

## Early Experiences in Japan

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## Reasons for Coming to Japan

- ❖ Company moved from Dallas to Los Angeles
  - ❖ Did not want to move
  - ❖ Economy was not very good in Dallas
- ❖ Decided to visit my parents who lived in Hitachi
- ❖ Friends of my parents asked me if I would like to be an ALT in Kitaibaraki
- ❖ Went for an interview and they hired me that day
  - ❖ No teaching experience
  - ❖ No desire to live in Japan

## Adjustment Problems

- ❖ Moved from Texas to Ibaraki
- ❖ Dallas to Kitaibaraki
  - ❖ Difference in size
  - ❖ Difference in activities available.
- ❖ Not being able to drive
  - ❖ Using public transportation
  - ❖ Spent a lot of time waiting at bus stops and train stations
- ❖ Food
  - ❖ Meat → Fish
  - ❖ Fast food → Home cooked meals

## Familiar Things, But Different



## Important Points

- ❖ Accept the way things are in a new country.
- ❖ Keep an open mind and try new things.
- ❖ Be flexible about everything.
- ❖ “When in Rome, do as the Romans!”
- ❖ Observe those around you and act accordingly.

## Important Points

- ❖ Immerse yourself in the new culture.
- ❖ Learn the local language – shows respect.
- ❖ Familiar things help you get through the difficult times.
- ❖ Language should not be a barrier to living in another country – words + gesture.
- ❖ Fate and “chance meetings” are more important than you think in a new experience.

Thanks!