

Letter From Sho A in Zanzibar



Hi there, what's it going?

I took an one-week vacation at the end of September and spent it in Zanzibar.

Zanzibar is an island off the coast of Tanzania with a world heritage, Stone Town, and several quite beautiful beach. The townscape of Zanzibar is fairly old and some historical buildings have been preserved there. There is also some cafes and souvenir shops, so it's a very good place for a walk. I had a good time shopping and spending time at cafés.

While there, I get a license in scuba diving. The lecture was in English but our instructor was Tanzanian so I could understand what he says because he spoke Tanzanian English which sounds almost the same as Japanese English. I hear it every day and am used to it. But a DVD he used had native-speaker pronunciation. I could hardly understand what it said. I has to go over the textbook at night. Even though I was on vacation I still studied hard. Scuba diving itself was fantastic. I'm glad I come across it. If I were in Japan, if I hadn't come to Tanzania, I would never have try it. The price is a bit high but it worth the price. If you get a chance, you should try it!

Take care!



Sho

Task:

There are 10 mistakes in Sho's letter from Zanzibar. The first one is circled. Find and correct 9 more.

When you are done, write a letter back to Sho.

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About the Worksheet

This worksheet is based on a real letter from a great student and good friend of mine named Sho who was nice enough to let me reproduce this as an example for you.

I've edited the letter slightly to make it more useful and helpful for students. The length and language as well as the error correcting task could be a bit challenging for some so make it a point to read through it first before handing it out to students.

Using the Worksheet

I've made this letter look a little fancy but you don't need to go so far as that. Have students write pieces that they then correct for one another. (This can be done as homework to save time or in class to guarantee everyone gets it done.)

The benefit being that they will help one another hopefully building a team spirit, foster discussion on their errors and how to fix them and get clear time where they are focussing on accuracy. **The drawback** of course is that if students are editing students there is always the possibility that more errors are going to slip in and others missed. At the level we are talking about here however it's likely that the major errors would be easy to spot.

It also gives some students an opportunity to see how their writing might be perceived as others which can be rather valuable if someone thinks a bit too highly of themselves but can't communicate particularly well in writing.

I've used this letter as an example but you should feel free to make up your own or use your students writing in your classes. If you have a chance to work one-on-one or in small groups you can cover a lot fast. Larger groups are a bit more time consuming though.

Note: One of the errors is World Heritage *SITE*. Dropping the word site is quite common in Japan you be sure to watch our for or customize your letters to meet the needs of the studnets in your class.