

Communication and Cultural Awareness

Are you organized?

Read the following blog written by Lily who invites people to share some tips to teach each other better study skills.

Posted 2 hours ago by Lily:

I have always admired students who hand their homework in on time and never forget to do it. Me, on the other hand... OK, I admit it. I am terrible at getting myself organized!

But lately I have started keeping a small study diary. I write down everything I need to do and when it needs to be done by. Then, I write a reminder a few days before the date just in case. It is helping.

So I was wondering, what are your tips for getting organized? Post a comment below. I hope we can all share some tips to teach each other better study skills.



Alicia

Good question, Lily. I always spend about five minutes at the end of the day cleaning up the desktop on my computer. I make a backup of important documents. I eliminate things I don't need any more and have everything in the correct folder.



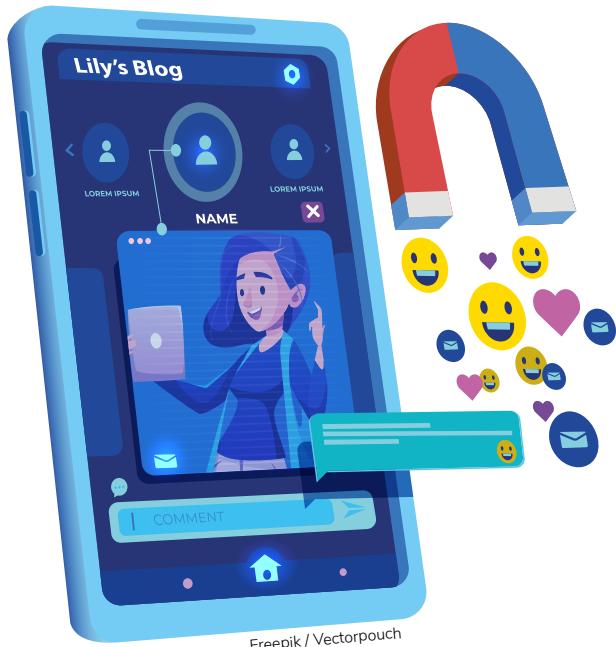
George

Lily, the most important thing is to start studying a few weeks before the exams and not leave it until the night before! That's just common sense, I think.



Lily

Alicia and George, thanks for your advice! Making backups sounds like a very interesting and useful idea. Not leaving things for the last minute is certainly the hardest part! I promise I will try my best!



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Check your understanding. Circle True (T) or False (F) for these sentences.

1. Lily is very good at handing in her homework on time. T F
2. Lily writes down the date she has to hand in her homework. T F
3. Alicia cleans her computer desktop twice a day. T F
4. Lily thinks Alicia's tip is good. T F
5. George thinks the date you start studying is important. T F
6. Lily thinks it is easy to do things early. T F

Do you have any tips to be an organized student? Write them here, then discuss them as a class.

My tips

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Oral Communication

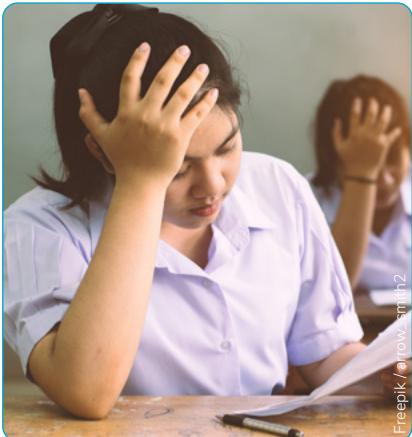
Value: Achieve goals

Difficult Situations



Match the item from the column on the left with the corresponding one from the column on the right to describe some difficult situations.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| a. Your bus | <input type="radio"/> dies |
| b. You fail | <input type="radio"/> breaks up with you |
| c. Your cat | <input type="radio"/> an exam |
| d. Your boyfriend/girlfriend | <input type="radio"/> never arrived and you arrived late to school |
| e. You forget | <input type="radio"/> your keys inside your house |
| f. Someone steals | <input type="radio"/> your cellphone |



Student fails an exam



Boy with his dog

Tip

When someone explains a difficult situation they are experiencing, like Jennifer and Simon, there are different phrases we can use to show that we care.

We can say, “I’m very sorry that you are going through this” or “I understand how you feel. I empathize with you.” This shows the person that we care about him or her.

We can also offer our help by saying, “If there is anything I can do for you, just let me know.”

Listen to two situations that Jennifer and Simon have experienced. Complete the sentences with the information.

- Jennifer’s problem is that _____

- Jennifer proposes a solution, which is _____

- Simon’s problem is that _____

- Simon says that his dog was _____



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Reading

What do you think school is like in other parts of the world?

