

SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado,
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Students Write about Winter

Make the Most of Every Season

Have you ever stayed in a place that has different seasons like summer and winter? Have you enjoyed all the activities that these seasons offer? Summer and winter have similarities. Both seasons have the same duration; 3 months. In addition, your routine is the same. For example, you continue to go to school or work. Although there are similarities, summer and winter vary in weather, scenery, and leisure activities.

The first point of contrast is the weather. In the summer the temperature is hot or warm and winter is cold. Furthermore, in summer, days are sunny and sometimes raining. Seasons have been changing for the last few years. One example of this was last December. Compared to other winters, much less snow was falling throughout the season. On the other hand, winter has snowy days. Moreover, the length of days in summer is longer than in winter.

Another aspect of contrast is the scenery. While summer is extremely colorful, winter looks a bit bland. For example, summer has a lot more colorful flowers than winter. In winter you see brown grass and flowers. In addition, summer has green trees and grass, and in winter one sees snow covered trees and grass. In contrast to summer, in winter you see fewer animals than in summer.

Leisure activities are also different in summer compared to winter. In summer, there are more outdoor activities than winter. In winter sometimes you do more home activities like table games or visiting with your family. In summer, you can do some activities like taking long hikes, summing outdoor, enjoying picnics, or rafting. Although the ways of spending time vary, in winter you can still do a lot of activities. Examples of these activities are skiing, ice skating, and snowboarding.

Finally, summer and winter are different in weather, scenery, and leisure activities. Each season lasts just 3 months, and you should enjoy all the activities and beautiful views that each season has. It is important to be prepared for each season. Specifically, the appropriate clothes, and make sure that you are safe. Not all the countries have seasons which change the routine in their lives; that is why you ought to make the most of every season and be always happy. *María Teresa Velasquez Angel, Colombia*

My Wintry Landscape

White snow, Christmas, New Year, fireplace, my birthday— everything means winter. It's a warm, peaceful, and beautiful landscape. If I am stuck indoors for seven days because of the heavy snow, I will be happy. If I'm in such a situation, I don't have to do any activities outside. I'll keep the fireplace warm, turn on the music, wrap sweet potatoes in foil and bake them in the stove. It's even better if it snows outside the window from the mountain cabin where the scenery is amazing. I want to eat as much delicious food as I want, such as steak, fresh salad, pork belly, wine roasted corn, and spicy kimchi stew. Furthermore, I want to be with friends I missed; it would be like a dream. Lastly, I pray that all of this will actually happen to me! *Hye Sun Kim, South Korea*

Snow Day

If I were locked up at home for seven days because of the snow, I think I would be prepared for those days with enough food, chocolates, and some board games to play inside my house. In addition, I would buy many games to play with my dog inside the house, and of course, enjoy the beautiful view! Most importantly, I can sleep all day while it is snowing! *Luisa Gihan Ruiz, Colombia*

Snow Day At Home

If I am stuck at home for seven days because of snow, I think I will prepare enough food first. Then draw the curtains so I can sleep all day and all night for 24 hours. Therefore, I can't see the sun. When I get enough sleep, I will make some Chinese food, maybe some hometown dishes because it usually takes a long time. After these, I will go to the balcony to drink hot coffee and watch the snow. I will enjoy this uncommon long vacation! *Zhen Yang, China*



Level 6 students' LOVE/HATE relationship with WINTER!

(by Luisa, Hye Sun, Zhen)

LOVE	HATE
snow!	snow!
amazing view	dirty melting snow
feel and touch the snow	shoveling
snow activities (skiing, snowboarding, sledding...)	icy roads
snow day/ no school	cold- brrr!
time to sleep	
winter break	

Opinions about Colorado Weather Come from All Corners of the World

Nasser Al Amari, Saudi Arabia

I don't like cold.

I don't like hot atmosphere.

I don't like black ice.

I do like snow.

I do like warm atmosphere.

I do like blue sky.

Omar Alqahtani, Saudi Arabia

I like cold weather because the weather in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia is very hot in the summer (55 Celsius). Sometimes it is 57 or 56, and my body is overheated and dizzy. I feel faint. My focus is not good in the summer with hot weather. I don't like the summer because it is not good for my skin. I like cold weather.

