

SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado

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All I can say about life is... enjoy it

Enjoy Life

Always everyone, every day,
tells us to enjoy life,
but what is enjoying life?
For me, enjoying life is seeing
the wonderful in the smallest.

Enjoying life is getting
the positive out of problems,
and also living happily
from day to day
regardless of tomorrow.

Silvio David Pajoy Arias, Colombia

Life Is Joy

For me joy is to be with my family. Joy is to be healthy. It is to thank God for all the good things that happen in our lives, even just waking up every day and being able to open your eyes. It is to look at the landscape that surrounds us. I have always thought that being alive is joy and it is the greatest blessing we have.

Kerly Claros, Colombia

What do you do when you are feeling sad or lonely?

I have some things to do and they have benefits. First, when I feel sad, I think about what made me sad and I try to overcome it and don't think about it too much.

Second, I like to eat chocolate because it makes me feel happy. Then, I watch some movies and eat popcorn. After that, one of the best things I like to do is get a pedicure and manicure! This really changes my mood. Also, I put some masks on my face while I do a pedicure and manicure.

Third, I take a warm bath while listening to some soft music, and I relax. Moreover, I call my mother and talk to her for an hour because she gives me energy and she has the power to make me happy and better and relieve my sadness.

Finally, after doing all of these things, I will feel very good and happy and wouldn't give any attention to what was making me sad. Don't think about what makes you sad, think about what makes you happy!

Jana Ajeebi, Saudi Arabia

Everyone has some things that make them relax when they feel sad or nervous. Everyone has her own way to calm herself, for instance, reading, writing, cleaning, and dancing. For me, I like to walk in the park. A park is a place where there are many trees and plants and also swings for children. It is a colorful place in the spring and summer. The cool breeze is refreshing and the nature sounds help you to relax. Also, I like to sit on the wood bench in the night and take deep breaths. Then, I start stargazing.

Walking in the park is the best way to refresh my mind. In fact, many people come with their family and friends to spend time in the park.

In conclusion, walking is one of the most important things that can benefit you in many ways.

Sarah Shaker, Saudi Arabia

Level Four Writes

I'd Like To...

I'd like to live in a cabin
where sun is my light and
where coffee is my first drink;
I'd like to live in a time
when sadness doesn't exist and
when forgiveness is the first way to love;
and, if possible, meet people
who want to laugh for the rest of their life.
by Claudia Perdomo

I'd like to live in a city
where there are a lot of entertainment venues and
where kids can have a good time;
I'd like to live in a time
when people are very simple and
when cars are not needed;
and, if possible, meet people
who like singing all the time.
by Rebecca Dong

I'd like to live in a natural place
where mountains surround beautifully and
where lakes and rivers are singing;
I'd like to live in a time
when I am young and smart and
when time stops forever;
and, if possible, meet people
who live in mountains and natural places.
by Yunhyuk Jung

I'd like to get to know a man
who has brown hair
who wears a cap and a coat
whose pet is funny
whose friends are friendly
and who,
if I want him to,
will share his life with me.
I keep thinking about that.
by Mariana Macias Lasso

I'd like to live in a country
where people are sociable
where the weather is mild
and animal diversity is present;
I'd like to live in a time
when all people reject racism and
when all people accept the difference of others;
and, if possible, meet people
who can communicate with aliens.
by Rakan Alghamdi

What's your favorite thing to do when you are feeling sad or lonely?

When I feel upset I try to avoid all people except for some friends. I prefer to go with them to places away from the disturbance where I can clear my mind. 5 years ago my father passed away, and in order to remove this sadness, I went to the sand dunes in a desert area with some friends. We spent three days enjoying every moment of roasting meat and burning some wood. We discussed how our friendship would last, and I told them that I feel life is short and we are the ones who make it full of worries and anxieties.

Sitting in the desert with a small tent is an indescribable feeling of freedom and distance from communication networks. One of my friends told me if I knew what the names of the stars are? I answered no. He told me that our grandfathers use it as evidence in their travels in the middle of the desert, and they knew the stars' names more than their children's names huh. I spent three days and felt that I became stronger and that being isolated from the noise of the city had great psychological comfort, especially in the middle of the desert. **By Rakan Alghamdi**

he Best Place to Raise a Child

When you become a parent, you will have a lot of responsibilities with your children. Especially, parents are always thinking about things which are good or bad for their children. For example, you need to think about which place is good for raising your child the city or the countryside? For me, I will definitely choose the city, particularly in China. There are three differences in education, entertainment, and social influence.

The first difference is education. In China, there are a lot of schools in the city. Public schools or private schools both have very good quality teaching. In addition, depending on the schools' score and teachers' ability, you can think about which school is the most suitable place for your children. In city schools, there are a lot of school facilities like computer labs and libraries, and students can use these facilities to increase their knowledge. However, in the countryside, there is only one school in one area. You do not have the chance to choose the school. Moreover, there is some basic equipment for students to use in the countryside, like tables and chairs. Sometimes, these facilities are very old and out dated.

As for entertainment, there are also many differences in the city and the countryside. For instance, cities have plenty of entertainment venues like amusement park and zoos. Children can make some good memories in these places. Furthermore, it is easier to develop your children's hobbies in the city. There are several activities for children to do. By participating in these activities, children can more easily develop their hobbies. Then parents can focus on this hobby to train their children. In contrast, children only play with their neighbor's children all the time in the countryside. They do not have specific places to play because conditions in the countryside are worse than in the city. Therefore, children do not have a lot of opportunities to find hobbies.

