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# ELI STUDENT VOICES

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## **Korean Rules Which Are Not Rules**

*Su Kyeong Park*  
*R/W 61*

*(First Place)*

Every country in the world has laws that we must obey, and we obey the laws. Laws might affect our lives in many aspects, but have you ever thought about rules in a restroom? No. It is natural that we answer no because we usually obey laws in special situations like in traffic or a court; we don't think about laws everyday, everywhere. However, there are other rules we are usually affected by everyday, even in a restroom. We call those rules "unwritten rules." Every country has unwritten rules, and also my country, Korea, has.

Take, for example, table manners. When we have meals with elderly people, it is polite to serve the eldest person first. It is bad to pick up a spoon before the eldest. If we are served food first, elderly people may feel offended. It is a traditional Korean manner. For this reason, parents teach their children to wait until the eldest person is served. When I was young, if I would start eating before my grandmother was served, my parents said, "You have to wait until grandmother is served."

A second example of table manners is how we handle dishes. China is also in Asia, but Korea and China have totally different manners. When Chinese have meals, they hold up the dish with both hands and eat. However, Koreans don't lift up the dish. Koreans think holding up the dish may show lack of education. We have to use spoons and chopsticks.

Not only the table manners but also drink manners are important. When you drink liquor with a person who is older than you, how do you drink? Do you drink it just sitting face to face? In Korea, we don't do that. It seems very impolite. When you drink liquor with elderly people, you have to turn your head around a little bit and hold up your cup with both hands. When you drink with your friends or people who are close to your age, you don't need to do this.

Also, when you drink with someone, you should not pour your own drink. You have to pour other's drink. If you pour only your own drink, someone thinks that you don't want to drink with him or her. It is not related to age. You have to be careful, though, when you drink with someone who is older than you; you have to pour his or her drink with both hands.

Let's think about another example of unwritten rules related to elderly people. What is your posture in front of elderly people? We don't usually support our chin in our hands in front of people who are older than us. It is considered impolite. And it is courteous to have a correct posture when you are with the elderly. There are even some elderly people who don't like young people who sit with their legs crossed.

Here is an additional example. Have you ever felt some people's eyes looking at you on the subway and bus? When the elderly take a bus or subway, they can sit, although there are no seats, because the young give up seats to elderly people because they are weak and not healthy. It is not law, and it is not essential, but if you are keeping your seat, and an elderly person is standing, then everybody will consider you cold and inconsiderate, and you might feel guilty. These days, it is disappearing, for young people are losing respect for the elderly, but still it is an important manner in Korea; therefore, it is good to give up seats for the elderly.

Next, we have manners related to the house. In America, it is impolite to take off your shoes when you enter other homes. On the contrary, in Korea, you must take off your shoes when you enter other homes. There are almost no house owners who allow people to wear their shoes because the Korean floor is not covered with carpets. Koreans think if they wear shoes on the floor, the floor will be dirty. You can wear your shoes only in hotels.

One day, a worker came to my home here in Gainesville to fix my restroom. When he arrived, I opened the door. There are my shoes that I took off; nevertheless, he entered my house wearing his shoes without asking. I knew Americans wear their shoes in the house, but I felt uncomfortable. Likewise, if there is a Korean who visits the U.S for the first time, he or she might be in trouble.

Also, when you visit a person to celebrate a new house, you should prepare some presents. Usually, the presents are toilet paper, detergent, fruits, and so on, but anything useful is fine. If you visit a new house without presents, people think you are impudent and inconsiderate. This celebration is almost a kind of party. Thus, the presents are needed because the person who got a new house prepares food and drink.

Another example of unwritten rules in Korea is the style of clothes and shoes in school. I often see students wearing pajamas and sandals here at the University of Florida. On the other hand, Koreans think schools are formal places; therefore, Koreans usually don't wear sandals and pajamas. Moreover, teachers don't like students wearing sandals, and they think a naked foot is discourteous and not formal. Teachers don't care about wearing jeans or little bit casual clothes, but they don't like students wearing pajamas. These days, wearing sandals is becoming acceptable with teachers, but still people consider wearing pajamas in public places like school weird.

In conclusion, Koreans have many unwritten rules. Especially, we have many rules related to the elderly. For this reason, you have to be careful when you meet the elderly in Korea. You don't go to jail if you don't obey these rules because these are not laws. However, if you don't obey these rules, you will know it is hard to get along well with other

people in the same society, and you might think you behave inappropriately, and you feel guilty. Unwritten rules are as important as the law because these are directly related to our lives. Every culture is different, and every culture has different unwritten rules. Thus, whenever you go to other countries, you'd better know about the country's unwritten rules.

## Robots as Workers

*Bruna B. Cavalcanti (Second Place)*  
*R/W 41*

Robots are machines built to perform physical tasks that were originally performed by human beings. Usually, they are used for the automation process in industries, especially big factories which have a lot of them. As with any new technology, the use of robots is somehow limited to industries that have the financial power to invest in changes. Robots are built in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. In contrast with the common image of a robot as a "stand-up human body" shape, rather robots are presented in a lot of different and completely "non-human" shapes. There are robots as big as trucks and as small as pennies. Robots as workers have brought us many advantages and disadvantages.

There are several advantages of using robots. Robots can perform tasks that would be hazardous or too risky to be performed by human beings. They also can work in difficult environments for humans to be on, like underwater, very tight places or even in space. Since robots are only machines programmed to perform some task, they can be instructed to perform tasks that are routine or monotonous. They never get tired, miss work, nor have to take breaks like humans do. Another advantage is the ability of producing in large scale because they often work quicker than humans. Another very important advantage in using robots is the precision or accuracy of the work to be performed. Nowadays robots can even be used in surgeries, or they can perform tasks that require a lot of precision like assemble micro-circuits for a TV set. Robots also can help disabled people or aid elderly in the daily life. An automatic wheel-chair can be considered a robot, depending on the level of automation involved.

While there are clearly advantages to the use of robots, there are some disadvantages as well. Robots are not able to think and solve problem that requires decisions based on a non-programmed situation. They are only able to do what they are designed to do. They can actually become dangerous in the case of either malfunctions or if it is programmed incorrectly. Many movies go beyond and show a world dominated by robots, like the movie *I Robot*, but for now this is nothing but science fiction. In addition, robots have created a decrease in job opportunities. Many hard labor jobs that use to be performed by humans are now performed by robots. But unfortunately, jobs created by robots such as robot maintainer, or programmers are quite irrelevant in number if compared with the "ground factory" jobs that are taken. Another disadvantage of robots is their cost. It can be very expensive to develop a robot, program it and test. This is particularly relevant because the price to

automate a process in a factory can be very high, which results in no opportunity for small companies to grow.

