

Hello, it's been five months since I came here, and I've just reached the halfway point of my study abroad. I can't believe I'm already in sixth month, it still feels like I've only been here for three months. How fast time flies!!

In Adelaide, Australia, it's officially winter and it's been raining all week, which is not idea weather for outdoor activities such as cycling and hiking. I'm so sad that my hobbies aren't be able to. I didn't expect it because I thought it would be dry and hot all year. The weather is crazy- it changes ten times in a day!!

I'll be talking about how I've been spending my time during this winter without cycling and hiking. The answer is ROWING.

Do you know what rowing is?? I think it's less common in Japan. I didn't even know there is rowing clubs in Japan before my host father told me there is. I don't even know how to explain it, so I'll show you the picture.



Basically, rowing is the sport of propelling a boat across the water using oars. The boat in this picture is a four-person boat which is called a quad. There are also single, double, and eight. I usually row in a quad sometimes I row in a eight. As you can see in the picture, in a single, double, and quad each rower uses two oars, while in a eight each rower uses only one oar. In addition, we normally have a coxswain who's sitting in front of a boat, controlling the boat and telling rowers strategies and info. It looks easy to do but it's so hard than I expected. We have to row in same timing to ensure reducing water friction and propelling smoothly. Also, there is a bunch of rowing terminology that made me so much confused.

I started rowing at a winter camp where rowers who had been rowing for couple of years gather to train during the off-season in winter. My friends who are in rowing club introduced me. That's how I started rowing. During my first session, I couldn't make out what the coxswain were getting at because they used so many terminologies that I had never heard before. I was only one who didn't understand. After that, my coach and friends taught me step by step how to row from the basics and introduced me to

another rowing club for people who just started recently. Now, I row with yr 8 and 9 at Torrens River on Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon. We focus on the fundamentals and work on developing good technique and proper rowing form for the next summer season. It's challenging but it's a lot of fun. I'm really proud of myself for trying something I was interested in without hesitation.

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