



The New ALT - Michael Henderson

Hello everyone, I hope by now most of the 1st Years know me, but I will introduce myself to the 2nd and 3rd years who don't! My name is Michael Henderson and I've been in Kumamoto since early November. I have been to Japan before, but this is my first time in Kyushu, so I'm very excited to be here! Since I am still very new, I would really appreciate any recommendations on things to do. Please don't hesitate to come talk to me about Kumamoto, English, America, or anything!

I'm originally from Seattle, Washington in America. You might know Seattle because of Starbucks or Microsoft ☺. You might also have heard of it from the book and movie series Twilight. Seattle has a lot of beautiful nature and coffee shops, so please visit someday if you can!

In university I studied Cell and Molecular Biology (細胞分子生物学). I love how biology is directly applicable to life around us as well as ourselves. I hope after my time as an ALT I can study more science and learn more about the world around us.

My hobbies are hiking, video games, anime/manga, and exploring new places and cultures (you might see me walking around asking teachers and students for help reading Tokyo Revengers). Back in America, there are so many different types of people who bring their culture with them. I'm always very curious about other cultures, and love asking my friends about theirs. I hope you all can continue being curious about English, or other languages around the world. Let's continue to foster cross-cultural relationships and learning!



Michael-sensei and his friends seeing Christmas lights together in Vancouver.

The Newest ALT - Katelyn Sondereker

Hello everyone! I hope you are excited for Winter Break! You have all worked so hard to get here.

My name is Katelyn Sondereker (ケイトリン サンドレカ), but you can call me Kate (ケイト). I am 28 years old and I am from Akron, Ohio in the United States. I arrived in Kumamoto almost one month ago and I can't believe how fast the time has gone!

In university I studied Biology (生物), Chemistry (化学), and Spanish (スペイン語) at The University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. In fact, I like science so much that after university I spent five more years studying science in graduate school. I was a researcher (研究者) who studied the eyes of mice and I took lots of cool pictures with microscopes. If you ever want to talk about science, please come find me!

In my free time, I like to read books, cook, watch anime (my favorite anime are One Piece, Gintama, and Haikyuu!!), and hang out with my family and friends. I also really love coffee, so if you know of any cafes or coffee shops in Kumamoto please let me know! I enjoy learning about new things and other cultures, so I am excited to explore Japan. Please let me know if there is anything I should see, visit, or experience in Japan!

I love science, but I also like learning about new languages and culture. I will mainly be the ALT for second year students (二年生), but if anyone ever has any questions, please ask me! I am so excited to get to know all of you. I hope we have so much fun studying English together!



Kate-sensei and her family at a Christmas tree farm in Ohio.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

W S Z R M V K O J T W I N S A E N V O L U Z T T
 L K U E W K R C B P U N U U X F T N A K S X E V
 M Q O Q R O U F Y N F O H A I S I O N Z L H W E
 I V O X E K D Y R H O X H L J I N R Q Y J V M W
 F Q J Y A N O H O D T Q Y C G B S N N I L R Y G
 P B O F T P L U X G W G D A N B E N N M X Y R W
 O O G U H P P R S Y Z U H T G Q L K F U Z Z V L
 I Q M C S P H S L A C I T N U L N X E M G Q K L
 N Y C O F D N A L R A G H A D M J Y T G C K U B
 S A P A K V I S U D D V E S H M X M B L H B P X
 E A R G J M M S R A R R E E D N I E R P T Y P B
 T Z E Z G S T O C K I N G S K B E I A P R M I Z
 T N B Y G S J L J E X D F I S C W V M J P S N I
 I A M I B G X D Y H O N T H A K K U N A H A E E
 A W E E Z Z O N V H C A N D Y C A N E S N M C B
 S K C O M Z H T D P T D I O E Q Z R S W U T O R
 U R E U V R B A K O D Z X D J E L S K I V S N S
 O V D C K W Q D Q K A E W P N Y W N H N R I E W
 V W K U Y B U W A I Q C P R I B X O I T I R S I
 B C G I N G E R B R E A D O K K K W T E K H F S
 J G M F K S I L U W E Y O P M X I M K R W C V U
 S E L C I C I G R C L M U C X N Q A J G S Y Y L
 O R N A M E N T S P G C T S I W P N A K Q G S Q
 S W I F G S I D G I E T J Y X Y A D I L O H T Z

candy canes
 Christmas
 December
 garland
 gingerbread
 holiday
 icicles
 ornaments
 pinecones
 poinsettias
 reindeer
 Rudolph
 Santa Claus
 snowman
 stockings
 tinsel
 winter
 wreath



Christmas IDIOMS

What do you think the following Christmas phrases mean?

1. **Deck the halls**
 - A. walk really fast down the hallway
 - B. sing Christmas carols
 - C. decorate the house for Christmas
2. **to have a white Christmas**
 - A. to have a boring Christmas
 - B. to have lots of snow on Christmas
 - C. to have white Christmas lights on the tree
3. **Christmas has come early this year**
 - A. the date for Christmas has changed
 - B. something so wonderful happened that it feels like Christmas
 - C. deciding not to celebrate Christmas

ALTea Time WHITEBOARD

Please sign up on the ALT whiteboard in the Teacher`s Room hallway if you have any English questions or if you just want to talk!

Christmas QUESTION

Around Christmas time, we sometimes have **WHITE ELEPHANT** Christmas parties.

What do you think the phrase **WHITE ELEPHANT** means?

Come chat with us to find out!

Christmas IDIOMS Answers:

1. C 2. B 3. B