

## Homestay

# Learning to think in English during my U.K. homestay



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### Students and hosts at the farewell party

I went to the U.K. with my classmates in March. We stayed with host families. Yuta Isono and I stayed with the same host family. Our host family was only our host mother whose name was Renney. She liked to watch TV very much and Yuta and I watched TV with her every day. It was a very nice experience for us to watch TV shows from the U.K. At first, I couldn't understand the shows, but gradually I could understand their English. My favorite programs were comedy shows. They were fun and I learned a lot from TV shows, but I learned more from my host mother. Let

me tell you about my English learning experiences in the U.K.

First, we learned a lot of British English through our portfolios. Renney used to be a teacher, so she taught us British English very intensively. One day, we showed our portfolios to Renney. Our portfolios had some information about Japan, so we talked a lot about our country and ourselves. It should have been a lot of fun, but it became a little difficult because the English that we have learned is American English, so Renney sometimes couldn't understand our English. She said, "Oh,

that's American pronunciation!" or "What is the spelling?" For example, she pointed out my pronunciation when I said "can't." About spelling, I have learned to write the word as "favorite," she corrected it to "favourite." We talked about this for a long time. It took us two hours to do one portfolio, so we did my portfolio the next day.

We learned some important things during our conversations with Renney. At first, we tried to make perfect sentences to communicate, but we learned that sentences with only subjects and verbs were enough. The second

point that we learned was thinking in English. When I wanted to say something in English, we thought about the sentences in Japanese first and translated them into English. However, on the third day of our homestay, we didn't need to translate. I began to think in English. I was impressed with my progress.

The homestay was a lot of fun. I learned a lot of British English and how to better communicate. If I have a chance, I want to go to the U.K. again. Next time, I want to try a homestay alone.

By Leo Sagara

Established in Hikarigaoka, Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture, in 1935, Reitaku has a history of over 70 years. Reitaku's educational philosophy is based on the principle of "chi-toku-ittai" (wisdom and virtue go hand in hand), which is based on "Morology" (the philosophy of ethics) advocated by Chikuro Hiroike, the founder of Reitaku.

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