

Meeting People



Over the past year, TJF produced the Deai resource, which is designed to introduce the personalities and daily lives of seven real Japanese high school students through photographs and text. "Meeting People" takes up one of the seven students each issue, turning the focus toward topics of concern to the individual student and introducing some of the photographs and text in Deai. In this way, we hope to provide information useful for a better understanding of the seven students and the Deai project. We will also offer, in conjunction with the Deai website (<http://www.tjf.or.jp/deai/>), necessary explanatory material, related resources and data, as well as ideas for class activities. In this issue we take up Yamamoto Takayuki and his encounter with football, and help students look back on an unforgettable encounter in their own lives.

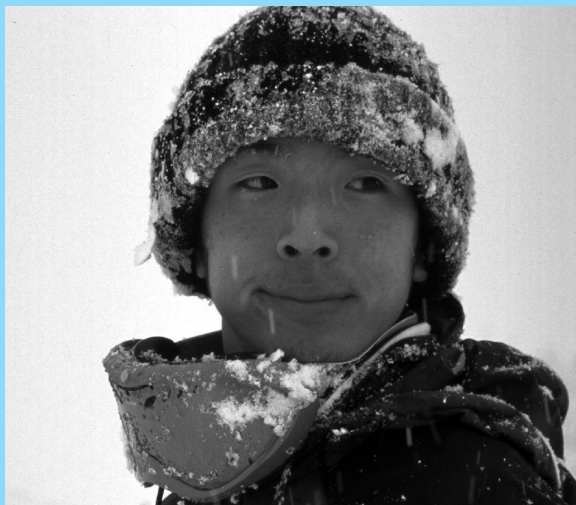


Meet Taka

しょうがっこう
小学校でアメフトとであったことが、ぼくの人生を変えたような気がします。

My encounter with football during elementary school changed the course of my life.

(From Taka's My Story)



Profile

なまえ:

やまもと たか ゆき
山本隆幸

とし:

さい
18才

がっこう
学校:

おおさかさんぎょうだいがく ふ ぞくこうこう
大阪産業大学附属高校

す
住んでいるところ:

きょうと ふ ぎょうとし
京都府京都市

しょうらい ゆめ
将来の夢:

アメフトの選手

Class Objective: Looking back on an unforgettable encounter in one's life

"When I look back," says Taka, "it seems all my memories of high school involve football." Both the hardest and happiest moments of his life seem to have revolved around the game of football. He declares that the encounter with American football in elementary school changed the course of his life. The elementary school he attended, which had special classes for the hearing impaired, had its own football team, and Taka remarks of his encounter

with football: "If I'd had normal hearing and gone to the elementary school near my home, I might never have discovered football. Football is a really important part of my life. In that respect, I'm even sort of glad that I have a hearing disability." In this issue we will read Taka's own description of his encounter with American football and suggest some activities for looking back on an unforgettable encounter in one's own life.

Class Ideas

Part 1: Meeting Taka—An Activity

“A Virtual Interview with Taka: E-mail Exchange by Mobile Phone!”

Let’s exchange e-mail with Taka and ask him to tell us more about “the most unforgettable encounter in your life.”

いつ、どうしてアメフトをはじめたんですか。
アメフトにであってから、人生にどんなことが起きましたか。

Procedure

- 1) Put students in pairs and pass out to each pair either the “E-mail Exchange Samples” (see pp. 10-11) or Taka’s My Story passage (http://www.tjf.or.jp/deai/contents/chart/mystory/myst_yt.pdf).
- 2) Working in pairs (or groups), students should assume either the role of Taka or that of his interlocutor and write out an e-mail exchange.

