

Take two teenagers ... east and west – Teacher's Notes

Aim

This lesson looks at blogs (Internet diaries) about the lives of two teenagers – one from Japan and one from the USA. Students read a blog and then reply to it giving information about themselves.

Warmer

Ask students if they know what a 'blog' is. A blog is an online diary that one person starts and other people reply to. Ask students if they have ever started a blog or if they have written on one.

1 Reading

- Tell students they are going to read a blog started by a girl in Japan. Check understanding of the global reading task – whose life is most similar to theirs – Fumiko's or Danny's?

2 Comprehension

- Students answer the comprehension questions.

Answers

- 1 She gets up at 6 am.
- 2 She wears a school uniform – a blue skirt, long white socks, a white shirt and a blue pullover.
- 3 She puts on her school slippers.
- 4 She has rice with fried chicken, fish, boiled vegetables or eggs.
- 5 She goes to her sports club, three days a week she goes to evening school, she does her homework and then watches TV.
- 6 He takes the bus.
- 7 He plays basketball, video games and sees his friends.
- 8 He goes to camp with his friend Ryan.
- 9 Eminem.
- 10 Yes, he has a dog called Toby.

3 Vocabulary

- Students match the words to the pictures.

Answers

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1 e) | 2 g) | 3 b) | 4 f) |
| 5 a) | 6 h) | 7 c) | 8 d) |

4 Speaking

- Students work in pairs. If necessary go through the new question forms with the whole class before starting the activity (e.g. *What time do you get up? What do you wear to school?* etc.) Students then ask each other the questions.

5 Writing

- Students write a reply to the blog from Fumiko and Danny. They can use the questions from exercise 1 to give them ideas. As an extension of this activity and to make it real, you could set up a class blog. There are websites to help you with this listed below. Alternatively, you could ask students to add to an existing blog – there is one listed below.

Websites

<http://cres1.lancs.ac.uk/~esarie/guestbooks/58guest.htm> – blog set up by a girl called Kate in the UK.
<http://www.blog.co.uk/main/> – websites to help you set up a free blog.
<http://www.blogger.com/start> – another website that helps you set up a free blog.
http://www.ef.com/master/hsy/features/highschool/typical_day.asp – typical day in the life of a student in the USA.
<http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/> – a website for forging international relations between schools. Also has links to help you set up your own website.