World Languages

How many languages are there in the world today? 7,000+! The language with the most **native speakers** is Mandarin Chinese. The language with the most total **speakers** is English. In the past, French was the global **'lingua franca'** and is still used for many famous organizations like **UNESCO**. We are so lucky to have both Chinese and French class at Keika Girls' Junior High School!

¿¡ Languages in Danger ‼

There are many types of languages in different **'language families'.** That means that groups of languages **developed** together so they have **common** points. However, some languages are totally **unique**. For example, **(Hokkaido) Ainu** is the only one in its 'family.' Some also do not have many speakers anymore. Maybe in history, people in power wanted to stop these languages. For example, many **Native Americans** were **forced** not to use their languages, like Navajo. These are now **vulnerable / endangered languages**. We must protect these languages because they **represent** their special people and culture. The way to help is called **language revitalization**. It means bringing a dying language back to life! Like teaching it in schools, interviewing native speakers, and using it on the **Internet**. A small **success story** is the Hawaiian language. Languages are precious human **heritage**. Let's respect and save all languages! They can **evolve** with the times and **survive**!

World 'Englishes'

Of course, Erin & I teach English here at Keika Girls', so we want to **spread** English. But so many countries already use it!

'**Majority** English-speaking countries' are countries where most people's **first language** is English. For example: the U.S.A., the U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, the Bahamas, Belize, and Barbados.

Countries with English as an **'official language'** are places where people speak many languages, **including** English. For example: Botswana, Fiji, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malta, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Many countries in Europe also have people who are very **fluent** in English, like Sweden.

So, everyone's English has a different **accent** and a few different words, but we can understand each other! Please study English so we can all understand you too! **:D**

The June 2022 Issue

What is in this issue:

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中1 English Camp 2022!

April 27th-29th

DAY 1

We took a train then a bus to **Takaonomori Wakuwaku Village**. We met our four **'native (English-speaking)'** teachers: **Mr. Ricky, Ms. Wendy, Ms. Carole,** and **Mr. Loys.** They were from the U.S.A., Australia, the U.K., and France. We sang the classic songs "Country Roads (1971)" and "Do-Re-Mi (1959)". We danced the Chicken Dance and the Hokey Pokey. We had a **campfire** and games at night! How fun!

DAY 2

We woke up early then started cooking lunch. We cut **firewood**, made fires, then cooked **curry & rice** ourselves! It was so **refreshing** to eat our **yummy** meal outside together. Then the girls **performed** the **skits** they made at camp. There was Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Toy Story, Anpanman, and The Three Little Pigs. Great **acting**, girls! Finally, **Principal** Shioya **surprised** everyone with ice cream. Thank you!

DAY 3

The last day was a shape **scavenger hunt**! Then the girls all got **awards** and said goodbye to their groups and 'native' teacher. It was so **heartwarming**! It rained on the way home, but I had a **wonderful** time.

Ms. Morita, Ms. Tanaka, Ms. Suda, Mr. Natsugari, Principal Shioya, and the students worked so hard. お疲れ様でした！

Thank you so much for inviting me!

XOXO, Sheila

Linguistics fun facts!

What is linguistics?

Linguistics is the **study** of **languages**. I studied linguistics at **University**, and want to tell you some **fun facts** I learnt!
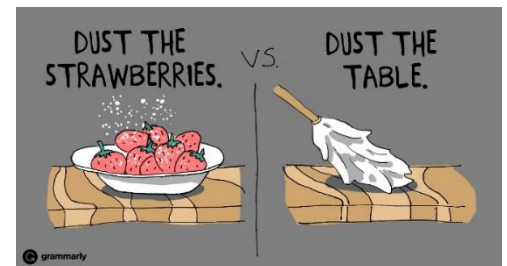
Contronyms

You may know what **synonyms** and **antonyms** are. Synonyms are words that mean the **same** as each other. **Powerful** is a synonym for **strong**. Antonyms are words that mean the **opposite** of each other. **Weak** is an antonym for strong.

Most people don't know **contronyms**! They are words that are their own opposite. How cool! Let's look at some **examples** to help us understand.

- **Dust**: A verb meaning **adding** small **particles**, OR, **removing** small particles. See the picture!

- Left: Means something is gone (Tom left home 10 minutes ago), OR, something is still there (There's only 1 donut left!).

Ambiguity

Ambiguity means that something is not clear. **Imagine** seeing just あめ written down by itself. How would you know if it is supposed to be rain or candy? This is ambiguity.

In English, you can use commas to **avoid** ambiguity. We use a comma to show a short **pause**. Adding just 1 comma can be the difference between having a **lovely** meal with grandma, and eating grandma!

Have a look at the pictures below to see how **forgetting** a comma can turn Bob and Mary into dogs! Oh no!
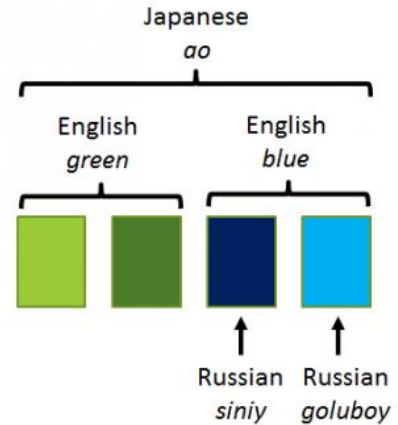
Languages and colour

The colours of **green** and **blue** are very **different** in some languages! English would see **this light colour** and **this dark colour** and call them both blue. But **Russian** calls **this colour 'goluboy'** and **this colour 'siniy'**.

In **Japanese** you have '*Ao*' and '*Midori*', but a lot of the time Ao is used to **describe** both blue and green things. **Green traffic lights** are called *ao*, **fresh green leaves** are called *aoba*, and **blue skies** are called *aozora*.

Japanese
ao

English
green

English
blue

Russian
siniy

Russian
goluboy

We also talk about **rainbows** differently in different languages!

In **Australia**, **New Zealand**, and **America**, we **remember** the colours of a rainbow like this: **ROYGBIV**. Each letter stands for a colour of the rainbow- **Red**, **orange**, **yellow**, **green**, **blue**, **indigo**, and **violet**.

But, in the UK, they have a whole story to remember the colours of a rainbow! It goes like this: **R**ichard **o**f **Y**ork **g**ave **b**attle **i**n **V**ain. It is an old **military** story. Each word starts with the first letter of a colour.

Why computers can't translate very well

You **probably** get told **NO GOOGLE TRANSLATE!** a lot in your English classes, but why?? Computers make a lot of little **mistakes** when translating, but let's look at just one **example**- honorifics.

In French there are 2 words for 'you'. *Vous* is the **respectful** word, *Tu* is the **casual** word. But if you put an English sentence like: 'Do you want to go?' into Google Translate, how will it know which to use? It doesn't know who you are talking to, so it will **guess** whether you should use *vous* or *tu*, and it could be **wrong** half the time!

Now **imagine** the same in Japanese- where the **honorifcs** are much more **complicated**! There are many more words for 'you', there are lots of **suffixes** like '-*san*', and '-*kun*', and more! A computer could **never** get all that right just by guessing!

These may seem like little mistakes, but if a computer makes one little mistake here, another little mistake there, and so on, it can make your writing very **strange!**

ここにゴミを
捨てないで下さい

DO NOT DUMB HERE.
NOT DUMB AREA HERE.

XOXO,
Erin