

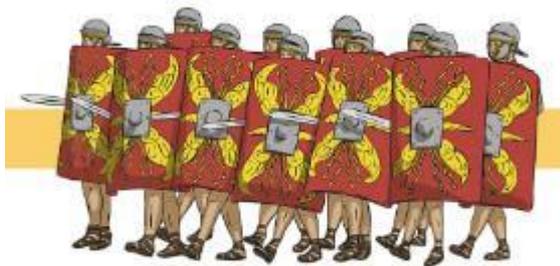
MARCH

LANGUAGE CENTER · NEWSLETTER



DOES *MARCH* THE MONTH HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MARCHING?

The name **March** is ultimately derived from the Latin word *Martius* (named after *Mars*, the Roman god of war). *Martius* was the name of the first month in the original Roman calendar. Along with *January*, *May*, and *June*, March is one of several months named after a god. The Roman ruler, *Numa Pompilius*, is traditionally credited with adding January and February to the calendar, thus making March the third month of the year. While many have adopted this calendar (the *Gregorian* calendar), some cultures and religions still celebrate the start of the new year on March 1. In Iran, New Year's Day is celebrated on March 21.



The *Cherry Blossom* Forecast 2024

AREA	FLOWERING	PEAK BLOOM
Nagoya	March 20	March 31
Fukuoka	March 21	March 30
Tokyo	March 23	March 30
Kyoto	March 23	April 1
Osaka	March 25	April 2
Kanazawa	March 31	April 6
Sendai	April 3	April 9
Aomori	April 17	April 22
Sapporo	May 1	May 4

Is there a connection between the month and the word *marching*?

In ancient Rome, March marked the start of the military campaign season. While it is tempting to connect the word march, as “march into battle,” with this month, to march comes from the Old French *marchier*, “to tread, move,” possibly from a Frankish (ancient Germanic language) root meaning “to mark, pace out,” related to mark.

Taylor Swift

THE QUEEN OF LYRICS

Unless you *live under a rock*, you must know that the world's biggest superstar, Taylor Swift, did a concert in Tokyo last month as part of "**The Eras Tour**". The pop icon performed some of the most popular songs from her music catalog for over three hours every single night. She did that for four nights in a row in the capital!

Known for her songwriting skills, she has written about *everything under the sun*. Here are a few famous lines from some of the songs she sang.

"I'm damned if I do give a damn what people say."

— "**Lavender Haze**," *Midnights*

"And I don't know why, but with you I'd dance in a storm in my best dress, fearless."

— "**Fearless**," *Fearless (Taylor's Version)*

"I'm so sick of running as fast as I can. Wondering if I'd get there quicker if I was a man."

— "**The Man**," *Lover*

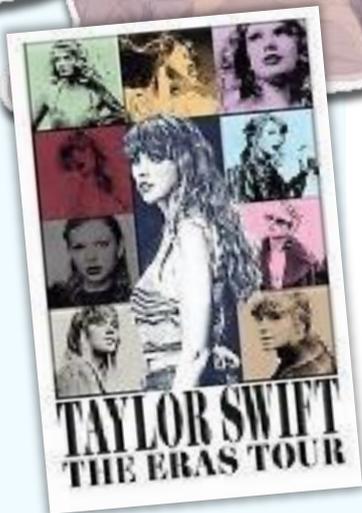
"And I know it's long gone and that magic's not here no more. And I might be okay, but I'm not fine at all."

— "**All Too Well**" (*10 Minute Version*), "**Red**" (*Taylor's Version*)

Next month, on April 19, she will release a new album called "**The Tortured Poets Department**." Talking about it, she said, "*I've never had an album where I've needed songwriting more than I needed it on Tortured Poets.*" Does this not make you look forward to her new songs even more?

* *live under a rock* - to be unaware of things that most people know about

* *everything under the sun* - a very great number of things



GOODBYE TO LEGENDARY TEACHERS



How did you first become interested in English and English education?

Yoshida: *I learned how to write the alphabet in cursive handwriting from my cousin before entering junior high school. It looked so cool and beautiful, which motivated me to study English more and more.*

Zen: *Despite being born in the Philippines; English was my first language. I did not learn the local language until I was seven years old. My grandfather, rest his soul, who was a science teacher, believed that I could learn the local language naturally. In a way, I was his science experiment. I learned two different languages before I learned my local language.*

How would you describe your experience at Seirinkan?

Yoshida: *Getting a huge amount of inspiration, stimulation, and power from Seirinkan's students.*

Zen: *Of all my teaching experience, working in Seirinkan has been the best so far. I can see myself staying here for the rest of my teaching career. However, fate has different plans for me.*

What are some of the biggest changes you have seen during your time at Seirinkan?

Yoshida: *The number of classrooms available exclusively for Language Center. The number of male students. The number of school rules.*

Zen: *The building itself. Seirinkan's school building was in a different location when I arrived here back in 2017. It was even located in a different city! It was in Tsushima City before. Now, we have larger school buildings, a huge playing field for different sports, a gym, and a junior high school expansion.*

What are your plans for the future?

Yoshida: *Teaching English as a volunteer. Starting to play the electric guitar, and piano, and table tennis. Participating in an ultramarathon (100km) once more. Also, going to 52 concerts a year. Finally, jogging five days a week.*

Zen: *I want to continue with my master's degree - perhaps pursue a second one - before moving to the next higher degree. I like studying, however, like all other students, I do NOT like doing homework.*

What is your advice or message to the students at Seirinkan?

Yoshida: *Don't wait for moods! You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know it has got to get down to work.*

Zen: *High school is a great time to build a strong foundation for learning. Remember, learning is a lifelong process. While high school provides the fundamentals, college, work, and life experiences help you apply and expand that knowledge. Have fun on everything you do! It may be tough, but look around, everyone is going through it. Just keep a positive attitude!*

We will miss you both and wish you well in all your future endeavors!