Japanese and American Schools

Match the words with the corresponding picture.

- a. street clothes
- b. uniform
- c. janitor
- d. school bus
- e. slippers



Vocabulary

junior high. the years of school between elementary school and high school. Students are usually 11-13 years old

slippers. footwear that you use in the house

janitors. people who clean schools

Read about some differences between the school system in Japan and the United States.

In Japan, the school year begins in April and ends in March. In the US, it starts in August and ends in June. There are no school buses in Japan. Schools are close enough for students to walk there.

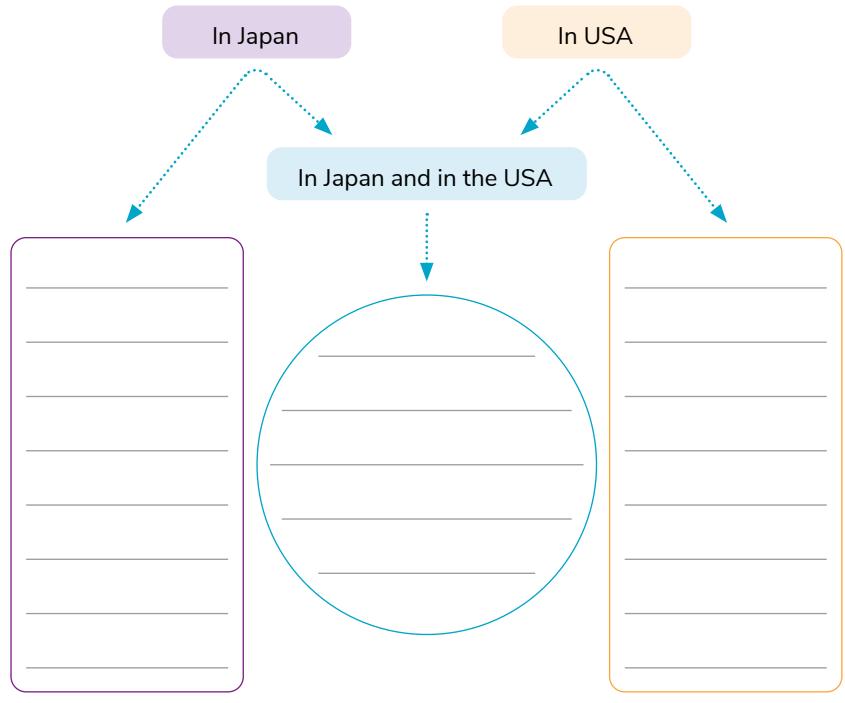
In Japan, public elementary school kids wear street clothes, like in US schools. But in **junior high**, they wear a school uniform. In Japanese schools, everyone must remove their shoes at the entrance and change into **slippers**.

Japanese students stand and greet their teacher at the beginning and end of each class.

In US schools, cafeteria workers prepare the school lunches and serve the students, but in Japan, the cooks cook the lunch and students take turns serving lunch to their classmates. Students eat lunch in their classroom at their desk. There are no **janitors** in Japanese schools; students clean their school every day.

Summer vacation is about five weeks in Japan. In the US, it is ten weeks. During summer vacation, Japanese students go to school many times for their school club; they must do a lot of homework.

Complete the following graphic organizer with differences and similarities between the Japanese and US education system.



