

## ～ Learning more about Japan ～

The title of this newsletter has changed!

～From “Technical Intern Trainees’ Mate” to “とも (Tomo)”～

The word “とも” has many meanings in Japanese. Reflected in the new title is our wish to study “alongside” all of you people from abroad, to work “with” you, to have fun “together,” to mutually “share” our lives, and to become “friends” with you. With these thoughts, we will continue to provide helpful advice on living in Japan, tips for learning the Japanese language, and other such information, in Japanese and nine foreign languages. We hope that technical intern trainees, specified skilled workers, and people with other statuses of residence in Japan will read this newsletter to better understand and appreciate Japan.

### Topics

July 2023 Summer Issue

Let's Learn about Japanese Manners through Manga: Beware of Internet Crimes

◇Do You Know about Japanese Study Apps?

◇Hot and Humid Japanese Summers —Taking Precautions and Having Fun—

Kokugonomori “上” and “下”

#### Let's Learn about Japanese Manners through Manga

#### — Beware of Internet Crimes —



Technical intern trainees are forbidden by law to engage in work outside their technical intern training program or to engage in other work away from their place of training. However, there has been an increase in cases in recent years where technical intern trainees are lured into crime by criminal organizations via the Internet and social media. The offers may appear to be easy, high-paying jobs, but they are crimes. Be careful not to become involved in any way in such crimes.

## Do You Know about Japanese Study Apps?

If your Japanese improves, you might have more fun communicating with people around you. It may be difficult to study while working, but there are free study apps you might want to use to study Japanese casually at your own pace whenever you have small windows of time.

💡 You may need to pay a communication fee when using the apps. Check your communication environment before using an app.

### ● 「<sup>にほんごおんらいん</sup>いろいろ日本語オンラインコース」 JAPAN FOUNDATION

This is a self-study app that helps you acquire basic communication skills that are essential to living and working in Japan. It offers three levels of learning—Starter, Elementary 1, and Elementary 2—and provides explanations in 10 languages.

Using the app, you can practice listening to audio content and speaking Japanese, or practice grammar and kanji almost like a game.

You can use the app offline by downloading it.

<https://www.irodori-online.jp/>



Source : JAPAN FOUNDATION

### ● 「げんばのにほんご」

#### Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT)

This app lets you learn words and phrases that are commonly used in jobs related to machinery and metals, food manufacturing, construction, and agriculture. Explanations are provided in eight languages. Practice listening and speaking Japanese by clicking on “Workplace Conversations” and “Workplace Vocabulary.” Vocabulary and conversation tests are also provided.

The app may be downloaded from App Store or Google Play.

<https://www.otit.go.jp/kyozai/>



Source : OTIT

There is also a site that delivers news in Japan in simple Japanese.

### ● NEWS WEB EASY <sup>にほんご</sup>やさしい日本語で書いた<sup>にゅーす</sup>ニュース

You can listen to audio files of the latest news in Japan or study difficult Japanese words that are accompanied by pop-up definitions.

If you come across important information, share it with other technical intern trainees and people around you.

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/easy/>



Source : NHK WORLD JAPAN

JITCO sells a wide collection of materials for learning Japanese. There are textbooks that mainly introduce conversations that are frequently used at sites of technical intern training. There are also CDs and DVDs.

Please visit the Online Shop by JITCO Publishing Center and see the materials we offer.

<https://onlineshop.jitco.or.jp/>



## Hot and Humid Japanese Summers — Taking Precautions and Having Fun —



Summer comes into full swing once the rainy season ends. Japanese summers are humid and muggy, such that the temperature feels much higher than in tropical regions. The source of this heat is the Ogasawara high-pressure system that comes from the southeast of Japan. It carries warm and damp air and steadily raises temperatures and humidity. Recently, we have begun to experience many more “midsummer days” when the maximum temperature reaches 30°C or more, “extremely hot days” when the maximum temperature reaches 35°C or more, and “tropical nights” when temperatures remain above 25°C even at night. When we stay in a hot and humid environment for a long time, the water-salt

balance in our body is gradually lost, we cannot adjust our body temperature well, and heat builds up in our body. This is called heatstroke. Heatstroke can occur outdoors or indoors and even in the late afternoon and at night. In severe cases, patients must be rushed to a hospital in an ambulance. Depending on the patient’s condition, it could be fatal. Avoid such a situation by taking the necessary precautions, such as using fans and air conditioners to control the temperature inside the room and drinking water before you feel thirsty.

Many of you may be spending your first summer in Japan. The highlights of summer in Japan include summer festivals and fireworks displays. People also look forward to wearing a type of kimono called *yukata* in summer. These days, many stores offer rental yukatas and help people put them on (as there is a knack to wearing a yukata properly). We suggest you wear a yukata to a summer festival or fireworks display. You are sure to appreciate the “Japanese summer” as you watch and hear the bright lights and booming sounds of the fireworks in the midsummer evening sky in your yukata.

Japanese summers are long and hot, but we hope you enjoy the season by going to summer night events while keeping moderately cool by using the air conditioner and getting enough nutrition so you do not come down with summer fatigue.

## 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.)

上

下

屋上

地下

川上

川下

つくえの上

いすの下

「上」と「下」の読みを書きましょう。

指導・元世田谷区立  
小学校教諭  
高橋 伸子  
イラスト・奈良 恵

水を下さい

山を下る

坂を上る

下校の音楽

一歩下がる

上着をぬぐ

船を下りる

雨が上がる

「上」と「下」



## Technical Intern Trainee Photo of the Month



Technical intern trainees from Vietnam attended the Tanabata Edo Festival, which was held for the first time in three years in Yuzawa City, Akita Prefecture. They experienced the excitement and tradition of a local festival for the first time and enjoyed a fulfilling day.

\*Posted in September 2022

(すばる事業協同組合)

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.



「上」「下」は位置や程度を表しますが、送りがなをつけた動詞になると、実に幅広い意味をもつ言葉になります。「下さい」は「くれ」のていねいな言い方です。問題には取り上げませんでしたが、「召し」あがるは「食べる」、「(そちらに)上がる」は「行く・たずねる」の尊敬語です。



“上” and “下” express positions and degrees (levels). As suffixed verbs, they have an even wider range of meanings. “下さい” is a polite way of saying “くれ.” Though these are not in the question, “(召し) あがる” is an honorific expression of “食べる,” and “(そちらに) 上がる” is an honorific expression of “行く” or “たずねる.”

とも

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