

Hello Everyone

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good rest over the New Year Holidays and are looking forward to joining us in Kitakyushu University from April.

Today this video is only going to be in English with an English PDF file. From today I would like you to challenge your English skills a little bit and start to get used to my British accent in preparation for April. Don't worry the classes will be bilingual but I think it is always good to start a new year with a new challenge.

Every year I used to make a number of New Year Resolutions, for example, losing weight, getting fit, writing ten million research articles, and not surprisingly I never succeeded in completing any of my New Year Resolutions.

A very good friend of mine suggested that instead of making New Year Resolutions, I should decide upon a word for the year. My word for last year was 'development' and my word for this year is 'determination.' According to the Cambridge English Dictionary the definition of 'determination' is:

1. The ability to continue trying to do something, although it is very difficult
2. The process of controlling, influencing, or deciding something
3. The process of finding something out

A similar word to 'determination' is the word 'resolute' I like the sound of the word resolute but for this year the word 'determination' suits me better.

There are two main reasons why I decided to use the word 'determination' this year, one is because, I am determined to make the

right decisions, for my family, myself, and my work. I don't know what these decisions are yet, but I will update all of you when I can. Sometimes the right decisions are often the hardest decisions to make and my Dad would often quote the following poem to me by Robert Frost called 'The Road Less Traveled':

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

I have put the Japanese and the English version of this famous poem at the end of the PFD file. I guess what my Dad was trying to say to me was that sometimes you have to make difficult choices in life and taking the easy option is not always the best option.

The second reason I chose the word 'determination' is because I am determined to challenge myself this year. The first challenge I have decided to do this year is to read this book called 'Me and White Supremacy: How to Recognise Your Privilege, Combat Racism, and Change the World' by Layla Saad. The book is a 28-day challenge to recognize our own white supremacy. It is a very easy book to read but a very difficult book to do:

I am now on day 6 and I would like to share with you three things about my own white privilege (white privilege means the advantages I have compared to non-white people because of the colour of my skin):

- 1) I can talk openly and naturally about my skin colour and my race without people hating me because of my race.
- 2) I can if I choose to decide to go brown or remain white skinned in the summer.
- 3) I can talk openly and without shame about the different coloured hair and eye colour my children have from me, their father, and each other.

Working through this book is my first challenge this year I am determined to challenge myself to learn new things and to make the right decisions.

- What are your words for this year?
- How will you challenge yourself this year?

I will leave you with a couple of songs by very famous black musicians so you can sing along and dance your way into the new year.

The first song is by the brilliant Chuck Berry and is called Jonny B. Goode. Notice how he is the only African American in the video! And the second video is by the Weather Girls and is called 'Its Raining Men'.

Enjoy, bye for now.

Bye

### **Lyrics and video link to Jonny B. Goode**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLMK9-Ns-TY>

Deep down in Louisiana close to New Orleans  
Way back up in the woods among the evergreens  
There stood a log cabin made of earth and wood  
Where lived a country boy named Johnny B. Goode  
Who never ever learned to read or write so well  
But he could play a guitar just like a-ringin' a bell

Go go  
Go Johnny go go  
Go Johnny go go  
Go Johnny go go

Go Johnny go go  
Johnny B. Goode

He used to carry his guitar in a gunny sack  
Go sit beneath the tree by the railroad track  
Oh, the engineers would see him sitting in the shade  
Strumming with the rhythm that the drivers made  
People passing by, they would stop and say  
"Oh my that little country boy could play"

Go go  
Go Johnny go go  
Go Johnny go go  
Go Johnny go go  
Go Johnny go go  
Johnny B. Goode

His mother told him "Someday you will be a man  
And you will be the leader of a big old band  
Many people coming from miles around  
To hear you play your music when the sun go down  
Maybe someday your name will be in lights  
Saying "Johnny B. Goode tonight"

Go go  
Go Johnny go  
Go go go Johnny go  
Go go go Johnny go  
Go go go Johnny go  
Go  
Johnny B. Goode

Video link and lyrics to 'Its Raining Men' by the Weather Girls

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=LLeTibaup5m9JhseFU-gMfIQ&v=l5aZJBLAu1E>

Hi, hi we're your weather girls  
Ah-huh  
And have we got news for you  
You better listen  
Get ready, all you lonely girls  
And leave those umbrellas at home  
Alright

Humidity is rising (uh rising), barometer's getting low (oh low, girl)  
According to all sources (what sources now), the street's the place to  
go (we better hurry up)  
'Cause tonight for the first time (first time)  
Just about half-past ten (half past ten)  
For the first time in history  
It's gonna start raining men (start raining men)

It's raining men, hallelujah, it's raining men, amen  
I'm gonna go out to run and let myself get  
Absolutely soaking wet  
It's raining men, hallelujah  
It's raining men, every specimen

Tall, blonde, dark and lean  
Rough and tough and strong and mean

God bless mother nature, she's a single woman too  
She took off to heaven and she did what she had to do  
She taught every angel she rearranged the sky  
So that each and every woman could find her perfect guy  
Oh, it's raining men, yeah  
Humanity's rising (humanity's rising)  
Barometer's getting low (it's getting low, low, low, low)  
According to all sources (according to all sources)  
The street's the place to go  
'Cause tonight for the first time  
Just about half past ten  
For the first time in history  
It's gonna start raining man (start raining men)

It's raining men, hallelujah  
It's raining men, amen  
It's raining men, hallelujah  
It's raining men, amen  
It's raining men, hallelujah  
It's raining men, amen  
It's raining men, hallelujah  
Oh oh oh oh  
It's raining men  
Tall, blonde, dark and lean  
Rough and tough and strong and mean  
Hallelujah it's raining men

Poem: **The Road Less travelled** by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

黄色い森に出ると 道が二つに分かれていた  
残念なことに わたしは両方を旅するわけにはゆかない  
一人しかいないわたしは 長いあいだ立ち止まり  
ひとつの道のできるだけ遠くを眺めやると  
先のほうで道が藪へと入り込んでゆくのが見えた

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

それからわたしが 同じように魅力的な もう一方の道を選んだのは  
そちらのほうに求められている気がしたからで  
道を覆う草が 踏み歩くのにちょうどよかったからなのだ  
とはいえ歩いて行けばどうせ  
もうひとつの道と同じように踏み分けられてしまうのだけど

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

あの日の朝 ふたつの道はどちらも等しくそこにあった

草のあいだに誰かの黒い足跡が残っているわけでもなかった  
ああ わたしは最初の道を また別の日に通ることにしたのだ  
これから どれほどの道をゆくことになるか わかっていたから  
また戻って来られるかどうか疑わしかったのに

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

わたしが ため息をつきながら こんな話をするのは  
ずっとずっと先の どこか知らない場所でのことになるだろう  
「あのとき 森のなかで分かれ道に出たわたしは  
人の通っていないほうを選んだけれど  
そうでなければ すっかり違っていたはずさ」とね