

Conversation Leaders: Charlotte, Ruth and Jon

Students: Hyun ju and Yoko

New today: Compound Words: Jon explained that compound words combine two (or more) words to make a specific meaning that can usually be discerned, unlike idioms, where the words do not mean what they seem to mean. Several examples of *combined* (the most common form), *hyphenated*, and *separate* compound words were written on the board: Fireman, doghouse, sunflower, passport, railroad, footprint, crosswalk, rainbow; part-time, two-faced (also an idiom), north-west, mother-in-law; ice cream, dining room, post office. After discussing the words, Jon distributed a crossword and a word-search puzzle that used compound words as the answers. Both students did the crossword in class.

We had a ten-minute coffee break and everyone took part in social conversation...in English.

The discussion topic was "My Hometown."(also a compound word)

We learned a lot about the towns where Yoko and Hyun ju grew up. They were very different. Yoko is from Osaka, Japan, which she said is the second-largest city after Tokyo. People of Osaka, she told us, are friendly and love to smile and laugh. They consider their town a "comedian city." Whereas people from Tokyo are extravagant in their dress, those in Osaka are extravagant in food, especially seafood. It is not fancy food and includes a very thin pancake for which she didn't know the English term. Osaka is a busy city. Panasonic is headquartered there and people work in business or manufacturing jobs. They have big shopping malls, movie theaters, and busy downtown. Yoko saw her first movie when she was in third or fourth grade and was thrilled by it.

Hyun ju is from Ho Chung (sp?) whose name is taken from Chinese characters. It is a small, mountainous town near the DMZ. Her father is retired from the military and they moved there after he retired. There are many streams, whose water is rich in minerals. The town is famous for its rice wine, which is fermented for just a short time and must be refrigerated. Jobs in the area are in mining for minerals and farming.. Graves in the mountains are built up as mounds and as a child, Hyun ju used to play on them. She told us the toothpicks (one of our compound words) they use are made from starch that dissolves easily. They do this because after meals the leftovers are dumped into the feed troughs of the animals and they don't want a toothpick to lodge in the animal's throat. Her's was a rural life compared to Yoko's city experiences. Hyun ju walked one hour to get to school.

We asked about medical care and they told us it is government run and inexpensive but there are long, long lines of patients waiting at the doctor's house. They do not have a PCP.

For Thursday, we asked them to be on the lookout for compound words. The discussion topic will be Hobbies and Crafts. On Thursday, they are planning to bring us samples of their native foods to taste after class.