

The “Present” Time

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Hello! My name is Yuriko Terashima. I’m a sophomore at Ehime University.

Thank you for reading this essay. I hope you will enjoy it.

From last April, my university returned to face-to-face classes. Most of the classes were online last year, so it was my pleasure to meet my friends and teachers in person. I go out of my house and feel my classmates, teachers, and others very close to me, surrounded by the new air that is totally different from that of my house. It is very stimulating and motivates me to work harder.

But, actually, I’m really an indoor person by nature. For example, I’m not good at any sports, so I often read a book, listen to my favorite music, watch movies, and write in my diary at home. Even before this pandemic, I sometimes felt a little stressed to go out. I am just an introverted type of person, so I felt somehow relaxed at the very beginning of the “stay home” period. But during the summer vacation of last year, of course there were no classes. It meant I couldn’t see my friends and teachers and I couldn’t share my feelings with others. There were some ways to connect with others online such as SNS. But I noticed they were not enough for me.

So it was really special when I could finally go out of my home after the pandemic. The fresh air through my mask made me feel alive. The people who passed by made me feel I was really a part of this world. The flowers facing toward the sky encouraged me. This pandemic taught me how precious the world around me is. Since then, I want to communicate with people around me more. I was not good at expressing my love or respect to people around me before this pandemic. But, because of it, I noticed it is very important to express my feelings of pleasure being with them and the respect for them. It makes me happy as well as the people around me. I still like to be alone, too. But now I think about people around me even when I’m alone. Before the pandemic, it was all I could do to think about myself when I was alone. But now, I prefer thinking about people I love when I am by myself. It makes me happy.

There are a lot of things we have lost during this pandemic. But I want to appreciate all the presents I received, and I’ll cherish my life and people around me more and more.

Wishing you endless happiness and smiles. Have a nice day!