Ghadeer Alsharif, Saudi Arabia

My favorite sport is skating. I like it because skating is good for my health. I often skate with my friends. It is an enjoyable and healthy sport. Also, it improves balance and mood. My first time was in Boston. It was good. I loved it from that moment.

Nicolás López, Colombia

I prefer hot weather. I can go to the park and go to the beach with my Family. I can meet new people, make new friends, go to parties, and do many things. However, in the cold weather the days are boring.

Giovana Rolim Wendling, Brazil

Winter is a very beautiful season. The people dress more elegantly. When the snow falls the streets turn white and so do the trees. I like to put a fire in the fireplace and drink hot chocolate. When it's snowing we can make snowmen. This year was the first time I saw snow because in my city it doesn't snow. When we touch the snow it feels soft and cold. In winter many people go for a walk in the mountains. It is a beautiful landscape. Winter is beautiful but I can't wait for summer to start.

Abdulrahman Alqahtani, Saudi Arabia

I like snow days. On our snow day I went to Boulder. The street had a lot of snow. It was very hard to drive the car and travel. We went to downtown Boulder, and there were no people. When we went back to my home, the street closed because they had an accident and everything was so cold and freezing. Some people died in the street. After that I called a helpful man and he sent me a helicopter to take me to my house. I felt my hand freezing and my face freezing. I liked this day, but I needed to keep my body warm. Everyone needs to keep safe.

Kerly Claro, Colombia

Winter Park. In December I wanted to meet the snow, and in Denver there was no snow. My boyfriend took me to Winter Park, Colorado. It is a small town. It is 2 hours from Denver. It is far for me. On the way we saw many animals. This day was very cold but the sky was sunny. We ate in a beautiful restaurant, and the food was so delicious. When we arrived at Winter Park everything was white, and my boyfriend and I played in the snow. We stayed in a beautiful hotel. We made a bonfire, listened to music, and cooked. All of the scenery was beautiful. I want to go again.



Opinions (cont.)

Yong Dong, China

Winter is a magic season.
Sometimes it snows, but usually, it is a cold day.
It rarely has hail or rain.

Jetxa Delgado, Venezuela

My beautiful Winter Scene: For me, my beautiful winter day is when I am with my family all together. My father doesn't work or go to school or anything. I love time with family. This is important for us. Maybe for my brother these days are not exciting because he always shovels snow. My stepmother always makes hot chocolate with cheese. In my country this is a traditional drink. We watch Christmas movies. I know it is February, but I like it. Also my stepmother cooks chili for us with meat and corn bread. It is delicious. She always says this food is for cold days. I like living here, and I like the snow.

Silvio David Pajoy Arias, Colombia

Winter: One month ago, I saw and touched the snow for the first time. In Colombia we don't have seasons, so this day was special for me. I remember that I played with the snow and then with my friends. Then we went to the ice rink in Denver. At the ice rink, I learned to skate, and it was fun. However, at the end of the day, we had a bad experience because while we were going back home the streets were dangerous with the snow, and it was very difficult to drive. Everyone in the car was very scared, but in the end we arrived home safely. I will never forget this experience.

Sarah Shaker, Saudi Arabia

Do you like the winter season? What do you usually do in winter? Have you seen snow before? Winter is cold and sometimes raining or snowing. I would like to tell you about my wonderful winter. Two years ago, I went to Leavenworth with my friends. It is a small city near Seattle. First of all, I arrived around 3:30 p.m. When I walked in the street, the snow was falling. This is the first time I saw snow. It was magnificent and made me happy. I wondered if this was reality or not. Then, I bought ice cream. Also my friend and I made a snowman. I enjoyed it there. It was one of the best moments in my life. In addition, there are many different sports you can do (ice skating, ice hockey, snowboarding). In Saudi Arabia many people go camping in the winter. It is common.



A cup of coffee keeps Wahda warm!