The last but not the least difference is social influence. In China, if you live in cities, you live in a building. There are some advantages to living in a building. For example, you don't need to worry about heating for kids. Buildings' property will take care of everything. Unlike cities, there are more bungalows in the countryside. In China, most bungalow heating needs people to heat by themselves. Sometimes making fire to heat can hurt children. For instance, when my cousin was a child, he played around the stove, and he fell on the stove. Until now, he still has a scar on his buns. On the other hand, the average education level of people living in cities is higher. The quality of people directly effects the growth of child. If the people are polite, children will learn how to become a polite person. Although they are good people who live in the countryside, most of the people are elderly who have a lot of old ideas like superstitions. Some ideas are not good for child growth.



As you can see, there is a lot to consider which place is better for raising a child. Although both places have schools, activities, and friends, they still have some significant differences. Each place has its own different style to raise children, but cities have more things that meet my requirements for raising a child. In my opinion, I think cities are better places to raise kids than the countryside, especially in China. **Rebecca Dong, China**

JOY IS MEETING NEW FRIENDS ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS: Paul (Colombia) Xia (China), Teresa (Colombia), Kristine (teacher), Luciana (Peru), and Khalil (Libya)

Your Car Can Be a Death Trap... by Daiki Sakai, Japan

Let's imagine you use a cell phone while driving a car. Everyone uses a cell phone everywhere because it has a lot of information such as news. However, using cell phones has a high risk for traffic accidents. In fact, if you are texting and messaging while in a car, it will increase the chance of a crash by 23 times ("Teen Driving"). Although some disagree, people should not use a cell phone while driving a car.

Cell phone use while driving a car should be illegal because the driver might not see the signs. If a driver had missed a sign, it might have caused an accident. Focusing on a text message could cause a driver to miss a sign. As a result, a car might crash into other cars causing possible injuries. Moreover, a driver thinking about a phone conversation or text while driving a car could cause an accident because they are late in seeing the signs. This is very dangerous because someone could be killed or badly injured.

This leads to the second reason to ban phones while driving. I know someone who didn't pass away, but an accident damaged them badly and they lost their life as they knew it before the crash. People who use a cell phone while driving might cause a car accident. For instance in Japan, a driver was playing a game while they were driving. A child was crossing the road, and the driver didn't see them. The child was hit by the car and died. The driver said he didn't notice the child. Even if a person is a good driver, it is possible to cause an accident and kill someone.

Some people might say a driver needs to look at a cell phone sometimes to use the GPS. If a driver can't use a cell phone while driving they might worry because they don't know how to get to their destination. However, using a GPS device doesn't require the person to be driving. Consider pulling over to the side of the road, and checking the directions, or set the GPS for audio commands so the driver can keep their eyes on the road. It would be ironic if a driver never made it to their destination because they were using GPS while driving.

As you can see, people should not use a cell phone while driving. Using a cell phone is very dangerous because it can easily cause an accident. Your car can be a death trap! If people can stop using a cell phone in a car, accidents will decrease and people won't die.

Work site

"Teen Driving: Don't Text and Drive." Blog.Mas.Gov.Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 14 Nov. 2013. <https://blog.mass.gov/blog/safety/national-teens-dont-text-and-drive-week/>

Low Employee Morale... by Hye Sun Kim, South Korea

The number of employees is 157 million in the U.S. in 2019, and I am one of them. There are so many employees, but are they working happily and contentedly? According to Oracle Netsuite statistics, more than 42million U.S. workers left their jobs in 2019. Why do so many employees leave or change jobs? For personal reasons, due to trouble among colleagues, or financial reasons? Maybe, wages, time and working conditions will be important for workers. Although it is a challenging problem, low employee morale can be solved.

The first solution is to raise wages. 26 U.S. states have said they would raise the minimum hourly wage to \$15 starting in 2022, but many employees still earn less than \$15 an hour. The U.S. consumer price index rose 7.9%, the highest in 40 years, but the real average hourly wage, which reflects inflation, fell 1.9% from the same period last year (united infomax). Wages will have to be raised to meet rising prices and basic living standards.

A guaranteed lunch break would also boost moral. There is no fixed lunch break at small stores. From my experience, it is lunch break when there are no customers after 2 P.M, but I have to greet customers as soon as they walk in the door. In such cases, employees are not able to eat and rest properly, resulting in complaints and fatigue. What effect will this have? Work is inefficient, and I become more angry with customers. It means I will never enjoy the work. Therefore, employees should be guaranteed at least one full hour of lunch break and rest time.

Finally, adequate staffing is a fundamental right at work. What happens when there are fewer workers? If you do the amount of work that two or three workers have to do, your stress and fatigue will be great. Also, if you work a lot alone, you think you will get paid a lot, but ironically, it is not true. There is also a high possibility of making mistakes due to high pressure.

Higher wages, guaranteed breaks, and adequate staffing are important factors for employee productivity. Companies grow only when workers are happy, and countries develop only when companies grow. These are the days when it is difficult for employers to find workers and workers to find jobs. I believe that when employers and employees understand and harmonize with each other, problems will be solved.

Connie Shoemaker, editor