a nanny in Korea.

In Japan the families are more independent from the larger family. In Japan most of the mothers stay at home with the children. They do not have nannies in Japan. In Japan there is a waiting list for day care centers. Some companies help out with day care.

As we talked together after class, it did not appear to us that having two classes caused the quieter students to talk more. As I reflect on their comments, they don't like to miss out on what everyone is saying and so I am wondering if we just want to divide into two groups if we have a big group.

They wanted to choose a topic for next Thursday instead of Tuesday so that they can all hear what everyone wants to say. The topic for next Thursday is hobbies - movies, books, crafts etc.