



### Working Hard or Hardly Working? – Michael Henderson

Did you work a part-time job during winter break? Many students in America also did, as well as throughout the rest of the school year! Students usually work after school or on the weekends, for about 10-15 hours a week. Often high schoolers in America will work for extra money so they can buy whatever they want. Sometimes they use that money to pay for car insurance or gas, since many high school students drive cars!

Students will work all sorts of different jobs, such as at restaurants, clothing stores, tutors, or even lifeguards at swimming pools! Some students even start their own businesses, such as walking dogs or selling things online. My part-time job in high school was at a fast-food restaurant called Dairy Queen. We mostly sold ice-cream and burgers, and I had a lot of fun working with my coworkers. Some of them were also high schoolers, but others were adults with families. A few of my older coworkers taught me some Spanish words while we worked!

These days, the amount of high school students working is declining. This is due to the coronavirus pandemic closing shops, but also because high school in America is becoming more difficult. More and more students are spending time studying, volunteering, doing club activities, or doing unpaid internships to gain experience for college. It is getting harder to get into good universities, so students are dedicating more time to preparing. I think it is similar to Japan, where students focus on studying and college preparation more than working. If you are a student who has worked a part-time job in Japan, where did you work? Kate-Sensei and I are curious, so come talk to us about it!



Michael-Sensei  
working at  
Dairy Queen!

### New Year, Same You — Katelyn Sondereker

In America, making New Year's Resolutions (新年の抱負) is very common. As December ends, people start thinking of things that they want to change about themselves or their lives in the new year. So people decide to make promises to themselves in January like, "This year I will learn a new language" or "In 2022, I am going to exercise more".

When I ask my second year students (二年生) whether or not they make New Year's Resolutions, the answer is usually that they do not! However, most of them still think that making them is a good idea. I enjoy reading the resolutions that they write in class like, "This year I will study harder" and "In 2022, I am going to be a kind person". One of my New Year's Resolutions is to study Japanese every day, so if you ever have something in Japanese that you want to teach me, please come talk to me!

Most people abandon their New Year's Resolutions by the end of January. According to a study done in 2016, only about 9% of people keep their resolutions. This is because people put too much pressure on themselves to change too quickly. So I tell my students to think of a resolution like a small goal, something that they really want to do.

You don't have to wait until January to make resolutions. Taking lots of small steps will lead to a big change. If you take off some of the pressure, it will give you room to grow. Working hard and setting goals is important, but it is also important to remember that you are enough just the way you are, whether you keep your resolution or not. Do you have a New Year's Resolution? If you do, come tell us!



On New Year's  
Eve, Kate-  
Sensei went to  
a shrine with  
her friend  
Michael.

## *“Hope is a thing with feathers”*

This is the first part of a beautiful poem written by famous American poet Emily Dickinson. The poem is called “Hope is the thing with feathers”. Try and think of the meaning, and come talk to us about it!

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all -*

Some questions:

1. What type of animal is “Hope”?
2. Why does it never stop singing?

### *English Songs We Like!*

**Michael-Sensei:** “*Lost in You*” – khai dreams

**Kate-Sensei:** “*Better*” – Michigander

**Goto-Sensei:** “*The Show Must Go On*” – Queen

**Moriyama-Sensei:** “*Don’t Stop*” – 5 Seconds of  
Summer

Let us know your current favorite English song!

## *English Phrase!*

Worker: “*I’m so sorry I’m late again boss!*”

Boss: “*Don’t be late again, or you’ll be **on thin ice.***”

Girl: “*I can’t hang out today, I’m **on thin ice** with my boyfriend because I forgot his birthday!*”

**“On thin ice” : to be in a dangerous position where you could get in trouble! (not physically hurt)**

Want to try out this phrase? Write a sentence about it and show Kate -Sensei or Michael-Sensei! We’ll check and see if it sounds correct!



Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

