

技能実習生の友

Technical Intern Trainees' Mate

October 2022

Autumn Issue

Topics

Manga Lesson: Learn about Japanese People's Feelings—"Spending Autumn in Japan"

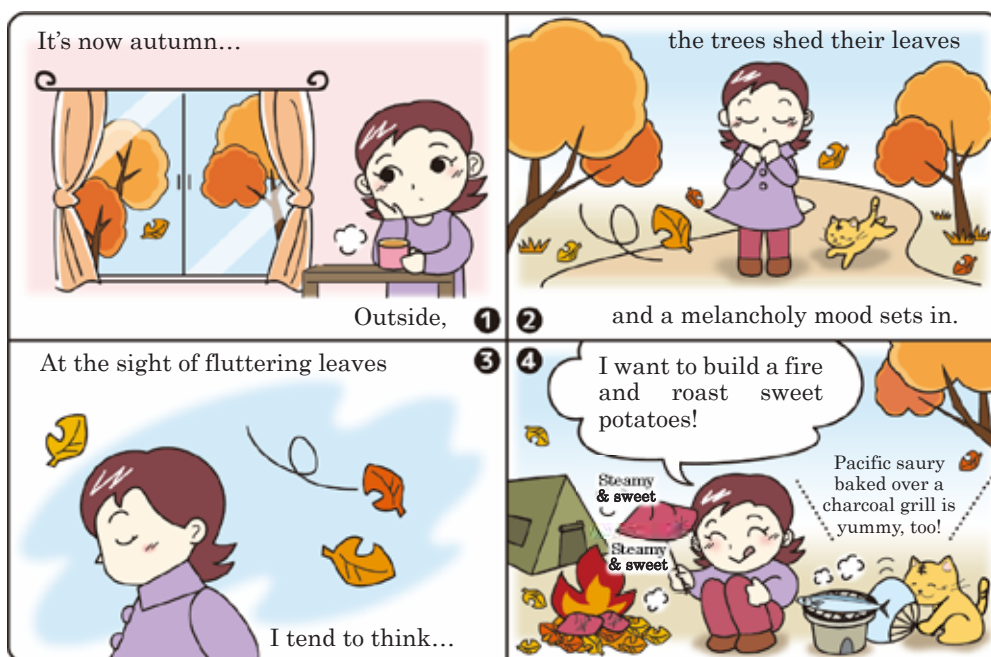
◇ Improve Your Japanese by Using Things around You!

◇ Japanese Seasonal Words—Autumn "Momijigari" (Leaf Hunting)

Kokugonomori 「あき 秋 空き」

Let's Learn about Japanese Feelings through Manga

— Spending Autumn in Japan —



Autumn, the season for enjoying arts, sports, and... eating!

When autumn comes in Japan, the temperature drops, the sun gradually sets earlier each day, and a melancholy mood sets in. At the same time, however, the trees change color and create a beautiful sight. At some outdoor campgrounds, fallen leaves can be used to build a fire and roast sweet potatoes. Autumn is also when Pacific saury, chestnuts, pears, and other such tastes of autumn come into season. What's more, the cooler temperatures make it perfect to enjoy sports. Find what's to your liking and enjoy autumn in your own personal way!

Technical Intern Trainees' Mate has undergone a renewal!

New issues of the Japanese leaflet will be delivered in print, and foreign language versions (9 languages) will be available on the JITCO website in PDF format for viewing via a smartphone or other such device. We will continue to make improvements to deliver useful information to all technical intern trainees.



Improve your Japanese by Using Things around You!

Here we introduce how you can improve your Japanese while acquiring useful daily information. Value your desire to listen, speak, and understand Japanese, and use the language a little at a time, every day.

★Make use of free leaflets and pamphlets around you

Have you ever noticed the free leaflets and pamphlets at supermarkets, convenience stores, city hall, train stations, post offices, restaurants, and many other such familiar places you use daily? They contain a wealth of information useful for daily life, such as information on discount items and convenient goods, and local events and services. You can also use them to study the lifestyles and customs of the Japanese people, as well as the Japanese language. If you come across a product, article, or word you do not understand, show the leaflet or pamphlet to people at work or people around you and seek answers to your questions. This may broaden your conversation and make for an enjoyable chat. Even if you are not yet confident about speaking in Japanese, you will find that you can use the leaflet or pamphlet to initiate a conversation.

【Supermarket】

Supermarket leaflets and pamphlets contain colorful photos of foods and household items. There may be ingredients and deli foods you have never seen before. If you find something that interests you or that looks delicious, you might want to buy it once to see how it tastes. Then, share your impression of the taste with people around you.

【Home appliances】

Japanese home appliances are world-famous. Appliance stores offer a large assortment of leaflets and pamphlets. If you find a leaflet/pamphlet for an appliance you use daily or that interests you, visit a store to receive detailed information or ask questions about it.



