



Christmas By: Dania

One of the most important traditions in many countries around the world is Christmas especially in Christian countries. Each country celebrates this date in different ways. It is common in Honduras that the families build a nativity scene that can be small or big depending on the space in their houses. At night people go to look at the nativity scenes in the neighborhoods. In my town there is a competition to reward the best one. The tree is another important decoration for Christmas. The children participate by putting the decorations on the tree. On December 24th is the big celebration, there is a lot of food, especially tamales, chicken, pork, cake, grapes, and apples. This is like Thanksgiving in the USA. This feast lasts even until midnight. Children, parents, friends, and relatives dance and enjoy the celebration. After they eat, drink, and dance is the most exciting moment for the children and some adults too. Unwrapping the gifts. Another custom in my country is that people wear new clothes and shoes. Christmas is the best date of the year because I can enjoy eating, dancing and get a lot of presents.

World Cup USA 94

By: Amir

When I was 11 years old I received wonderful news from a credit card representative. She called my house and said, "Congratulations! Angel Caldera (my father's name) is the winner of two tickets to travel to the USA and to go to the 2 soccer games in Orlando and also tickets for Disney World." I fell down; I could not believe it and I asked her, "Are you kidding? Please do not play with me! It is impossible, but she said, " Excuse me, it is true, please ask your father to call me back. I called my father and he called the credit card representative back and he said me, " Amir, it is true! We will go to the USA." On this day, we ran to get the USA visa and all the necessary things for travel, but we needed to pick up the tickets in another city. On the weekend we took our car and traveled for 2 hours. I was so happy, we were traveling and at the same time the car stopped. The car was not working anymore in the middle of the highway. One person stopped and helped us. Finally, they fixed the car and we went to the place and you will not believe what happened there.

I will tell you next week!



Home Alone By: Duy

This happened to me when I was 13 years old. I had a vacation in the summer in the countryside. I lived with my grandfather. The second week, so early in the morning my grandfather talked to me, "I have to go to the wedding feast so far from here. Maybe I will come back home at night. Can you stay at home alone?" I said, "Yes, I think that everything will be nice for me." But at 6:00 pm, the weather became very bad. It was dark and raining very hard. It had strong wind, thunder and lightning. The storm was arriving. I was nervous; suddenly the power of electric was turned off. I consoled myself, but I started to think about the ghost stories that my friend usually told me in the class. I began to hear strange sounds from the trees knocking against the windows. I looked around and believed everything could become a ghost. Suddenly, the sounds knocked on the door, but I didn't dare to step out and open the door. One minute... two minutes... three minutes... suddenly the door opened, a man came...I shouted and ran out, but he held me and said, "I am the police, I want to announce to you that there is a storm and be careful. If you are staying at home alone, you can go to the office with me. But I thought it was ok because my grandfather would come back at night. Alone at home and in the dark with no lights, I was scared. That is my specific fear.

A Happy Moment from Relationships

By: Jae Won

Who can dare to say I know this moment is the greatest time before bring themselves to the future?? Maybe there is no one to convince that. It is difficult to explain, but I need to have standards and calculate in advance how to be careful and prevent making a false decision before being confused by evaluations I can't exactly define like which relationships at what times are comparatively more valuable. Therefore I want to recognize my situation in advance since I have no idea about whether it's good or not for me, and after that if find what I am not supposed to lose unconsciously, I will fix it up for the future before regretting why I didn't enjoy at that time ,and keep going on for a long while. I chose one for this. Writing what I think of as relationships such as family, friends, lovers and colleagues and teachers and so on. There are a lot of things that I missed right before I noticed them. As the old saying goes, you can't see one at all in front of you closer than the other. Therefore I am going to focus on family, friends, lovers as perhaps those are the best reason that makes me sustainable nowadays. Then, what's the problem with them?? Exactly speaking, that is not like as problems. It's just missing. This encourages me to be greedy. It doesn't mean. I know, but I couldn't help it because I'm in Memphis, not Korea. I should finish my time as planned till on the next June. There are no short roads to relieve sorrow expect adapting well in Memphis life. A growing number of days, I have become sure how precious moments I have got through in Korea. I guess what let me think about this feeling seriously is,, a family holiday, Thanksgiving. Well then ,,I have to prepare something for me who will meet another a big family holiday, Christmas.