As was told before, there are a lot of advantages and disadvantages about robots as workers. In fact, robots are becoming a new trend. Their costs are decreasing with the development of new technologies and, besides, we are getting used to living with them. After all, it is up to you to analyze if there are more advantages than disadvantages in using robots. Who knows what robots will become in the future? What would you like for the future of robots?

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## Venezuela vs. the US

*Maria Valentina Fernandez*  
*R/W 60*

Venezuela and the US are countries that have natural wonders; it is important to know that each have their own unique beauty which attracts many people around the world to see their impressive sights.

For this reason the state of Arizona in the US is a big part of tourism because within it is located one of the natural wonders of the entire world. The Grand Canyon is a very colorful place that is a big depression in the land, which was created by the force of the Colorado River over millions of years. This natural wonder was one of the first national parks in the US in which admiring the beauty of this nature is part of the trip. The Grand Canyon national park is one of the most popular places to visit in the US. Because of this, the government has buildings that make visiting more comfortable for the tourist.

In addition, the US government makes a profit from this national park because it has one of the highest incomes of the national parks in the US. With time the US developed services that allowed people to admire such as hiking in the Grand Canyon, and flying over the top of it. The hiking services offer a four-hour hiking tour down into the Canyon. At the end of the hike, the tourist reaches a small waterfall in which they can swim and spend time with their families and friends. Also, if the tourist's desire is to stay in the Canyon; the US government has implemented a small hotel near the waterfall to rest for a little while before hiking up for four hours again.

On the other hand, in Venezuela's there is also located in the Bolivar state a natural wonder that has one of the biggest natural wonders in the entire world: Angel Falls. Angel Falls is the highest free-falling waterfall at 3,212 feet with an uninterrupted drop of 2,645 ft lying in the Canaima National Park. It has become one of the important attractions in Venezuela.

Unfortunately, the advantage that the government of Venezuela takes from this natural beauty to attract tourist is

almost null; in contrast to the US government which takes advantage of their national wonders, the government of Venezuela hasn't developed any structures to facilitate tourism as the US does. For this reason, the Canaima national park is less known than the Grand Canyon national park in the US.

In conclusion, both of these countries have at least one of the natural wonders in the world. However, the differences between these two countries are the advantage and the opportunities that they give to the tourists. Also, the publicity that the government uses to attract tourists is one of the advantages that the US has over the Venezuelan government.

As a recommendation I suggest that you must visit the different natural wonders in the world; it is an adventure that you can experience in these countries. You set your own limits. So why don't you set the world as your limit?

## Assisted Suicide (Euthanasia)

*Bahaa Babour*

*Grammar for Writing*

A basic right for humans is to be treated when they get sick, but what we hear about what they call "mercy killing" is scary. Because it is a scary and inhuman practice Assisted Suicide, also known Euthanasia must not be allowed for the following reasons: first, we cannot play God; second, it would be difficult to determine who makes the decision to euthanize the patient; finally, sometimes doctors are wrong and there is always the possibility for some terminally ill patients to get better.

First, we cannot play God. Only God Almighty knows when it is the time for every soul to leave the body that it is in. If we start playing that role, it means that we are underestimating the power of the creator who created every thing from nothing. It is God and only God who can take the souls of people to heaven.

Second, it would be difficult to determine who makes the decision to euthanize the patient. Should it be the family who are emotionally involved and waiting for a miracle? Or should it be the doctors who have the medical knowledge, but although they will sometimes say that they know what the family feels, they do not know that knowing something is different from feeling it? Or finally, should it be the government, which will most of the time take the issue as if it is a math problem--one plus one equals two?

Finally, let us not forget that doctors are humans themselves and that they can be mistaken sometimes. Their diagnosis can be wrong, or they might be dealing with a new case that they do not know enough about. After all, doctors do not know everything; otherwise, nobody would be sick if they did.

Nowadays there are some people who say that euthanasia is good because it will put an end to the misery of the terminally ill patients, or because the cost of keeping them alive will be reduced. Finally, these people also say that euthanizing patients will make more space for the patients who have more hope to recover.

Although it seems that euthanasia puts an end to their misery, there is medication that will help lessen their pain without killing them. In addition, we cannot put a price on human lives. Finally, those terminally ill patients will be admitted to hospices, so they will not take up space in a hospital. Also, it is important to remember that when those patients were in good health no body said that they took up space, but when their health went bad suddenly people want to deny them this tiny space. These contradictory attitudes are unfair.

In conclusion, playing a role that we are not capable of handling or knowing anything about, making decisions that is not our right to make, and taking the word of the doctors as if it is the final word and not negotiable, are all reasons why euthanasia should not be legalized.

Finally, God meant for us to be human, but if we start killing sick people and act like beasts that kill the weak and sick members of the pack, I will be ashamed to call myself human.

## Traditional Venezuelan Celebration

*Isis A. Jaimez R.*

*R/W I*

People in Venezuela like parties. To celebrate, it is not necessary to have a motive or occasion. An event that I particularly like and is representative of the cultures are the events that take place between December and January every year.

We all begin to fix our houses with lights, decorations, and set up the Christmas tree and the *pesebre*, a creative representation of the birth of Jesus with ceramic, plastic, or wood figures. In the *pesebre*, there are 8 principal figures: Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus (after midnight on the 24<sup>th</sup>), a mule, an ox, 3 Magi Kings, and other figures: shepherds, sheep, etc.

It is also a costume to make the *hallaca*, a traditional dish. It is a rectangular flour mass stuffed with an exquisite mix of vegetables and meat and wrapped in a plantain leaf. We also make ham bread and typical sweets like "black cake".

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, at night, we meet all our family for a big dinner with *hallacas*, ham bread, salad and desserts, and receive the birth of the Baby Jesus. We exchange presents, and the children receive gifts from San Nicolas and Baby Jesus.

