

- 北米での年末年始の過ごし方
- 日本の新年に関する英語表現



今年最後のエッセイは、郡山校のWinnie先生に、北アメリカでの年末年始の過ごし方について書いてもらいました。日本とどのようなところが違うのでしょうか。

My memories of New Years Eve consist of lounging on the couch, and watching the ball drop in New York Times Square on TV. If you're wondering what the ball drop is, a little bit of history indicates that the first New Year celebration has been held at Times Square on New Year's Eve since 1904. The 550 kg sparkling LED time ball, accompanied by an animated video countdown timer, is a large ball of lights that is lowered from the flagpole atop of One Times Square. The ball gradually drops as midnight approaches. Over one million people go to watch the famous countdown in Times Square each year.

In Canada and in the US, most people stay up until the wee hours in the morning hanging out with family and friends, playing games, watching fireworks, and drinking until they're hammered. Don't get me wrong – there's plenty of other stuff to do on New Years Eve in Vancouver, Canada, where I am from. If you can afford it, the top three New Year's events in Vancouver are:

- 1) Spending it at one of the luxurious hotel's formal affairs accompanied by a live countdown, dancing, top DJ performances, champagne and gourmet hors d'oeuvres.

- 2) Doing the club crawl, which is basically going to various clubs and mingling with people until midnight.
- 3) Enjoying time with friends on a New Years boat cruise complete with dancing, dining and an amazing view of the city. If you have kids, and need a place that is fun and alcohol free, try going to the New Year's party at the famous Whistler ski resort village for a fun filled day of street performances, live music and entertainment for all ages.

You might be wondering if there is any action that goes on with New Year Parties. After asking around, a few colleagues of mine mentioned that there is a lot of kissing that goes on once the clock strikes twelve. New Year's Eve is probably not a good time to be single because after the countdown finishes, at midnight, everyone around you will probably be smooching. However, not to fear, it is probably the perfect excuse to make out with a stranger. If you don't necessarily find that appealing, the next best thing is to find a friend to hug. It is said that the New Year's kiss symbolizes love and affection that will last the whole year around.

“Ring in the New Years in North America”

Continued from the previous page



Of course, there are other interesting things happening as well. Singing, cheering, making noise and lighting fireworks on New Year's Eve is believed to ward off any evil spirits. New Year's Eve is a time when people stay up all night and party. It is essential to send off the old year with a bang and ring in the New Year with a bang. It is also an excuse to celebrate and drink the night away. Many people are also familiar with the song, Auld Lang Syne, played just after midnight, it is actually the same song used by many Japanese stores when they are closing for the night! The song has its origins in Scotland and means "Times gone by", a reminder of old and new friends in our lives.

Speaking of old and new, it's that time of the year again! Time to make the upcoming year even better. The New Year is also a time for us to reflect on the changes we wish to make in our lives. Whether it is to quit smoking, to lose weight, or to start a new hobby, most people set a goal for themselves by making a New Year's resolution. The easy part is making the goal; the difficult part is to follow through on these changes. My New Year's Resolution is simple – Save more money, Spend less money, Make more money. What's your New Year's resolution?

lounge (v.) – ぶらぶらと時を過ごす

the wee hours (n.) – 夜中の1時、2時ごろ(北米)、(英国ではthe small hours)

hammered (adj.) – 酔っぱらった

hors d'oeuvres (n.) – オードブル、前菜

mingle (v.) – (パーティで) 歓談して回る

smooch (v.) – 抱擁する

ward off (v.) – 追い払う

reflect (v.) – 思い出す

bang (n.) – ズドン(という音)

follow through (v.) – やりぬく

Auld Lang Syne – スコットランド民謡「懐かしい昔」「蛍の光」の原曲)



How do you say these in English?

北米では、1月1日はお休みですが2日からすぐ仕事始めとなります。日本に住む私たちからすると、もう少しゆっくりしたいといったところでしょうか。エッセイに関連して、日本の年末年始に関する言い回しをご紹介します。

年越しそば	→ New Year's Eve buckwheat noodles
除夜の鐘	→ the watch-night bell
初詣	→ a visit to shrine on New Year's Day
年賀状	→ New Year's card
お節	→ New Year's dishes
お雑煮	→ rice cake soup with vegetables
お年玉	→ New Year's gift money
羽子板	→ a battledore
初売り	→ New Year's sale
三が日	→ the first three days of a new year
福袋	→ lucky grab bag

今年も一年ありがとうございました。

2013年もどうぞよろしく願いいたします。

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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