My First Thanksgiving By: Maria

Last Thursday was my first Thanksgiving ever. I woke up around 8:30 because I wanted to watch the Macy's Parade and I really liked it. Then I ate something very light for breakfast, because my uncle already told me that for Thanksgiving people eat a lot. We went to the house of the father of my uncle's friend who lives in North Memphis. It's a nice place with farms and it also is very quiet. On his farm he has some horses, seven big dogs, a cat, birds and some rabbits. The weather there was so nice, it was not that cold. We ate dinner around four. There was a lot of food. They had turkey, ham, turkey stuffing, green bean casserole, macaroni and cheese, sweet potato casserole, cabbage casserole, etc. And for dessert they had like five different kinds of dessert including pumpkin pie, pumpkin cake, raspberry pie and pecan pie. All the food was delicious and there was a lot. I only had one serving, but all the other people did two servings. I was so full that I couldn't eat any more. After that we spent some time chatting and I played with the little kid that is the son of my uncle's friend. I really liked my first thanksgiving experience and I hope that I will have a nice thanksgiving like that again.

Thanksgiving

“Sorry For Inconvenience”

By: Taka

Can you stand wearing same boxers and socks for four days? I did it last week. I needed to do it though I didn't want to. I have seven pairs of boxers and six pair of socks. Since I moved to the dormitory that I live in now, I've regularly done washing at least once a week at a laundry near my dorm. So I went to the laundry as usual with six boxers and five pairs of socks. As soon as I entered there, I saw an announcement on a card. It said, “The machines are currently unavailable. Please use quarters. Sorry for the inconvenience”. I didn't have any quarters at that time. And if I had them, I needed at least eight quarters because I needed to use a dryer, too. Who always has so many quarters in the pocket? I felt unlucky and only could give up washing. And, it was the beginning of the Thanksgiving holiday, so I realized that there was less possibility I can use it during the weekend. Finally, I spent four days from last Thursday to Sunday with the same boxers and socks. However, I didn't feel uncomfortable than I thought. Now, I am wearing a clean one. Please don't worry. Thank you.

My Year in America

DOO

Next week, I am going to go back to my country so I want to tell my story about my year in the U.S. Last Dec. 31, I arrived in San Diego which is located in California. I studied English at San Diego State University for 8 months. At first, I didn't adapt to life in the U.S. because I was too shy to talk with people who are from other countries. I didn't have any confidence to speak English so I hung out with my Korean friends every day. However, I wanted to change my character and get experience in the U.S so I started to travel to some places by myself. At that time, I went to San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver. Even if I spent a lot of money, I was so happy because I was aware of why I am here through travelling. In addition, I could have a chance to speak English and get confidence. After travelling, I didn't want to stay with Korean friends; also I wanted to move to another city because there are lots of Korean people in San Diego. I wanted to speak English. That's why I am in Memphis. I met many friends who are from other countries and American friends. They are not only friends, but also teachers. I was trying to speak English. Since I have been in Memphis, I can practice my English more than in San Diego.

In the U.S I can set my goals and get a lot of experiences which I have never done. Through these experiences, I try to make my dream come true and I will keep studying English very hard in Korea.

Jia's Thanksgiving Parties

I had never tried turkey before. There were so many Thanksgiving parties on campus and off campus during the holidays that I could get used to turkey.

1. At the church – 21th Friday night
I went to the church with my friends from China to enjoy the Thanksgiving dinner party. This church is like my family to me because every Monday, Friday and Sunday I go to the church to study English and attend the worship service and listen to the sermon. They offered us excellent food and a good story about God and let us know about the origin of Thanksgiving. Also I met a lot of people there.

2. International Thanksgiving party – 23th Sunday night
There was a celebration for International students at the Carpenter Complex. I was able to have lots of food which some students made.

3. BCM – 25th Tuesday night
I enjoyed nice food and a few fun games at the BCM where I go to eat free lunch every Friday. I want to say thank you to them through this article.

4. IEI – 26th Wednesday afternoon
The IEI teachers prepared plenty of food for the students. First they told us there would not be enough food but we were able to eat a lot. It was the greatest lunch ever. Thank you teachers!!!! (Teacher Becky! Can I get your recipe of green bean casserole?)

5. Andy and Becky's house – 27th Thursday afternoon.

Jin, a Korean student of the IEI, and I were invited to Andy and Becky's house. They are one of the IEI teachers' friends. Andy, Becky, pretty three girls, a cat and a dog. They were such a wonderful family. I spent my first Thanksgiving Day in my life at the beautiful house with nice people. What I am going to say is that I have gained weight. I ate too much.