After, it is customary to make the *paradura*. It means to stay with the Baby Jesus and recite the rosary. There is instrumental music with violins, *cuatros* (a Venezuela instrument). Next, we eat the *bizcochuelo* or sponge cake and typical sweets of papaya, peach, *cabello de angel*, *majarete*, *quesillo*, etc. We drink wine and people bring other food to share. This last event is most common in the Andean region.

## Coming of Age Day in Japan

*Tatsuya Hirazawa*

*R/W I*

There is a holiday in Japan that is called Coming of Age Day. This holiday celebrates when men and women become 20 years old. In my country, the law permits 20 year

olds to drink alcohol and smoke. But some people have been drinking alcohol and smoking before turning this age. I had been drinking since I was 16 years old. But I have never smoked.

I met my friends on this holiday when I turned 20. It was similar to an alumni meeting. All 20 year old people gathered in a big building near my house. In Yokohama, many people gathered in Yokohama Arena. This arena has a seating capacity of fifty-thousand. It is very big. The men wore suits or *hakama*. A *hakama* is a long pleated culotte, like Japanese trousers. Women wore kimono. The women wearing kimono were very beautiful. After the ceremony, I drank alcohol with my friends. I went to three bars and had a nice time.

## **Gator Victory**

*Humberto Barboza*

*R/W 3*

The final UF basketball game was excellent, a great opportunity to see a little of the university culture and something about U.S. culture. I saw the game at the O'Connell Center with hundreds of people. It was cool and the stadium was full. That experience was amazing to see the spirit and enthusiasm of the people in that place. Everybody was screaming, jumping and singing to cheer the players of the University of Florida basketball team. I felt a lot of emotion when I was there. I never had been in a similar situation. I felt like I really loved and formed part of UF's team.

In my point of view, we could get the victory because the Gators were a team and they played like a team. Each player contributed in his own way. Although Joakim Noah and Horford didn't play their best game, our 3 point shooters were great. For these reasons, today, they are the National Champions, and it is important to say that they made history because they are the first team to win in the same year the Basketball championship and the Football Championship. They were the first team since 1993 to win back-to-back basketball championships, and it was the first team to do that with the same five players.

After the game a lot of people went to University Avenue to celebrate the victory. I went, too. I could see a lot of people running, screaming, crying, dancing and dressing in the colors of the team. Everybody was happy.

I can say with pride, "It's GREAT TO BE A FLORIDA GATOR!"

## **The UF Digital Worlds Institute**

*Milerky Perdomo*

*R/W 3*

The class visit at the Research Education Visualization Environment (REVE), specifically at Digital Worlds Institute located in the College of Education of the University of Florida, was very interesting. It is good to know that the collaboration of some computers, some programs, global collaborations, and qualified people can create interesting projects. These projects

let people show, know, and learn about the culture and traditions of other countries. This institution is a window where people of several countries come together in "common time." This tour also let us know that there is a place in Florida where we can go to make our projects real.

## **Was the Gator Victory Really Important?**

*Milerky Perdomo*

*R/W 3*

My answer is YES! In these times when there is a lots of bad news in the world, such as the war and hate, it is important that we receive good news each day. This news is better when it brings us a message. What was the message of the UF Basketball Championship? That with dedication and daily work we can achieve our goals. The spirit, the dedication, and the daily work of UF sportsmen are examples to follow.

Additionally, the Gator victory let students of UF feel proud of their university. It enables also show to the other universities of the world, that it can be brilliant not only in the academic, but also in the sports.

In conclusion, the Gator victory was very important to show that at UF there are people capable to achieve their sports and academics goals with dedication and daily work.

## **The Rules in The Giver: A Reaction to the Story**

*Milerky Perdomo*

*R/W 3*

Living in a community requires a citizen to obey several rules. The Giver shows us a lot of rules; some of them are strong and difficult to carry out and some of them are gentle and easy to carry out.

The strong rules are related to major decisions which should be taken by members of the family and major decisions which should be taken by each individual. In this novel, we see that in Jonas' community important decisions such as number and gender of children per family, number of births in the community are not family or personal decisions. These regulations are established by the Committee of Elders. Additionally, we know that individual decisions such as sexual behavior and career choices are also regulated by this Committee.

The gentle rules are related to aspects that I consider without importance. These regulations determine the clothes that people should wear, the use of precise language, and others.

Finally, like all societies, the community shown in The Giver is regulated through rules; some of them are very strong and some of them are very minimal; nevertheless, all its member must carry them out.

## **The Giver: A Reaction to the Story**

*Kriangkrai Tantiwongkosri*

*R/W 3*

According to The Giver, the community is quite a Utopia. There are rules for the citizens who live in this society, especially for those who are older than twelve.

The roles can tell a person about what his or her duties are. The important roles are for those who control the community. Those roles are Chief Elder, the Giver, and the Receiver of Memory. The less important roles are for the general population in the community. Those roles include nurturer, lawyer, doctor, pilot, food deliverer, and others. There are also other roles that I didn't mention here and some of them sound interesting.

These assignments of the different roles help everyone in the community to have the most precise careers for themselves and minimize the wrong work for anyone. Lastly, these roles ensure that everybody has work to do when one comes in this community and is not released.

## **Carnival in Brazil**

*Francisco Cavalcanti*

*R/W 1*

Carnival is the most popular event celebrated in Brazil. During seven days people dance in the street, in clubs, or anywhere! It's common that men dress in women's clothes. There are many drinks and most people are drunk. The police work a lot because there is a lot of trouble. On the other hand, religious people are in reclusion, and pray and meditate. This is one of the many contrasts in Brazil.

## **Songkarn Day in Thailand**

*Vichchaorn Tanomkiat*

*R/W 1*

The celebration of the Thai New Year is called Songkarn Day. It is a big family celebration, and people return to their hometowns and villages to celebrate the New Year with their family and friends. Songkarn Day begins on the second Wednesday in April, which can be between the dates of April 13 and 17.

People start preparing for the celebration by cleaning their homes. Then, they go to the temple with their family. Many people dress up in traditional Thai dress. Thai women wear flowers in their hair. The oldest person in the family gives everyone good wishes. People spend the first few days of the New Year visiting older family members and other relatives. They give gifts and eat wonderful meals. This ends the Songkarn Day.

## **Acadia National Park**

*Cesar Augusto Idrobo Giraldo*

*R/W 2*

The Acadia National Park is a big park with a lot of landscapes where you can enjoy the natural environment in an unspoiled countryside.