New Writers' Snow Poetry

FREEZING DAY

Snow falling
I like the snow.
I made a snowman yesterday
 with friends
On Wednesday there isn't school
Snow is very beautiful
I am feeling happy
I am staying at home
 -- Ghadeer Alsharif

Children smiling
They just want to be happy
The street is white
The branches of the trees are frozen
Another freezing day
 -- Giovana Wendling

SNOWY

I like the snow.
I made a snowman yesterday
 with friends
On Wednesday there isn't school
Snow is very beautiful
I am feeling happy
I am staying at home-- Ghadeer Alsharif

TODAY

Today is very cold
Snow is beautiful
Snow is funny
The snowman is sparkling
Soft snow feel
Today the sky is pure
 -- Omar Alqhatani

BEAUTIFUL

This snow is beautiful
The snow view is good
This day is cold, the sky looks cool
The sky is white when sleeping
The phone is silent
Pure water
My morning drink is hot
Today is interesting
 -- Naser Almarri



NEW WRITERS (cont.)

WINTER

flying
feeling
coming
window looking snowflakes
fun -- Yong Dong

FLYING

soft
freezing
drifting
snow storm
home fireplace hot
happy!
 -- Yong Dong

THE COLD OF THE SNOW

The cold of the snow
Sometimes as cold as your heart
And it is at night that I miss your warmth
Come back soon please
The distance separates our bodies
But not our souls
That are destined to love each other
For the whole eternity
 -- Jennifer Calderon

LOVE IN WINTER

Our love is silent as snow, intense as cold
your kisses cool my heart
In winter the weather is indifferent and
your love makes me float like a snowflake
 -- Nicolas Lopez Contreras

SNOWY

(Teacher Tom's examples to class)

falling
swirling
floating
silent snowflakes hurrying
no school today
 smile!

NEW HOME

(for my student who doesn't like snow)
cold cold so cold
Colorado
high mountains
lots of clouds
 frozen fingers
frozen toes
pack the car!
get the dog!
 on the way to Florida!

WHITE HEART

When winter comes your love is falling
until it cools my feelings
your looks freeze my senses and smile
even if the day is cold
 -- Nicolas Lopez Contreras

WINDOW

Through the window
I see snow falling
The fire in the fireplace is disappearing
I'm feeling the air cooling
 -- Geovanna Wendling

SNOWMAN

Carrot nose
Scarf and buttons
Snowman
I love you loads
I'll put your eyes
And the mouth of coal
I'll put a hat on you
And cotton balls
Snowman
I love you loads
 -- Giovana Wendling

Winter is a magic season.
Sometimes it snows, but usually, it is a cold day.
It rarely has hail or rain.
Snowstorms cover the ground, and everything wearing
pure white is another beautiful sight.
 Yong Dong



Meshal and Omar greet their first Colorado Snowfall, 2021.

Here's What We Have to Say: From Comparing Parents to Recycling to Education

My Mother and Father

I live in a small town, and there are four people in my family: my father, my mother, my sister and me. My mother is a worker. She works in a big company. My father was an engineer, and he worked for the government. Although they both like cooking and they were both born in the same year, they still differ in appearance, character, and their leisure activities.

The first point of contrast is appearance. My mother has long and straight hair, whereas my father has short and curly hair. Everybody says I look like my father. Because my father and I both have small eyes, I look like my father. Unlike my father, my mother has big and bright eyes. The biggest difference is that my mother is short, but my father is very tall. In fact, he is 187M!

Another aspect of contrast is character. My mother is a very fun and outgoing person. She is a completely kind mother, unlike my father, who is the serious one in my family. He doesn't smile often. While I was going to school he was strict about my homework. If I didn't finish my assignment, my father punished me and didn't let me watch TV. Also my father liked to educate me and my sister like a boy, and he wanted us to be brave like men. On the other hand, my mother prefers us to be whatever we want.

My mother and my father are also significantly different in their leisure activities. If my mother has time she loves going shopping. I think every woman loves shopping. In contrast my father hates to do that. Once in a while my father goes shopping with my mother, and after 30 minutes, my mom can't find him. Well, he felt tired of shopping with my mom, so he ran home. In their spare time, my father likes to read books, and he likes outdoor activities like going fishing or running. However, my mother likes to stay at home doing gardening and sewing.

