**Tokyo vs. New York**

Mari grew up in both Tokyo and NYC and discusses the differences between the two cities.

Mike: Hey, Mari. So, we're comparing places this week and you've lived in two great cities: Tokyo and New York and you speak both English and Japanese so you must know them very well, so can you tell me about the people in the places?

Mari: In New York City, the people are friendly. If you're lost in the subway or you're not sure what bus to take, if you ask someone, even though they look pretty busy or absorbed they'll be willing to tell you which way you are supposed to go, and they'll be very blunt and tell you if they don't know which one you're supposed to take. When you go into the stores, the people in the stores like to make small talk with you. They're interested in you as a person in terms of where you're from or you know, what you are looking for that day and why you are looking for that item.

I think in Tokyo, if you are in the subway station, or the train station, the JR people or the subway people are very helpful in terms of which subway you're supposed to go on, or to help you get to that destination, and when you go into the stores, the clerks are very helpful in terms of finding whatever you're looking for, but I think because of the culture, they're not... they don't delve into your personal life as much as the shop attendants in New York.

Mike: So, if you had to eat one thing in New York and one thing in Tokyo, what would it be?

Mari: Oh, my gosh, that's a very difficult question. In New York City I would eat pizza. I think that they have the best pizza in the world—if you like greasy, cheesy pizza. In Japan, I really like the Italian food in Japan. I know that it's not very authentic Italian food but I think they do a really good job with Italian food here.

Mike: Oh, that's interesting. So, in terms of shopping, where would you like to shop more?

Mari: I feel like I'm going to be biased towards New York City but I think that the shopping in New York City is a lot better. The primary reason being that it's just cheaper.
Comprehension Page

**Main Points:** Answer the following questions about the interview.

1) How does she describe service people in New York?
   a) Rude
   b) Friendly
   c) Arrogant

3) What does she say about food in New York?
   a) It's expensive.
   b) It's authentic.
   c) It's unhealthy.

2) How does she describe service people in Tokyo?
   a) Honest
   b) Hardworking
   c) Helpful

4) How is the Italian food in Tokyo?
   a) Authentic
   b) Greasy
   c) Delicious

**Phrase Match:** Match the phrases on the left with the example on the right.

1. absorbed
   ___ honest; straightforward; rude

2. blunt
   ___ simple questions; easy conversation

3. make small talk
   ___ deep questions that may be secret

4. delve into your personal life
   ___ busy; high concentration; focus

5. immigrants
   ___ people from a different country

**Unscramble:** Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.

1. in Tokyo and New York | the people | can you | about the differences between | tell me | ?

3. and one thing | in Tokyo | one thing | eat | if you could | in New York | what would it be |

3. is | big | how | the park | ?

4. in terms of | where would you | more | shopping | like to shop | ?

**Discussion:** Can you remember how Mari answered the above questions?
Summary

The People

The Food

Mari’s choices

The Shopping
Mike: Hey, Mari. So, we're comparing places this week and _________ in two great cities: Tokyo and New York and you speak both English and Japanese so you must know them very well, so can you tell me about the people in the places?

Mari: In New York City, the people are friendly. If you're lost in the subway or you're not sure what bus to take, if you ask someone, _________ look pretty busy or absorbed, they'll be willing to tell you which way you are supposed to go, and _________ very blunt and tell you if they don't know which one you're supposed to take. _________ into the stores, the people in the stores like to make small talk with you. They're interested in you as a person in terms of where you're from or you know, what you are looking for that day and why you are looking for that item.

I think in Tokyo, _________ in the subway station, or the train station, the JR people or the subway people are very helpful in terms of finding whatever you're looking for, but I think because of the culture, they're not... they don't delve into your personal life as much as the shop attendants in New York.

Mike: So in terms of food, how does it differ between New York and Tokyo?

Mari: I think New York and Tokyo both have very international foods. _________, you can find foods from all over the world. I think that because New York City is a city of immigrants, the people who cook the foods are from that country, _________ feel like if you go to a Mexican restaurant and you see like a Japanese person cooking the Mexican food, so I think that the cuisine, the international cuisine in New York City is _________ the one in Japan.

Mike: So, if you had to eat one thing in New York and one thing in Tokyo, what would it be?

Mari: Oh, my gosh, that's a very difficult question. In New York City _________ eat pizza. I think that they have the best pizza in the world—if you like greasy, cheesy pizza. In Japan, I really like the Italian food in Japan. I know that it's not very authentic Italian food but I think they do a really good job with Italian food here.

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Listen online to check your answers.
**What do you think?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Discussion</strong></th>
<th><strong>Write the number of the question being answered in the box</strong></th>
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| 1. Some people say, “New York is the greatest city in the world.” Do you agree? | **Tony** - U.S.A.  
Even when crime was bad, NYC was awesome. It is amazing to see people from all over the world and eat their delicious food. We’ve got the best art, the best theaters, and the most cosmopolitan people. Now that the crime is down, it’s even better. I wouldn’t dream of living anywhere else. |
| 2. Do you talk to shop clerks about your personal life if they ask? | **Keiko** - Japan  
If you ever go to Japan, I guarantee that you will be asked the following questions. First, “Wow, you are so good at using chopsticks!” Next, “What do you think of Japan?” Finally, “Can you eat raw fish?” If you can learn how to answer in Japanese, you’ll be a superstar. |
| 3. What topics do you usually choose for small talk? | **Rick** - Canada  
When I choose restaurant, I always pick something that I can’t get at home. That’s why I prefer really exotic food like Indian, French, and Chinese food. Of course, if I’m in a hurry, I grab something at a fast food restaurant but I don’t really eat out much. It’s fun, but expensive. |
| 4. Based on what you know, do you think you would prefer New York or Tokyo? | **Tomoko** - New Zealand  
Since my parents are Japanese and I’ve never been to Japan, I think I’d like to live in Tokyo. I’ve never been to New York either so it’s hard for me to have a clear opinion but I’d like to discover my roots. New York sounds scary to me and my parents say that Tokyo is safe. |
| 5. What are your favorite restaurants? | |
Comprehension Page: **ANSWER KEY**

**Main Points:** *Answer the following questions about the interview.*

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   a) Rude  
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   b) Hardworking  
   c) **Helpful**

3) What does she say about food in New York?  
   a) It’s expensive.  
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   c) It’s unhealthy.

4) How is the Italian food in Tokyo?  
   a) Authentic  
   b) Greasy  
   c) **Delicious**

**Phrase Match:** *Match the phrases on the left with the example on the right.*

1. Soho  
   1 neighborhood in NYC

2. on Broadway  
   4 masters degree

3. hang out  
   2 lots of musical plays and stores

4. grad school  
   5 made for visitors and shoppers

5. commercial and touristy  
   3 to meet with friends and be together

**Unscramble:** *Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.*

1. in Tokyo and New York | the people | can you | about the differences between | tell me | ?
   **Can you tell me about the differences between the people in Tokyo and New York?**

2. how does it | food | differ between | Tokyo and New York | in terms of | ?
   **In terms of food, how does it differ between Tokyo and New York?**

3. and one thing | in Tokyo | one thing | eat | if you could | in New York | what would | it be | ?
   **If you could eat one thing in Tokyo and one thing in New York, what would it be?**

4. in terms of | where would you | more | shopping | like to shop | ?
   **In terms of shopping, where would you like to shop more?**

**Discussion:** *Can you remember how Mari answered the above questions?*

Go online for the slide show, interactive quiz, and free downloadable MP3 of this interview: [www.elllo.org](http://www.elllo.org) : Interview #861
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