This park is very old and the parks have to apply some conditions, rules and laws to become a national park. Acadia National Park is located in the north of the United States, in the state of Maine; this place is very interesting because it has all kind of landscapes and diversity of animals. The main animal that represents the National Park is the moose; also it has a lot of plants, trees, and you can do a lot of activities.

I'm writing about this place because it brings me good memories when I was there with my aunt, uncle, and grandmother four years ago when I was 12 years old. Besides, it is a wonderful place that has a lot of things to talk about. This park contains a huge land. It has roads for the cars around the entire park and also has roads into the mountains. By the way, it has a little town where are located some hotels and tourist places, restaurants, and stores. It is a nice town. In the winter season or the hunting season, a great amount of hunters go to the park to hunt a big moose, but they rarely see a moose. The moose is a big animal; it's like an elephant but the moose is smaller. By the same you can see bears, and you have to watch out for them because they may go to your mobile home or camp and steal your food. You can take one week traveling around the entire park, looking and walking all the possible ways in a quick manner.

You can do a lot of things like eco-walks, riding bicycles, camping, boating, hunting, and passing a great time with the natural environment, appreciating the spectacular background and different kinds of animals, and the natural resources that nature gives us.

It's an attractive, beautiful, historic and interesting place because you can rest and spend a great time living in the countryside living in the countryside.

In conclusion, this is a nice park where you can find calm and you can enjoy the richness of nature. You are going to feel comfortable and very happy because you are knowing new things and living new experiences.

## **A Class Poem by Listening/Speaking 3**

*Modeled on "Whatif" by Shel Silverstein*

*Introduction and Conclusion by Shel Silverstein*

"Last night, while I lay thinking here,  
some Whatifs crawled inside my ear  
and pranced and partied all night long  
and sang their same old Whatif song:"  
(Shel Silverstein)

Whatif I can't speak?

Whatif I can't eat?

Whatif I can't think?  
Whatif I start to sink?  
Whatif I start to fight?  
Whatif I don't see the light?  
Whatif I start to fail?  
Whatif I don't get mail?  
(Eddie Jeong Cheol Bae , Humberto Barboza)

Whatif I lose my mother?  
Whatif I get a new brother?  
(Natalia Cundari, Pei-Li Chen)

What if I meet a gangster?  
What if I greet a teacher?  
Whatif I could fly?  
Whatif I couldn't cry?  
(Bright Sumethiluk Arayakosol, Suhyun Kim)

Whatif the sky is never bright?  
Whatif birds never take flight?  
(Dohwan Kim, Kate Hsin-I Yang, Yu-Hua Tai)

Whatif I fall down?  
Whatif I gain one small pound?  
Whatif someone hates me?  
Whatif someone hurts my knee?  
Whatif another war breaks out?  
Whatif not one shouts?  
Whatif this world is a utopia?  
Whatif we all suffer from myopia?  
Whatif people had no tears?  
Whatif this went on for years?  
(Guy Kriangkrai Tantiwongkosri, Seung Ki Chai,  
Yong Soo Kim)

Whatif I get cancer?  
Whatif I become a dancer?  
Whatif I don't have an answer?  
(Ivy Wen-Chien Chien, Tiffany Hsiao-Ting Huang)

Whatif I was the moon?  
Whatif I slept till half past noon?  
(Mosa Halal A Alsehli)

"Everything seems swell, and then  
the nighttime Whatifs strike again!"  
(Shel Silverstein)

## **Christmas in Ecuador**

*Marco Tapia*  
*R/W 1*

Every year at night on December 25<sup>th</sup>, each family meets. The meeting place is in the grandparent's house. They make the food. One of the dishes is baked turkey, and the other is a dish of the turkey's entrails called stuffing. They make salad and sweets, too.

All families bring toys and leave them at the foot of the tree. The tree is decorated and very illuminated. When the clock shows 12:00, the parents give their children the toys and all people hug to wish each other Merry Christmas. Immediately, people begin dinner.

## **The First Birthday**

*Sang Hyun Han*  
*R/W 1*

In my country, a baby's parents invite many neighbors and many families to the baby's first birthday. The parents prepare special for the first birthday. The foods are rice cakes, brown seaweed soup, and some Korean traditional foods. The rice cake is called *backsulki*. The *backsulki* is made of steamed rice. The food is served to the guests, so the baby will have a long and healthy life. Then, the people close to the baby give him or her a gift which is a gold ring.

We have another tradition on this day. The baby's parents prepare some items. For example, thread, some money, and the pen. Then, the parents ask the baby to catch the items. First, if the baby catches the thread, it means that the baby will have a long life. Second, if the baby catches the money, it means that the baby will be rich. Last, if the baby catches the pen, it means that the baby will be a great scholar. These two traditions are celebrated on the first birthday in Korea.

## **Chinese New Year**

*Fu-Shen Chang*  
*R/W 1*

The family members gather at home on the day before Chinese New Year. All people wear new garments. Red decorations everywhere. People light firecrackers on Chinese New Year at zero hour, and greet the year. All people who meet have to say, "lucky year!"

All the dines together on Chinese New Year Eve. All the food has a lucky name. The family people have a lucky year. Next, old people give cash in a red bag to young people, blessing the year. There are important activities on Chinese New Year.

## **The Algebra of Infinite Justice: Causes of the Iraq War**

*Maria Valentina Fernandez*  
*R/W 60*

The world has changed in the last couple of years and this has caused confusion in the way people think about different countries. This is because many countries are fighting: the U.S. and Iraq, Venezuela and the U.S., South Korea and North Korea, and Turkey and the European Union. Furthermore, proponents of the U.S.-Iraq war have forgotten the original rational behind the conflict. Moreover, most people do not know when or why this struggle started; in fact most people,

if asked, say that the war began because of the September 11, 2001 attack.

If the war started because of the September 11 attack, then who is the US looking for? They have one suspect: Osama bin Laden. Instead of looking for him, the US is killing innocent people in Iraq. According to Arundhati Roy, the Indian human rights activist who wrote an article called "The Algebra of Infinite Justice" in which she criticized the U.S.-Iraq war, the U.S. is responsible for the deaths of children. She states, "How many dead children for every American man?"