Clearly, I have great parents. They have been married for almost 35 years, but they still love each other. No matter their differences in their appearance, character or leisure time. In fact, my mother is more tolerant and she is always patient with me. The other way around my father was strict, but he still loved me. And I love my parents too. *Guixia Liu, China*

Global Education

Education is important in the world. Some people do not study because they do not have a chance to go to school, or maybe they do not have enough money to pay for school. These are unfortunate situations because education is powerful. Among the effects of global education are technology, communication, and better jobs.

Technology is one effect of global education. In fact many people go to school to learn how to use technology such as the internet, computers, and cellphones. If you know how to use a computer, you are able to study online, to watch news, and surf the net. After that you will be great because technology makes you a better person and teaches you various skills which are very useful in every one's life. As you know, technology is a part of our lives. It can have some negative effects, but it can also offer many positive benefits.

Another effect is communication which is a critical need in the world. If you are planning to study outside your country, you have to communicate with people who work there. We are able to communicate with the world in social media such as Facebook also. By doing this we are going to understand each other's habits, make friends, and speak other languages.

Better jobs are another effect to note. If you are educated you will have a better job with better pay. Jobs are important for our life. A better job can bring a better life. Have you seen someone who is not educated become a professor? Of course not! Clearly, we should promote education because it can improve life. The future will be better for everyone if every parent gives their children the opportunity for a good education. Governments know the importance of education too, so they should motivate citizens to be educated because education improves the economy by developing the skills of individuals and enabling them to obtain jobs with good benefits. *Mustafa Albadran, Iraq*

Do You Like Veggies? Choose a Vegan Diet

In this modern society, people have more and more kinds of diets that they can choose from. Among them, the vegan diet seems to be the most popular. Some people believe that a vegan diet has many positive effects, such as reducing farmers' suffering. But why do people prefer a vegan diet over other diets? There are three important reasons for choosing vegan diets; health, religion and environment.

Since more and more papers are talking about the benefits of vegetables, people who usually focus on their health prefer a vegan diet. These people believe that this diet is better than eating meat because meat has lots of fat, which is harmful to their health. Besides, they also believe that only eating vegetables can help them to control their weight. I have several friends who have all tried the vegan diet when they want to lose some weight. It seems like the vegan diet can really help people to lose weight.

Another reason why people prefer a vegan diet is because of their religion. As we all know, there are numerous religions in this world. Of course, different religions have different rules about eating. Some of them don't allow members to eat beef while others don't allow pork and still others only let their believers eat vegetables. For example, most monks in Asia are not allowed to eat meat. In India, there are also a variety of religions that promote vegetarianism, such as Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism.

The final reason why people choose a vegan diet is related to environmental concerns. A study from UCDAVIS shows that a cow will belch about 220 pound of methane each year. At this point, cows are responsible for the increasing greenhouse gasses. In this case, if less and less people eat meat, it should be helpful for the global environment.

Of course a vegan diet has several benefits so that people may prefer to choose such a diet. However, the question of whether a vegan diet has enough nutrition is still a problem. Since there are some nutrients that cannot be found in vegetables such as Omega-3 which is from fish, people who choose a vegan diet should be more focused on nutrition and taking supplements to make sure they get enough of what they need for a long life. *Yufan Zhang, China*



Here's What We Have to Say

International Education

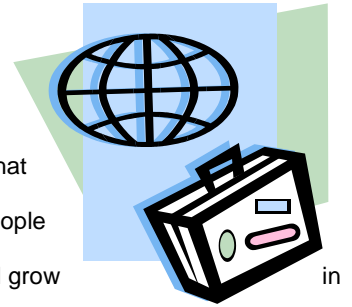
Have you ever thought about studying in another country? Usually, international education is chosen because people want to find better opportunities for education. For example if people want to learn another language like English they will travel to the United States or probably to England. Among the effects of international education are knowledge, an open mind, and job opportunities.

Knowledge is one effect of international education. Studying in another country makes people realize that there is a different learning system, and it could be a better system. Perhaps the material that is taught varies so people can learn things that they haven't learned in their own country.

