

# Winter Vacation

Akane and Howard talk about their winter vacations.

## Akane's Vacation

Last year, I **went** to Portugal just after Christmas. And I **stayed** there until... well, just after New Year's this year. In Portugal, I **met** up with one of my friends from Toronto. He **had** family that **lived** in Portugal, because his family **was** originally from Portugal.

So, they **were** kind enough to let me stay with them. I didn't know any Portuguese, except for some simple words like "hello", and "thank you". I **learned** some simple words through an audio CD, before I **went** there. And the people that I **stayed** with didn't know very much English either. However, we **got** along surprisingly well.

They **were** surprised that I **was** able to eat some of their exotic foods. They **made** some delicious meals every single day, like octopus, tripe and rabbit. It is quite exotic, but I **thought** it was quite good. They also **made** some excellent desserts, like crème caramel, and a rich sponge cake that they call Paon d'lo.

## Howard's Vacation

OK, now I'll talk about my winter vacation. This winter vacation I **spent** two weeks in my hometown which is Daytona Beach, Florida. It was wonderful. The weather **was** warm every day. It was sunny every day and the temperature was almost 80 degrees.

I **visited** my mother and I **spent** every morning having a nice leisurely cup of coffee and reading the newspaper and after that I **got** my bicycle out and **rode** down to the beach and enjoyed the sun and the surf, and **came** back home and **read** a book and went to bed early.

I **had** a wonderful time. I **saw** a couple of new movies, when I was home in Florida. I **saw** The Aviator and also an interesting movie **called** Spanglish, which I hope you all can see because it's an interesting movie about English and the Spanish.