Arundhati Roy supports the growing trend in the way of thinking about the war among US citizens. Nowadays, the grand disapproval that Americans have against the war in Iraq has become the majority view in the U.S. In addition, U.S. citizens have found that the war has not only had an effect on Iraq but on the U.S. as well. Many U.S. soldiers in Iraq have lost their lives or been severely wounded as a result of the war, and the American economy has suffered as a result of the war. Also, the Iraqi people have been forced out of their country.

The mortality of Iraq has increased in the last couple of years since the year 2003 when the war started. The company Hopkins surveys estimated that between the years 2004 and 2006 24,000 Iraqis died. The second study from Hopkins estimated that 655,000 excess deaths had occurred between March 2003 and June 2006. Many people from different countries cannot support the U.S.-Iraq war. For instance, U.S. citizens are not supporting the war knowing already it is high mortality rates. In fact, in the year 2003, about 30,000 people marched through Washington DC and demonstrated around the world that the same people that live in the US do not agree with this war that is resulting in a high mortality rate.

Also, the continuous U.S. military operations against the Iraqi resistance have destroyed urban centers. Many efforts from the U.S. to help the reconstruction have only partly rebuilt the Iraq electric system. As a consequence Iraq's economy has collapsed and many warehouses have been sacked and gutted; this demonstrates the necessity of security and for this reason neither Iraqis nor foreigners are interested in investing while this war is continuing. Who is going to invest in this condition that doesn't give security to anybody? The economy of this country is totally destroyed and to get it back how it was before can take a long time, approximately 30 or 40 years. All the buildings have been destroyed by the US army in Iraq. They will be hard to rebuild; this involves a big investment from the Iraqi's side. The radical decision to invade Iraq has been the worst decision that the U.S. government has even taken. U.S. citizens feel disappointed in their government and not only U.S. citizens are changing their mind but also people around the world reject the war against Iraq and the consequences of it.

This crisis has sharply decreased the basic availability of necessities such as water, food, sanitation, and electricity. Hospitals lack basic medical supplies and are understaffed. All these conditions have caused as a consequence the grand majority of Iraqis to emigrate to other countries. These actions are the only way that the Iraqis can keep alive and the only solution that they can find is to go to other countries to start a new life. I do not think that is an easy decision to make but it is much better than to live in a constant war.

Finally, the U.S. citizens that were supporting the war have changed their minds as time has passed. For most of these reasons that I have mentioned, considerations have been made on the part of the U.S. citizens. When we talk about the war in Iraq, U.S. citizens need to realize that these reasons can become part of the reality of this war and if they do not stop the war, it is going to bring consequences to everyone in the world.

## **Chuseok**

*Sang Gunn Jang*

*R/W 1*

Korea was traditionally an agricultural society. A family lived in one place for farming and working. Long ago, Korea used the lunar calendar because it was good for agricultural affairs. Chuseok is the Korean version of Thanksgiving Day, and it is celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the eighth lunar month. The lunar calendar is shorter than the solar calendar by about 1 month.

As we industrialized about 40 years ago, the extended family was living separately. In these days, Chuseok is a three-day vacation, and all members of the dispersed family gathered toward a hometown at this time. So, most of all roads have heavy traffic from afternoon on the previous day of vacation. It takes about 5 to 7 hours to move 100 miles. All members of family gather and they prepare dishes for ancestral rites. The whole family cherishes their ancestors on the early morning of the Chuseok. After the ceremony, the family plays traditional games together, and people visit each other's senior's home and greet older people.

## **Friendly America**

*Sebastian Dassum*

*R/W 61*

The first time I visited the United States was fifteen years ago. Then I used to go twice or three times a year. Every time I visited the United States for studying English or by tourism, I found a lot of traditions that I cannot find in my home country, which is Ecuador. "In a country as big as the United States you can find fifty examples of anything," Jeffery F. Chamberlain, a famous writer, said. And this is true because in the same country you can find a lot of different traditions, cultures, and different friendly manners in every state you visit. However the most remarkable one is how Americans behave. Especially the good manners they have.

I think America is one of the most comfortable and helpful places to live. If you have any problem you always will find someone who can help you. For example, one time I was in a mall in Park City, UT, buying some stuff for my home. It was late at night and I started walking to my house that was just 1 mile away. As a matter of fact the temperature was below zero degrees so it was too cold. This lady that attended me in one of the stores stopped and told me, "It's too cold! You may get inside the car, and I'll drive you to your place." I said, "That will be great, I appreciate your help." Soon I was with her in the

car and she drove me to my place. This surprised me because if you are in trouble there will always be someone who can help you.

Another good manner that Americans have is that most of them respect traffic signs. When you are at a four-way stop, everyone respects right of way. If you were in my country this will not happen because nobody respects traffic signs and lights. If you drive there there's a big probability to crash with another vehicle. At the same time, in the United States if you are in the wrong lane, and you are waiting for the red light to change, you may ask the driver next to you to give some space, and he or she cordially agrees and lets you drive to the correct lane.

Also there is a good virtue most Americans have; this is called generosity. I remember when I was a kid that I went to buy some food at the store that was in the lobby of my building. After purchasing some ice cream and nachos, the cashier gave me extra ice cream and some candies. These are the things that impress you especially when you are a kid. You always will feel well in America and that's one of the reasons I do not want to go anywhere, and I would like to get my undergraduate degree here in North America.

However, not everything is nice in my experiences in America. One recent example is when I went to get my U.S. drivers license. I arrived at the Highway Patrol Center in Gainesville, FL; that's the place where all license processes takes place. The first person that attended me at the counter was really friendly; she asked me to take a seat, feel comfortable and all the good things an operator should give to a customer. But, when it was time to register to take the practical test, there was a women who treated me very bad, and as soon as I spoke Spanish (I didn't speak English very well at all) she started to yell at me and made some bad faces because she could not understand what I was saying to her. It's good to say that this is a rare case that people treat me unfriendly here in United States.

In conclusion, I think Americans are very friendly. They always will be there to help, except in special cases such as mine in the Highway Patrol Office, which is one out of a hundred. These experiences happened in the states that I have visited including Florida. So I think America has all a person needs in order to feel as good as or even better than if you were in your home country. I also think Americans have this behavior because all laws are well respected, and everything is done just as the rules of life say with their respective exceptions.