Tips

- ❖ We recommend having a worksheet on which students can paste their messages and responses in the order the conversation takes place to simulate a real e-mail exchange. (If this activity is too difficult, try cutting up the “E-mail Exchange Samples” and doing a matching activity with the questions and replies, instead.)
- ❖ You might also consider incorporating an exchange of self-introductions by e-mail, uses for *kaomoji* (smileys; see the article on *keitai*, Japanese Culture Now, *TJF Newsletter* No. 21 <http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge16keitai.htm>), free conversation, and other activities depending on your students’ level. Or perhaps, reverse the activity after completing the first round of exchange and have the students playing Taka interview their partners, who should reply with information about themselves.

- 3) Each pair reads out its e-mail exchange and the entire class confirms the content of the conversation. In the process, students gain a deeper understanding of the significance of Taka’s encounter with football.



On a typical day Taka exchanges over fifty e-mail by *keitai* (mobile phone) with his football buddies or friends in his town.

YT-D09

Part 2: Looking Back on an Unforgettable Encounter—Exercise Ideas

Idea 1: 「わたしの大切なもの」 “Things I Treasure”

Create a collage with the title 「わたしの大切なもの」 “Things I Treasure.” Materials for the collage can include photos, clippings from magazines and newspapers, illustrations, etc. Students should write captions for their collages according to the level of their Japanese.

* As an introduction, have students check the captions for photo sheet YT-P08 “Things I Treasure.”



YT-P08

[Left] トロフィー: Among my trophies is one I won in third year of junior high, when I was chosen MVP of the Kyoto regional league. This trophy gave me the courage to go on playing football with confidence in high school. It’s my most cherished possession. [Top center] アメフト選手にもらったサイン: These are autographs I got from some of the professional football players I admire. My particular favorites are Sato Noriyuki of the Kajima Deers and Dion Sanders of the Washington Redskins (in the American NFL)—they both play cornerback (defensive back), the same position as I do. [Bottom center] アメフトのゲーム: My video games are almost all about American football. [Top right] スポーツのマンガ: When it comes to *manga* comics and video games, most of the ones I like are sport-related.

Idea 2: 大切なことについて “An Unforgettable Encounter”

Following the pattern below, have students complete the sentences using information about themselves and write the sentences on note cards. As a class, have the students interview each other using the note cards they prepared.

Q1 (About something treasured): ○○さんの大切なものは何ですか。

わたし／ぼくの人生で、とても大切なものは○○です。
○○とであって、わたし／ぼくは変わりました。

Q2 (Looking back on changes brought about by an encounter): どんなふうになりましたか。

○○とであう・をはじめる前は、_____。
○○とであって・をはじめてから、_____。

Discussion Points

Have you ever found that you naturally acquired the ability to do something thanks to friendship? Discuss your experiences with your classmates.

「友だちとのかかわりを通じて、自然と身についたこと」を話しあってみよう。



When he was in preschool, Taka used to cry because of the strict pronunciation practice he had to do. But then he found American football at his elementary school, which had special classes for the hearing impaired. He says that in high school, thanks to the friendships he had made with his football teammates, he became pretty comfortable communicating with others. He picked up the Kansai dialect after he started playing football and talking more with his friends.



E-mail Exchange Samples

Interviewer

いつアメフトをはじめたんですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

When did you start playing American football?

1

Taka

小学校3年生のときです。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

I started playing football when I was in grade three.

Interviewer

どうして、その小学校に入ることになったんですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Why did you decide to go to that elementary school?

5

Taka

難聴のクラスがあったからです。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Because it had a special class for hearing-impaired students.

Interviewer

どうして、アメフトをはじめたんですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Why did you start playing football?

2

Taka

小学校で上級生が練習しているのを見て、かっこいいなあと思ったんです。それで、チームに入りました。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

I used to watch the older kids at practice and think how cool they were, and then I joined the team myself.

Interviewer

アメフトとであう前と後をくらべると、どんなところが変わったんですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

How have you changed since you took up football?

6

Taka

たとえば、アメフトをはじめる前は、あまり話ができませんでした。はじめてからは、コミュニケーションが楽にできるようになりました。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

For instance, I wasn't much of a talker before I took up football. After I started playing football I became pretty comfortable communicating with others.

