

速熟 03 Gap Term : サイトラ (予習用)

When spring comes, / students in Japan know that / the new school year
is just around the corner. The school year starts in April, / when cherry blossoms are in bloom.
However, / most schools outside of Japan / start the year in August or September.
Some Japanese universities are considering / changing the start of their school year
/ from spring to fall. If this change came into effect, / it would create a “gap term.”
What would become of students / if they had to spend this time / away from school?

Some think it's a good idea. At present, / Japanese students are very busy.
They don't have time / to develop things / like social skills or personal interests.
A gap term could go a long way / toward fixing that. Students could participate in activities
/ such as volunteering and working / during that time.
They could also brush up on the lessons / they learned before.

Others are content with the current school year schedule.
If the school year changes all of a sudden, / it will cause problems.
If students spend the time at home, / they may not do anything meaningful.
The time will just go by / and be of no use to them. They may develop bad habits.

By all means, / if students have the opportunity / to take a gap term,
/ they should go for it.

At the same time, / it is important / that students keep their future goals in mind.