## **Waiting**

*Ali Al Deshan*

*R/W 3*

Yesterday I was a little bit worried because I was waiting for a letter from Widener University. That letters means a lot to me. It is an admission letter that tells me that I am eligible to attend a Master's program in Engineering Management, which is my interest. Moreoever, I was trying to contact both the International Admissions Office and the department I am interested in. By the end of office hours, no

one answered me because Spring Break had just started this week. So, one more week of tension and stress. Hopefully, by the end of next week, I will hear good news from them about my admission status.

Honestly, I cannot take this any more. I want to return to Saudi Arabia.

## **My Hobby**

*Esperanza Rebollo*

*R/W 3*

One of the most consuming hobbies of my life is to create doll houses. I have made one doll house for all of my three sons and other ones, also. Last week, I had the opportunity to go to Chicago for a miniature fair. I enjoyed a lot looking and purchasing items for my doll houses.

When I arrived in Chicago, I met two artisans, friends of mine who had come from Spain to exhibit their work in the show. One of them makes small porcelain pieces and the other makes miniature furniture. In the show, there were over 350 vendors from all over the world.

At the show, you could find anything and everything – from a tiny glass vase to a little pet,. There were also books, clothes, carpets, everything on the scale of 1:12! Of course, I bought several pieces for my doll houses.

Now, two of my doll houses are in the museum in Spain which asked me if they could show them for two months. I love this hobby. It takes away my stress!

## **Unwritten Rules in a Japanese Wedding Ceremony**

*Ayumi Saito*

*R/W 61*

How much are we restrained by unwritten rules unconsciously? Why do we obey the rules? The unwritten rules don't have any power to arrest us; nevertheless, we try to obey the rules, and we happen to know how much our lives are restricted by the certain rules without being conscious when we think of that. There should be many kinds of unwritten rules which control either very small things in our daily lives or very special ones on particular occasions. In Japan, people are pretty strict to obey the unwritten rules, especially ceremony occasions; moreover, if we ignore the rules, people might regard us as immature, ignorant, and uneducated people. In other words, unwritten rules during ceremonies are very important and must be respected.

A wedding ceremony is one of the big ceremonies. Although it is a happy ceremony, it contains many unwritten rules to be respected. The bride and the groom send the invitation for their wedding ceremony to their friends, co-workers, and relatives; and to send it back to them, the friends, co-workers, and relatives write some messages on the card to celebrate them. Not only the messages on the invitation card but also the conversations during the ceremony, they can't use words which imply separation like "cut," "crack," "fragile,"

“broken,” “getting cold,” “float,” “being carried away” and so on, because people consider these words bring them bad luck.

Another example is how much we should give them for the celebration. In Japan, the guests give a certain amount of money to the bride and the groom before the ceremony called Hirouen starts. The average of the money is from 300USD up to how much you want to give, and here again, as the unwritten rules, people avoid the figure of money that is divided by 2 like 200USD, 400USD, and so on. In other words, people put the money like 300USD or 500USD which is not clearly divisible by 2 into a special envelope. The reason is, if the number is divided by 2, that also is considered as separation. Even if people give them a lot of money, that suggests bad future.

The third unwritten rule is what kind of dress the guest shouldn't wear for the ceremony. There are no unwritten rules for the male guests; on the other hand, there is one for the female guests, which should be respected. The female guests are not expected to wear white dresses, since white is the color only for the bride. Not only the white dress, but also the white tie for Japanese traditional clothes called kimono should not be worn.

While the white dress is not good for the guest to wear, so are the fur coat and scarf. They remind people both of killing and wounding, and an unhappy family. Moreover, if the fur is fake, that implies disloyal, and untrue. Although people are not strict about the point so much, it is better for the guests to avoid wearing them.

Just as the guests have to be careful about their saying, behavior, and what to wear, so do the friends, co-workers and relatives who cannot participate in the ceremony. The non participants usually send either special message cards or gifts to them. As the gifts, fragile products such as cups, glasses, mirrors should not be sent because the products are associated with separation. In addition, products which can cut something, such as knives and scissors cannot be sent. Furthermore, if the non participants send a countable product, even numbered pairs of them have to be avoided.

When we think of only the Japanese ceremony, we realize that we are controlled by many unwritten rules. Some people might feel that the unwritten rules are too complicated to obey; however, people follow the unwritten rules to stay away from being thoughtless, senseless, ignorant, and immature; in other words, the unwritten rules have a big power and are worth to be respected.

## **My Great Experience!!**

*Banu Yalkinoglu*

*R/W 3*

This year I came to visit America and to practice my English. Before I arrived, I didn't think about March Madness. But I lived and experienced it. It was amazing! I learned a lot about the Gator victory and basketball. I think I can call myself a Gator now. I loved to watch the games! Not only because of the atmosphere and because I am a part of UF but also because of the esthetic of basketball. And, of course, it is nice to watch the famous players, who are also friends. Horford is my

favorite one. This Friday, they are going to come to campus, the O'Connell Center; I'll go there with my family to welcome them.

I was very fascinated about the sport madness of the people here. In Germany, they are crazy about soccer! Last year was the World Cup in Germany and all the German people were crazy and celebrated a really unforgettable time! It was great! Now, I live the American way of sports madness. Americans are very optimistic thinkers and emotional, also. I like it!

I was in the O'Connell Center to watch the final basketball game, which was a good one. I think sad for Ohio State, but great for us! We are masters in making 3 point shots. But I have to say that I expected more from Noah, who is the superstar of the Gators. Everyone was talking about him; because of that, I had high expectations. Maybe he was in better condition last year. He was not bad, even though there were better players on the court.

Once again, I am glad about the new experience, which not everybody can have. I'm a little bit sad that the Championship is over now. It was so exciting and all the people went crazy after the game. This was a REALLY BIG DEAL!

Now, I focus on the next week in my life in America. There is the trip to St. Augustine, which I am very interested in. And, well, I'm going to visit New York the whole weekend next week! I am so excited and so glad about it! One event after the other which I will never forget

My heart has turned into orange and blue with the sports and passion mentality of the American people in Gainesville. I will always remember this!

## **Unwritten Rules in South Korea**

*Hyungjin Cho (Jo)*

*R/W 61*

People in the world have their own personalities. Some of them are impatient, and some of the rest are impolite. Nevertheless, people usually get along with each other. I think it is because there are not only laws but also unwritten rules in the world. Even if someone breaks an unwritten rule, he'll not go to jail. However, many people around him will criticize him. Like other countries, S. Korea has some interesting unwritten rules.

