

What I've learned by being an exchange student (so far) besides a language

School

I learned that I still hate art class
I thrive in it and miss it when it's not there
I need it because it provides a challenge
I learned to doodle
I miss the very typical American school spirit and pride.
That I still can't spell
I miss the **competition**

Things I took for GRANTED

My family
My freedom
My friends (Tess)
Hugs
Colorado's weather
The ability to understand (english)
The telephone
Target and Cub Foods
Biking with Tess

How to "DEAL"

I've learned to deal with less than 'optimal' conditions.
I've learned to advocate by myself on my behalf
I've learned to live/be alone. Not in a bad way- just w/out siblings my age
I've learned to write...

Worries

Are my parents going to be able to deal with how I've changed??
What's it going to be like when I come home?
What's going to happen at school when I get back?

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Friends

I've learned how to really make them
I've learned it's ok to feel lonely
I miss mine at home
I've learned to be more outgoing
I've learned what it's like to be the 'new guy'

Family

Moms are the only ones who care enough to write
Mine's not so bad after all
I could never be an only child
That 300 miles isn't a frustration barrier
Parents worry too much about trivial things

Independence

3000 miles is a lot of independence
That my family better be pretty darn thankful that I'm so responsible.
I've learned to use the bus (and the trains)

Priorities

They change
Mine are definatley **different** from my parents-and that's ok!

Experiences

My exchange is going to be one I **never** forget
I see the world through different eyes
I'm excited for my family to come over where I have been living for the past year. I think it will make my transition from here to home easier.