Another effect is an open mind. As a consequence of traveling to another country to study, people will know another culture and different ways of thinking. As a result, they may learn to respect other perspectives. Also people exchange ideas, so they will gain a broader world and life view, and they will grow their understanding of and empathy for others.

Job opportunities are another effect of international study to note. In fact, when people travel to another country they meet many people of different ages and maybe different nationalities. These new people probably have good jobs or their own business. These connections may help people to have more opportunities for a new job. Even if they don't have any friends, they can find a new job if the country where they have traveled to offers them better opportunities. For example, this is often true in a country where technology and other factors produce higher quality jobs than other countries.

As we have seen the effects of international education, we can conclude that it could bring people many benefits in their lives. It could help people not only get a better education, but it can also present people with a new way to see the world and better opportunities to develop their academic skills. *Luciana Alejandra Prada Gonzales, Peru*



Reasons to Recycle Clothing

There are different ways of recycling. We can recycle paper waste or plastic waste. The clothing industry is recycling also. This is important because this industry has a lot of contamination; in particular making new clothing requires massive amounts of water; approximately 1800 gal per production. There are many ways to recycle clothing. For example, consumers can bring their used clothing to be sold at a consignment shop or to a donation center at a second hand store. There are also companies that produce clothes with used fabric from peoples' donations. Among the causes of recycling clothing are changing fashion preference, waste, and environmental protection.

Some people recycle clothes because of personal preference. They like to share old clothes with poor people. For example, I prefer to donate to charity communities or people who live in low-income areas with few resources. People sell their old clothes in a second hand store instead of throwing it away because the clothes are good quality and fashionable.

Another reason why some people recycle clothes is because of waste. The fact is that many consumers buy clothes that they don't need. They feel better when they buy clothes because the brain produces dopamine with every exciting purchase. However, they are not conscious of this reality. Maybe they have read or listened to something about that. However, most consumers aren't aware of this, and they don't know about the raw materials that are needed to produce garments. Those who are aware recycle or open a second hand shop.

Environmental protection is another reason to note. Wealthy people don't know and they haven't had reason to ask why they need to worry about the planet. At home they have enough food, water, electricity and every basic service. In contrast, poor people know and live the effects of pollution in their everyday lives. People who are concerned about the environment have this reason to recycle. If you think before you throw your clothes away, you will help the planet.

Whatever the reason however, more people need to start recycling their clothing and buying used clothing. It is clear that counseling and education are necessary to promote the recycling of clothing. Then if we do this, we will see the effects around the world. *Diana Sandoval Fandino, Colombia*

Inability to Cook

The importance of knowing how to cook becomes clear to someone who lives alone because we are not aware of this need when we live with family. There seems to be a difference between Eastern, Middle Eastern and Western countries regarding an individual's ability to cook. Also, there is a difference between residents living in cities and those who live in villages. The Middle Eastern countries seem to have a higher percentage of people who know how to cook than Eastern and Western countries because these countries are poorer and the citizens have a lot of time. For these same reasons, villages have a higher percentage than cities. Among the effects of the inability to cook are expensive, unhealthy and dependent on others.

Wasting money is one effect of knowing how to cook. Those who are unable to cook spend a lot of money on one or two meals a day at restaurants. In 2012, when I lived in Malaysia to study for a master's degree, I spent a lot of money eating out for every meal. It soon became necessary for me to stop wasting money, and since then I have learned to cook.

Poor health is a second effect of the inability to cook. This is so important because many who don't know how to cook often eat fast food. It is common knowledge that when we eat large amounts of fast food our health declines. Families who cook at home have stronger health than those who often eat at restaurants.

The last aspect is dependence on others. If we do not cook, we live dependent on family, especially on a wife or a restaurant when we feel hungry often at night. If the wife is sick and the restaurant is closed, we cannot provide for our future, and we cannot live a long life.

Clearly, if you are someone with the inability to cook, it is possible to learn it, step by step. Spend time learning and practicing, and you can become a good cook. To avoid negative effects, we must learn to cook different types of food no matter which country we live in so that we can depend on ourselves to stay healthy. *Khalil Ibrahim, Libya*