First of all, we have to live with a certain attitude depending on age. It is an unwritten rule for younger people to show their respect to older people although they may be only 1 or 2 years older. There are lots of ways to show respect. As you know, Korean has formal and informal style. When I talk to older people, I have to use formal language. At the end of every sentence, we put some polite endings, and we use polite words instead of normal vocabulary. In addition, I'm not supposed to object to their decisions. In a family, parents pay attention especially to the oldest child. If a fight happens between children, parents will punish a younger one. And if there is an important thing to decide in the family like a house-moving,

parents usually listen to the opinion of the oldest one. For these reasons, many younger feel a sense of alienation in the family.

However, not only do young people have the unwritten rules to live in Korea society, but older people do as well. It is also hard for older people to keep a relationship with younger. Older people are supposed to know and have anything more than younger people. Besides, they should take care of younger. Let me take my experience as an example. Before I came to the U.S.A., I was a senior at MyungJi University, and I knew a lot of younger students. I and some of them made a study group to study English together, and I was the oldest one. It meant I was the leader of the group. I had to know more than them and take care of them. When one of them knew about something that I didn't, I was a little anxious about that. And when we went to a restaurant or something like that, I usually paid for that. I'm just an ordinary student who doesn't have a job like them, but I should follow the unwritten rule.

The second interesting rule is date payment. In S. Korea, guys usually pay for a date. Especially on the first date, they have to pay all of date courses like a movie, tea, and a dinner. If a woman pays for a boyfriend, some people regard it as a ridiculous thing. I think it comes from Korea's patriarchal tradition. Even 20 years ago, married women were not supposed to get a job. Not only did they have to take care of children, but also the job market in S. Korea barely gave married women a chance to get a job.

The last rule is a social position of Korean guys as father. There is a saying in Korea. "If a hen clucks, the family will be broken." It means that when a wife dominates her family, they will face bad things like a divorce. As I mentioned, Korea was the patriarchal culture. Therefore, every husband should handle domestic things. Besides, they didn't care about chores. The only thing they were concerned about was farming or studying. I'm sure that some of them didn't like that, but the society, at that time, demanded them to pretend to. The society defined a father as a man who looked always strong and barely expresses his mind to family. However, as time goes by, the world has been changed in many ways. Therefore, Korea has been accepting so many things, including culture, from Western countries.

Especially the young generation has seen through TV, internet, and movies other countries' fathers who often show their affection and spend lots of time hanging out with children. This is what they want their father to be. However, fathers in Korea used to live in traditional Korean family. They still think the traditional father role is the best. It is absolutely true for the fathers to love children, but they are just used to doing it. Nevertheless, the children don't know about how much the fathers love them because the fathers barely express their mind. As a result, some of the fathers don't get along with their family, and they have become a member of the family who just makes money for them.

In conclusion, in order for human beings to live with other people harmoniously, we need not only laws, but also the unwritten rules. Each country has their interesting unwritten rules. Likewise, South Korea, where I'm coming from, has some. First of all, we have to live with a certain attitude depending on age. Moreover, on a first date guys pay for that.

Finally, it is hard for Korean fathers to live in modern time. Actually, S. Korea has some domestic problems because of some unwritten rules, especially about the age. However, I'm absolutely sure that we will solve those things like what we have done since the end of the Korean War. And we'll be one of the strongest countries in the world.

## Go China

*Shuling Wang*  
(*ELI alumna*)

My name is Shuling, a girl from China. Last semester I was so glad to be a student at ELI. There I made some new friends. Sometimes we talked about China, and a few of my friends want to travel throughout China. I hope what I will write can let them know China more and help their trips.

First, eating is the important thing wherever you are. If you are in China, you definitely should try the Chinese Food. I recommend the Chinese Breaded Chicken Breast, Curry Fried Rice and Chinese-style Tuna Fish Sandwich. I think you will love them. If you do not really like them, it doesn't matter because there are a lot of American fast food restaurants in China, like McDonalds and Pizza-Hut. Anyway, you can eat well.

Then it is time to go outside for fun. Maybe you are wondering where you should go? I think you can't miss these four places. They are Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Sichuan because there are a lot of differences only from the long Chinese history. Like Hutong and the Great Wall in Beijing. By the way, The Great Wall, totaling more than 12,000 kilometers in length, is arguably the most famous image of China throughout the world. The Great Wall is a symbol of Chinese traditional culture and the pride of the Chinese nation. You also can enjoy the natural beauty, such as Jiuzhai-Huanglong and Emei Mountain in Sichuan. They are just the good examples; you also can find so many others. If you go, you will see them by yourself. And you will know the words are not enough to describe. After the long trip, I believe you are so tired, but you are still in your good mood because of the great view and what nice crafts you bought during the travel time.

Finally, let me remind you, please drink a cup of tea. China boasts a sophisticated tea culture: tea was first discovered and drunk in China several thousand years ago and drinking tea has become a daily habit of the Chinese people. It is absolutely a good drinking. So, after the tea do you feel powerful again?

Chinese people welcome the friends from everywhere. See you there.

(You can find great Chinese food recipes at:  
[http://www.english.china.com/zh\\_cn/livlife/chineserecipes/](http://www.english.china.com/zh_cn/livlife/chineserecipes/))

## Three Places I Love

*ChongKyu Park (Roger)*

*R/W 61*

Most of the people like to travel and go sightseeing to other countries or cities. In effect, I also prefer both to travel and to be impressed by taking a trip. Consequently, I have visited many places and experienced the custom of a different country. There are some places I'd love to see in the world again. For example, I have an affection about the excitement of Universal Studios; the surprise of the city, Shanghai; and the history of the city, Kyungju.

First, I went to Orlando to visit Universal Studios, which is also located in Los Angeles, Orlando and Tokyo in the world, and it is an amusement park that is based on movies. Universal Studios consists of two big parks which include movie centers and rides. I joined in movie centers since I preferred seeing a movie to riding.

I haven't undergone disasters like tornado, volcano, and so on in my life, but when I went there, I experienced both tornado and earthquake like they were real. I felt very horrible and terrible, and I thought how we can reduce the damage of disaster. After I visited the center of earthquake and tornado, I saw a 3 dimensional movie while wearing special glasses. The movie's characters were quite active or realistic, and they moved as if they came to me. Also, there was my favorite ride which is called Mummy like roller-coaster. It was pretty fast, so I was dizzy after I rode Mummy. One of the interesting things was a magic show which was composed of the story of a movie. It was miraculous and understandable, and a presenter taught me how a movie was made. At night, I saw bright and fantastic neon signs which were decorative with many facilities. Its view was beyond words, and it gave me a good memory. For these reasons, I recommend visiting Universal Studios.

