

FOCUS HELP AT CAFE

Apr 28th, 2022

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. Do you go to cafes? How often? Do you have a favorite cafe? What do you usually do at a cafe?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it's about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|-----------------|--|
| 1. Focus | a) to accept a job or a challenge |
| 2. Leave behind | b) the effort you put into doing a difficult task |
| 3. Take on | c) to appear above someone in a slightly frightening and passive way |
| 4. Profession | d) the reason someone does something |
| 5. Struggle | e) regularly |
| 6. Manuscript | f) a job that requires training or skill |
| 7. Power outlet | g) to give attention to something, to concentrate |
| 8. Periodically | h) a device in a wall where you can put a plug and receive electricity |
| 9. Loom | i) a piece of writing before it is published |
| 10. Motivation | j) to not bring something with you, to purposefully forget |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text.*

For many people, the challenge of trying to _____ a piece of writing is left behind in high school or university. For those who take on writing as a profession, the struggle remains _____. A new cafe in Tokyo aims to help those people.

The *Manuscript Writing Cafe* has the normal features that anyone looking to work in a cafe has come to _____, like high-speed Wi-Fi and power outlets. It also provides unlimited self-service coffee and tea. Where the cafe really differs is through social _____ and expectations to help writers focus on their work.

When customers enter the cafe, they are expected to put down their writing _____ on paper along with the time they will finish. They can also choose to have their progress checked on in various ways. Choosing *mild* means the cafe staff will ask about their progress when they leave. Choosing *normal* means the staff will check on them _____ hour. The strongest option, *hard*, has a staff member periodically loom behind the customer as they work.

The cafe makes money by _____ 130 yen (about \$US1) for the first half hour and 300 yen per hour after that. So far, the customers, among them writers, editors, and manga artists, have successfully used the extra motivation to complete their work.

WORD FORMS: Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an **x**, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or doesn't exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
focus		x	
x			profession
	x	x	struggle
x		periodically	
loom		x	x
			motivation

For many people, the challenge of trying to complete a piece of writing is left behind in high school or university. For those who take on writing as a profession, the struggle remains real. A new cafe in Tokyo aims to help those people.

The *Manuscript Writing Cafe* has the normal features that anyone looking to work in a cafe has come to expect, like high-speed Wi-Fi and power outlets. It also provides unlimited self-service coffee and tea. Where the cafe really differs is through social pressure and expectations to help writers focus on their work.

When customers enter the cafe, they are expected to put down their writing goals on paper along with the time they will finish. They can also choose to have their progress checked on in various ways. Choosing *mild* means the cafe staff will ask about their progress when they leave. Choosing *normal* means the staff will check on them every hour. The strongest option, *hard*, has a staff member periodically loom behind the customer as they work.

The cafe makes money by charging 130 yen (about \$US1) for the first half hour and 300 yen per hour after that. So far, the customers, among them writers, editors, and manga artists, have successfully used the extra motivation to complete their work.

Sources: reuters.com, japantoday.com

For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. Writers sometimes struggle to complete their work. (T / F)
2. A cafe in Tokyo has Wi-Fi and unlimited cookies. (T / F)
3. Writers and artists go to the cafe to focus on their work. (T / F)
4. Customers write down their life goals. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. mild / choose / customers / hard / normal / can / or
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2. complete / the / work / expected / are / customers / to
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. Have you been to Japan? What did you see there? If not, are you interested in going? To see what?
2. Can you focus on a task easily? For how long?
3. What do you think about the *Manuscript Writing Cafe*? Would you like to go there?
4. Do you drink coffee, tea, or something else to help you concentrate?
5. When people go to work for eight hours or more, how much of that time do they spend focused on their work? What else do they do?
6. In some jobs, workers are heavily monitored, but in others, workers only meet their bosses occasionally. Which situation produces better work?
7. What kinds of writing do you do in your daily life? Do you type or use a pen?
8. If you were a professional writer, what kind of writing would you do?

9. When you have to do something, do you procrastinate? That is, are you slow to start? Do you do other things to avoid starting?
10. Can we be creative on a schedule? Don't we need time to dream?

WRITING: *Write a paragraph that clearly states your opinion on the above news article. Give reasons for your opinion.*

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY: 1-g, 2-j, 3-a, 4-f, 5-b, 6-i, 7-h, 8-e, 9-c, 10-d

WORD FORMS: focused, focus, professional, professionally, struggle, periodic, period, looming, motivate, motivated, motivationally

COMPREHENSION: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F

COMPLETE: 1. Customers can choose mild, normal, or hard. 2. The customers are expected to complete work.