Interviewer

日本ではふつうの小学校にアメフトのチームがありますか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Does the average Japanese elementary school have a football team?

3

Taka

いいえ、アメフトができる小学校はめずらしいです。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

No, it is rare among Japanese elementary schools to have a football team.

Interviewer

それは、どうしてでしょう？

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Why do you suppose that is?

7

Taka

チームメートとつきあって、友だち関係やことばの使いかたなど、いろいろ習うことができましたからです。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

That's because I've learned various things through interacting with my teammates, such as how to get along with friends and what to say in various situations.

Interviewer

じゃあ、その小学校に入ってよかったですね。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Well, I guess you were lucky to enter the elementary school you did, weren't you?

4

Taka

本当にそう思います。小学校でアメフトとであって、ぼくの人生は変わりました。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Yes, I really think so. My encounter with football during elementary school changed the course of my life.

Interviewer

アメフトをはじめたから習えたことが、いろいろあるんですね。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

You seem to have learned a lot by taking up football.

8

Taka

そうです。小学校では、監督の先生からアメフトの楽しさと厳しさを教えてもらいました。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Yeah. The head coach in my elementary school taught me both the joys and the rigors of the game.

Discussion Points/Class Ideas by Fujimitsu Yuko, Japanese Language Advisor, The Japan Foundation Manila Office in the Philippines, Former Japanese Language Advisor of The Japan Foundation; Auckland ACENZ in New Zealand

Interviewer

練習は厳しかったですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Was football practice tough?

9

Taka

すごく厳しかったですよ。でも、スポーツを真剣にやろうと思ったら、ただ楽しいだけではないと思います。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

It was tough. I think that if you're serious about playing a sport, there's more to it than just having a good time.

Interviewer

それはすごいですね。うれしかったですでしょう。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

That's fantastic! I bet you were pretty happy about it.

13

Taka

これまでの人生でいちばんうれしかったできごとです。いちばんくやしかったこともアメフトのことで……。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

It was the happiest moment of my life. But in football I've also had some of the bitterest moments of my life.

Interviewer

高校生活はどうですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

How is your life in high school?

10

Taka

高校では、ずっとアメフト中心の生活です。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

In high school, my life has pretty much centered around football.

Interviewer

いちばんくやしかったことについて、きいてもいいですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

May I ask what your most regrettable moment was?

14

Taka

大切な試合中に、ぼくだけサインがわかりませんでした。ぼくに伝える時間がなかったのです。そのために、相手のチームに点が入りました。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

There was one time, at an important game, I was the only one who didn't understand the sign. Things were happening so fast that there was no time to tell me, and the other team scored.

Interviewer

どんな高校ですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

What kind of high school is it?

11

Taka

スポーツコースがあって、アメフトの強い学校です。小学校6年のときから、こういう強いチームでアメフトをやりたいと思っていました。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

It has a course for sports majors and a strong football team. Since I was in sixth grade, it has been my dream to play on such a strong team.

Interviewer

隆幸さんは、ふだん、プレイ中のサインをどうやって知るのですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

How do you understand your teammates' directions during play?

15

Taka

チームメイトがぼくのために、ジェスチャーを使ったサインを考えてくれました。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

My teammates have thought up block signs (gestures) for me.

Interviewer

チームの成績はどうですか。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

How is your football team's record?

12

Taka

高校2年生と3年生のとき全国優勝しました。本当に最高の思い出です。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

We won the national championships in my second and third years of high school. To me these are precious memories.

Interviewer

隆幸さんにはいい仲間がいますね。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

It sounds like you've got some good friends.

16

Taka

みんなのおかげで、アメフトをやっていることはほとんどありませんでした。

サブメニュー ▶ 決定 クリア

Thanks to them, I've almost never felt handicapped while playing football.