

Hello! October has just ended, and it is getting chiller every day in Massachusetts, the United States. The leaves started to turn colors and every scenery I see is very gorgeous that it looks like a scene from a movie. This month was like a climax of fall season. Host family and I went to buy a pumpkin and did pumpkin carvings together. The pumpkins were all humongous that you can't even imagine. Also, I dressed as an Elphaba from Wicked for the Halloween block party. On the day of Halloween, I handed out many candies to the little kids who came to our house for trick-or-treating. Like this, I'm starting to get used to here, but every day, I still learn many new things. So today, I want to introduce some of it.

Whenever I talk to my friends at school, I learn new words and slang. From one of the words I learn, my favorite words are "low-key". When I first heard this word, I was confused, because I thought the meaning was like low sound in instruments. But this "low-key" means "little bit" or "kind of". So, you can use it like "It's low-key cold today" or "I'm low-key not hungry right now." As antonym, there is "high key", too! I try to use these words that I learned and I get proud of myself when I was able to use them smoothly.

Like this, every day includes something new to me. However, as a Japanese exchange student, I'm not always the one to become a learner. Sometimes, I teach my friends Japanese or Japanese culture. Recently, during the gym class, one of my friends asked me to teach some confusing Japanese words. So, I taught her "stem" and "cookie" in Japanese. In English, stem and cookies has nothing in common, even the syllables are different. However, in Japanese, stem is 茎 and cookies is クッキー. My friend was shocked how similar the words are and saying she can never learn Japanese. Interacting with people from the world makes me realize how hard Japanese is. Also, one of my other friends asked me about a 餅つき, because on TikTok, the video of the man and the women making rice cake went on viral and it was a trend that time. In the video, they were saying "よいしょ! はい! よいよい!" And she asked me what it means. I was surprised, because I have never really thought what it meant. From this, I got to face Japanese and its culture from another perspectives.

I have been learning and absorbing numerous things since I got here. I want to keep up my high motivation for learning and enjoy November, too.

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