

Welcome and Introduction Transcript:

Students, Hello! My name is David Horsley; I am your teacher for this course. I'm a New Zealander, and I've been in Japan for thirty years now. We're meeting under very unusual circumstances, and I'm sorry that we can't be in the classroom together, but this is how we have to do this course, for a while anyway.

You've made it to this blog, so, congratulations! This blog is the one place that you need to come to to get all of the information about this course. It's a noticeboard; I'll tell you about what is happening, and what's going to happen about classes. It's my blackboard; it'll have information about what you have to do, and it'll have other things as well: feedback for things that I feel that you have done well or maybe you can do better. It'll also have information about homework and assignments. It's basically the one-stop place that you have to remember to come at the beginning of every class to find out what you have to do on that day.

Some important points. First, your physical safety. It's a difficult time, and I know you have to keep social distancing, and take care of your health. If you feel sick, you have to do something about it right away. If you don't know what to do when you are sick about your homework or textbook, you have to contact me and just ask me.

Privacy. This is the second issue. Your privacy is very important to the school and to me. I'm filming this video from my house, and you can see me, of course, I'm the teacher, but you can also see what's behind me: it's my books and stuff. I'm sorry, it's a bit messy. You have to remember that sometimes we're going to have Zoom meetings, and I can see you and perhaps other students can see you as well. You have to set up the situation so that you are comfortable that other people can see what is behind you, and not give away any private information about where you are or other things that you want to keep to yourself. So, make sure that you are in a place that is very, very safe, and that you have something behind you that maybe covers what you don't want other people to see, or something like that, please.

Another important point, a third important point: email. Email is very important because that's the way that I take attendance. When I'm in the classroom, I take attendance in a very old-fashioned way, and that is by using a book. For example, something like this, an old-fashioned teacher's book. Your name is in here. And, when we are doing Zoom meetings, the problem is that maybe I can't see everybody who is on the Zoom, or we have to rotate through students. So, I

take attendance by looking at your emails and seeing that you've done the work that I wanted you to do for the day. Sometimes I'm going to ask you to take a picture of the textbook, when you get it, to show me that you've done the work and that everything is ok. You have to attach it to the email and send it to me. When you send an email to me, please write your name in English and put your student number in the subject line. That way, there's no mistake and no confusion. The address is very important. I always use my Yahoo address. I don't use any addresses that belong to any other university or any school. If you look down underneath this video you can see the email address, my email address, but I'll tell you now. It's dwhorsley@yahoo.co.jp. If you send an email to any other address, probably I won't get it, and then I won't mark you as being present for that class, and that's very bad, of course. I don't care which email you use, which email address you use to send information to me. If you have a university address, or a Gmail address, or a Yahoo address, I don't mind anything, any place, any place that you send it from, but it has to come to my address at Yahoo.

A final, really important point is about grades. It's a very difficult thing. Every university teacher in Japan is having this problem. We're all doing this kind of distance learning, remote learning. Really, it's emergency remote learning. And we're having to find our how to do things as we go along. I promise you that we'll do the best by you. I mean we're going to try very hard to make sure this class is worthwhile for you, and that you learn as much as possible under these circumstances. Please don't worry about the grading system now. I'll put up another video about it later when I've got a better idea about what's happening. The main thing at the moment is your attendance. Please check the attendance rules for your school, and then abide by those rules. I'll start chasing you if you are absent too much.

As for the classes themselves: come to this blog when your class is scheduled to start. We're going to run the classes at their scheduled times, not later. When you finish the work, you have to email me. Please try to email me by the time the class is scheduled to end. The reason is that I start another class later on. And I'm getting emails from those students later on. If you finish early, that's fine. You're finished. Please send me the email and if you've finished early you've just finished the class, and you can do whatever you want to do.

Finally, then, we hope that everything passes quite quickly with this Covid~19 virus thing, this terrible thing, and we can get back into the classroom and return to a kind of normal life, and that everything will settle down as quickly as possible. Good luck for this class, and I hope that everything is ok with you and for you, and let's do our best under these circumstances. Thank you.