【Travel】

Travel leaflets and pamphlets contain information and maps about various places in Japan, so you can use them to study Japanese culture and geography. By visiting a nearby tourist spot and asking questions of local people and store clerks, you might discover a new Japan!

【City hall, libraries, post offices】

There are also leaflets and pamphlets at public facilities. You might find events and convenient services that pique your interest. If you are curious about any event, go ahead and participate in it! It would be a good chance to make new friends.

There are leaflets and pamphlets in many more places around you. Use them wisely to improve your Japanese while enjoying Japanese lifestyles.



JITCO has held the 30th Japanese Essay Contest and announced the winners on the JITCO website. A collection of outstanding essays will also be posted subsequently for your reading pleasure.



Japanese Seasonal Words—Autumn “Momijigari” (Leaf Hunting)

In Japan, each of the four seasons is a showcase of beauty. Autumn is when the heat of summer abates and the air gradually grows chilly as winter nears. It is said to be the best season for eating, enjoying sports, and reading, among others. As these expressions indicate, many people look forward to autumn, such as to enjoy the seasonal foods and the cool weather that is perfect for sports.

By the way, have you ever heard the word “momijigari”? It means to enjoy viewing leaves that have changed color in autumn, with “momiji” meaning “red leaves” and “gari” meaning “hunting.” The word has existed since olden times as far back as the Kamakura Period (late 12th to mid-14th centuries) when it frequently appeared in tanka poems. In those days, the act of venturing into nature to search for and enjoy the flowers and fruits of the season was expressed by attaching the suffix “-gari” to the relevant object. The culture of tasting or appreciating nature as it is has continued to this day. There is a host of similar words, including “budogari” (grape hunting) and “kinokogari” (mushroom hunting).

Leaves that change color begin to do so when the lowest temperatures at dawn drop to around 6 to 7 degrees Celsius, and they reach the peak of their color change generally in about 20 days. While the “cherry blossom front” travels from south to north, the “autumn foliage front” travels from north to south. Being able to enjoy both cherry blossoms and the autumn foliage within the same year can be said to be one of the best aspects of Japan having four distinct seasons.

In Japan, places that are famous for their autumn foliage are mostly the grounds of temples and shrines. Their meticulously well-kept gardens are nothing short of stunning, and in some places, the foliage is lit up at night in a display of ethereal beauty. In addition to the red leaves of many deciduous trees, the leaves of ginkgo trees that have turned golden are also a sight to see, and popular leaf viewing spots attract crowds of people. Look for what autumn feature attracts you and enjoy the season!



<Bishamondo Temple in Kyoto>

Kokugonomori

This is an exercise for learning Japanese words and kanji and their usage. Think of the correct answers while having fun! (Answers are provided on the next page.)

「あき 秋」から選んで書きましょう。

らめないで
がんばろう。

れた、
まだねていたの。

地ち
で、サッカーしよう。

おかしの
ぼこ

にぎやかな
まつり

すずしい
風かぜ
がふいている。

雲くもひとつない
ぼれ。





の中なかの字じや言葉ことばにつづくように。

指さし導び・元世田谷区立
小学校教諭
高橋 侖子
イラスト・奈良恵

あき

秋あき

空あき

Technical Intern Trainee Photo of the Month



A group of technical intern trainees visited Hokkaido (Sapporo and Otaru) on a company retreat during Golden Week this year, while taking proper infection precautions. In Sapporo, they took a photo in front of a statue of Dr. Clark, in the same pose as him. Fully satisfied with the views as well as the local foods of Hokkaido, they enjoyed three days of time well spent.

(株式会社三勝設備工業所)

Every month, a photo is selected from among those which receiving/supervising organizations have contributed to “技能実習 Days” on the JITCO website. Scan the QR code at right to visit the 技能実習 Days page and learn about the entry guidelines.

(<https://www.jitco.or.jp/ja/days/>)



Inquiry and Consultation Services

If you need help... (<https://www.otit.go.jp/notebook/>)

The Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT) offers a variety of services and resources you can use when you need help. These include Native Language Consultation, information on local consultation services and disaster prevention, and convenient apps such as the “On-site Japanese Language” app and “Technical Intern Trainee Handbook” app.



For information and consultation regarding COVID-19

(<https://www.c19.mhlw.go.jp/>)

This web page provides information about COVID-19 in various foreign languages. You can also search for a local call center in your prefecture.



Autumn is the season of clear blue skies as far as the eye can see. The kanji for sky (空) also has the meaning “empty,” and being empty means being void of anything, so it can be thought of as a “hole.” In the kanji for autumn (秋), the 禾 portion stands for rice plant, and 火, of course, means fire. Insects that come to feed on rice plants during the autumn harvest season were probably driven away using fire. In ancient times, 焚 and 穰 were used in place of 秋. 焚 means to burn with fire, and 穰 means to burn insects. “あき (呆) れた,” a term expressing disbelief, and “あきら (諦) める,” meaning “to give up,” are not learned in primary school, but they are words frequently used in daily life.

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