

Conversation Lesson

Lesson 38c: My friend is tone deaf

レッスン 38c: 私の友達は音痴です

Target: Having a conversation about karaoke
目的: カラオケについて会話をしてみましょう!Reading
単語

New vocabulary introduced in the reading

• (to) grow up	成長する
• (to) replace... with...	が～に取って替わる
• an abbreviation	省略
• an orchestra	オーケストラ
• (to) break out (a song)	歌う
• There is a pretty strong chance that...	という可能性がある
• a performer	出演者
• once and for all	今回限りで
• (to) strain...	ピンと張る

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Read the passage and circle the new words as you find them

Hi I'm Megan, and when I grow up I want to be a famous singer. I try to practice singing whenever I can.

I just love going to karaoke. For those who don't know what karaoke is, it's where you sing the lead vocals to a song, and the backing track is played out of the speakers. It's like singing along to the radio except the singer's voice has been removed and replaced with yours. The word "karaoke" comes from two words. "Kara" shot for "karapo" which means "empty" in Japanese, and "oke" which is an abbreviation for "orchestra."

I usually go two or three times a week. Most of the time I go with my friends, but if no one is available I just go by myself. At karaoke, we usually only sing popular well-known songs, but sometimes we break out some oldies just for fun. Even if you don't know the words you can still hum along, or use a tamborine or a maraca. Also, you can sing back up for people if you don't want to sing by yourself. Singing back up is easy because even though most people usually don't know all the lyrics to a song, if the song has been on the radio for a while, there is a pretty strong chance that they are going to know the chorus pretty well.

Everyone always has their go-to-song. Mine is "Hero" by Mariah Carey. I really love her songs because she can hit these amazing high notes and I can too. My brother's go-to-song is "In The End" by Lincoln Park. He's pretty good at singing it too, which isn't really a surprise since he's been singing the same song at karaoke for over 10 years now.

I went to my first open mic night last week and it was a really interesting experience. Some of the performers were amazing and others were just terrible. This one guy was just the worst. He was completely tone deaf. He didn't sing one part of the song in key.

I remember the first time I competed against someone on stage. It was amazing. I was only about 15 and my friends and I had decided to have a sing off to decide once and for all, who the best singer in our group was. Needless to say, I won. When you are up on stage, it's important know the lyrics by heart, be able to sing acapella confidently and to really project your voice. Also don't strain yourself too much, because you know, otherwise you may lose your voice.

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Answer the questions below

1. Where does the word "karaoke" come from?
2. At karaoke does she usually only sing well-known songs?
3. What is her go-to-song?
4. Can Megan hit high notes?
5. Did she go to her first open mic night last month?
6. Do people who are tone deaf sing in key?
7. When you are up on stage is it important to know the lyrics off by heart?
8. How may you lose your voice?

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