Second, I have been to Shanghai, which is the second largest city in China, and it is famous for a film location of the movie "Mission Impossible 3." There are 22 million people living in Shanghai, and there is a tremendous harbor to trade products with other countries and a huge airport.

As soon as I arrived in Shanghai, I rode a magnetic express train whose speed is more than 400 kilometers per hour, and it moved us from the airport of Shanghai to downtown. I was surprised and shocked because I had heard that China is a poor country, but new technology of China was well-developed. While I was on my way to downtown, both many tall buildings such as skyscrapers and a long tunnel appeared. Especially, the tallest building of all buildings, which is called Dongbangmyungju, had 269 floors, and watching night view on the 269th floor was very fantastic and exciting. There are many historic sites like a Korean temporary government of the 1920's and campaigning place in which Korean people exclaimed "Korea should be independent from Japan." I was impressed when I was in the Korean temporary government. Furthermore, there were Chinese architectures like temples and statues that were made of stone, and they looked exotic when I saw them. That's why I want to go to Shanghai again someday.

Finally, Kyungju, which is one of the historical cities in Korea, was majestic enough to attract me. The city was the capital of the ancient empire, which is called Sinra, and Sinra was established in B.C. 57. It perished in A.D. 935. It was assimilated by a new empire, Koryu. Sinra existed for around 1000 years. It was very influential to other nations and its culture and technology was still more brilliant than other countries.

In Kyungju, there is by far the most famous statue in Korea, which is called Seokgul-am, made in A.D 774; in fact, the word "am", which is Korean, means rock or stone. The height of that is more than 25 feet, and it is considered one of the mysterious architectures such as Angkor What or Pyramid in the world, for how people moved that to the top of a mountain. When I saw it, I thought that the architecture is very sophisticated, and Sinra's engineers had a high degree of technology at that time. There are many Buddhist temples and a lot of tombs of both kings and queens in Kyungju. If some people know ancient Korean history, I want to tell them, "Go to Kyungju."

In summary, I introduced my sights to you. For instance, Universal Studios made me and other people delighted. In addition, I had a good opportunity to learn about how to make a movie. Shanghai was one of the well-advanced cities, and it also has many historic places. Kyungju has old sites like temples, and it helped me be proud of the ancient history of my country. There is a Korean proverb "Seeing is better than hearing." I want you to visit them; additionally, I hope that they will be well-preserved continually.

## Male and Female's Peaceful Coexistence and Co-Prosperity

*Ayumi Saito*

*R/W 61*

Haven't you ever had difficulty to understand someone who is different gender? Haven't the other gender's behaviors and words ever upset you? Do you think it is really possible for a man and a woman to understand and accept the other person's behavior and words totally? If not, is it the only way to keep complaining about the other one, or is there a better way to deal with it? As many researchers study this area, obviously a male brain and a female one work differently. In other words, because of the difference, they do/feel something in different ways. It is obviously worth it to know about the differences to live together peacefully.

Firstly, a big difference between a male and a female is intimacy and independence in their relationship. Deborah Tannen, a sociolinguist at Georgetown University, said, "Though all humans need both intimacy and independence, women tend to focus on the first and men on the second" (2000). When men make a plan to do something, they don't often talk about it with their girlfriend or wife, which could make their girlfriend or wife angry or upset. Men feel that the reason their girlfriends or wives expect them to talk about their plan in advance is their girlfriends or wives want to control them, even if the girlfriends and wives don't mean that. On the

other hand, the girlfriends or wives feel that their boyfriend or husbands don't talk about the plan because they don't want to involve their girlfriends or wives in the activity. This happens because men want independence and women want intimacy for relationships.

Secondly, a woman often complains that her boyfriend or husband does not listen to her. At the time, she feels her boyfriend or husband is not interested in her or does not care about her. This is caused by the brain gender usage difference. Alan and Barbara Pease wrote about the differences in their book called "Why Men Don't Listen and Woman Can't Read Maps." When men do or listen to something, they only use their left hemispheres, which are for logical thinking; in contrast, women use both their left hemispheres and right hemispheres which are for emotional thinking and visualizing." In addition, the wiring system of a male brain is different from the woman's. Allan Gardyne, an Australian journalist, said that "our brains are 'wired' differently. Hit a man on the left side of his head and he may lose his speech. Hit a woman on the left side of the head and she'll probably go right on talking. When she talks she uses both sides of the brain." This is why it is difficult for a man to watch TV and listen to the other one's speaking at the same time. On the other hand, a woman cannot find difficulty to do that, she just expects the partner to listen and react to her, even while he is watching TV.

In the book "Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps," they also wrote about the following. Like men's not listening to two things at the same time, they don't often realize the partner's slight visual change like hair style, make up, etc. Here, again, women take this to mean their partner's less interesting to them. This is also from the right hemisphere's usage. When a man sees something, he grasps what he is looking at with his left hemisphere. In contrast, when a woman sees something, she grasps what she is looking at with her left hemisphere and what it looked like with her right hemisphere at the same time. That's why girls can tell about the slight changes as soon as they see their friends.

Since men are better at logical thinking, data analyzing, and figurative matters, it is easy for them to read a map. Allan Gardyne (2007) also says, "Most women aren't good at reading maps. They tend to turn them upside down to try to figure out where they're going. Men can usually rotate the map in their minds. It's called 'spatial ability' and it makes men good at calculating speed, movement and distance." In addition, when they look at a parking garage, they can easily compare the space and the car size, so they can understand if the car can go into the garage. Another thing, women prefer to use landmarks to remember a place, and it is hard for them to compare the sizes of several objects.

The very important thing is not to try to regard the other gender's behavior or words as their personality or bad points but to understand the differences of their fundamental behavior patterns. Adding to that, making a small effort like showing respect for the other behavior before they tell their opinions might help the relationship stay healthy, since looking at every case from both points of views above has an advantage and a disadvantage. Thus, utilizing the better one and making the situation go smoothly is the better way for both a man and a

female to take. This is how a male and a female can make use of their own good points, spending time peacefully.

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