Writing

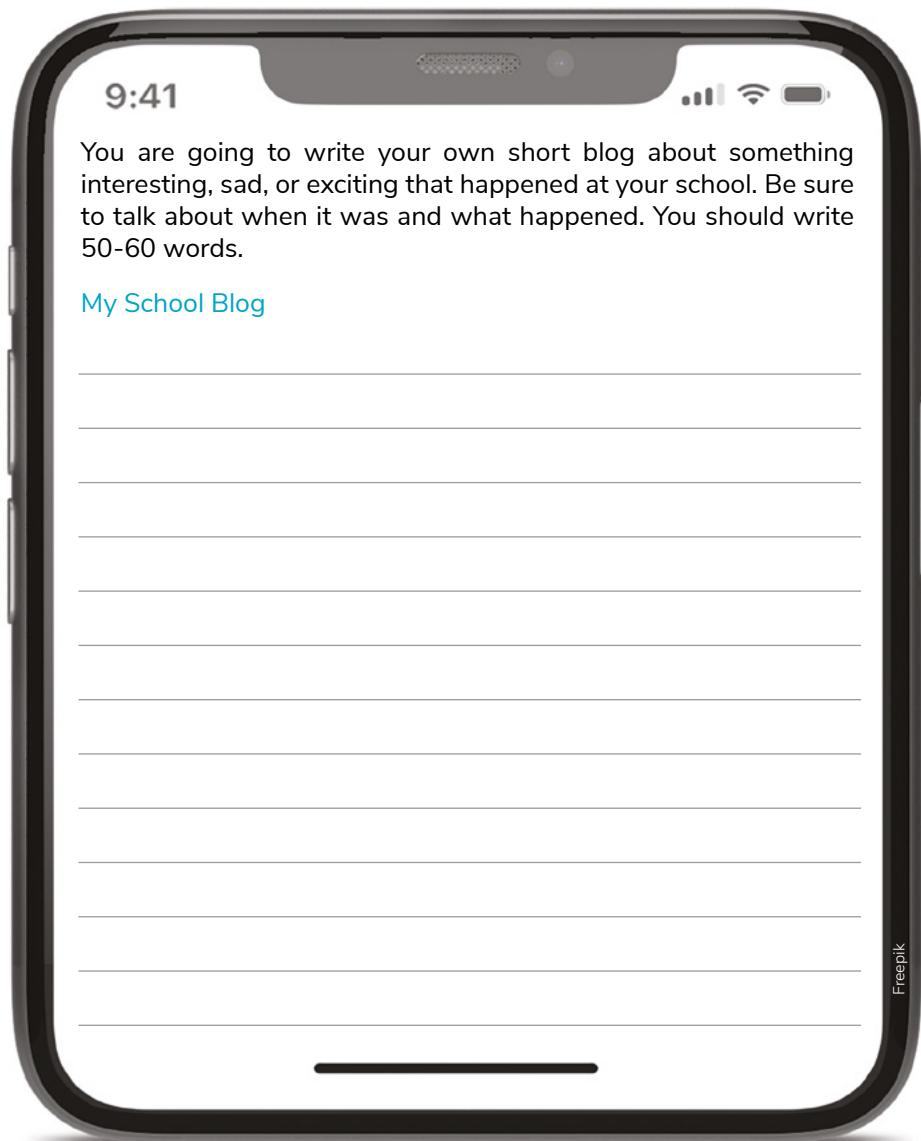
My First Blog

When blogs first appeared in 1994, they were more of a personal diary that people shared online. In this online journal, you could talk about your daily life or share things you do. But then people saw them as an opportunity to communicate any information in a new way. So began the amazing world of blogging. A blog (short for “weblog”) is an online journal or informational website that presents information in reverse chronological order, with latest posts appearing first. It is a platform where a writer or even a group of writers share their views on a specific subject.

Source: What is a Blog? - Explanation of Terms Blog, Blogging & Blogger (2019). (2019, April 29). Retrieved from <https://firstsiteguide.com/what-is-blog/>



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Blog



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Your teacher will put the blogs on the walls. Walk around the room and on small pieces of paper you are going to post a comment or an opinion on your classmates' blogs. Choose at least five blogs to comment on.



Language Through the Arts

Do you have a favorite song in English?

"If You Were a Sailboat"

by Katie Melua

Commonly, songs come from poems and some poems come from songs. Here is an example. Read this poem out loud.

If you were a cowboy, I would trail you,
If you were a piece of wood, I would nail
you to the floor.
If you were a sailboat, I would sail you to the shore.
If you were a river, I would swim you,
If you were a house, I would live in you all my days.
If you were a preacher, I would begin
to change my ways.

Sometimes I believe in fate,
But the chances we create,
Always seem to ring more true.
You took a chance on loving me,
I took a chance on loving you.

If I was in jail, I know you would spring me
If I was a telephone, you would ring me all day long.
If I was in pain, I know you would sing
me soothing songs.

Sometimes I believe in fate,
But the chances we create,
Always seem to ring more true.
You took a chance on loving me,
I took a chance on loving you.

If I was hungry, you would feed me
If I was in darkness, you would lead me to the light.
If I was a book, I know you would read
me every night.

If you were a cowboy, I would trail you,
If you were a piece of wood, I'd nail you to the floor.
If you were a sailboat, I would sail you to the shore.
If you were a sailboat, I would sail you to the shore.

Grammar Note

Notice how the poem repeats the words "if" and "would". These words are used for hypothetical - or unreal - situations.



This poem uses a lot of metaphors, words that are symbolic. Choose two of them and illustrate them here.

Can you think of another metaphor like the ones in the poem that you can use to refer to two people in love?



Vocabulary

sail. to ride on a sailboat

preacher. a person who gives many speeches, sometimes a religious figure

fate. destiny

jail. prison

spring. in this context, to free someone from jail

soothing. relaxing