

～ Learning more about Japan ～

October 2023

Autumn Issue

Topics

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Kokugonomori "Writing sentences"

Let's Learn about Seasonal Events through Manga

— Halloween in Japan —



Let's all enjoy Halloween together!

Halloween is an event that originated overseas, but it has also become very popular in Japan around this time of year. People dress up as a ghost, princess, a favorite anime character, or any other figure or creature they wish and enjoy getting together to party. You might enjoy joining in on the fun of Halloween, too, but please remember to observe good manners!

“とも” provides helpful advice on living in Japan, tips for learning the Japanese language, and other such information, in Japanese with furigana and nine foreign languages (Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, Cambodian, Burmese, Mongolian, and English). The Japanese version is available on paper, and the foreign language versions are available in PDF format on JITCO's website for viewing on a smartphone, PC, or other such device. We hope you make good use of these resources. (<https://www.jitco.or.jp/ja/tomo/>)



We Asked a Technical Intern Trainee about Life in Japan!

How are other technical intern trainees faring in Japan?

We interviewed Ms. THIDA LWIN (age 25), a technical intern trainee who lives in Kyoto.

Name: THIDA LWIN
Birthplace: Myanmar
Field of training: Nursing care
Number of years in Japan: 3 years
Self-introduction: I am a cheerful person who always tries to make other people happy, too.



監理団体：大阪人材開発事業協同組合
実習先：医療法人社団 医聖会 学研都市病院

◆ What brought you to Japan? Has your impression of Japan changed between before and after your arrival in Japan?

I came to Japan because I want to save money and because I like Japanese anime. From what I've seen on TV about Japan before coming here, I was of the impression that Japan is a lively country with many people hustling about and working hard. However, there is only a small number of people where I live, and they are all quiet and diligently apply themselves to their own work.

◆ What did you find perplexing or difficult about living in Japan?

Everywhere I looked, everything was written in kanji, which I couldn't understand. It is still difficult for me, but when I don't understand something, I try to find out, such as by asking, looking it up on my smartphone, or reading books. Another difficulty I faced was that I couldn't find the Myanmar ingredients and seasonings to make Myanmar meals. Now, I order them from stores in Myanmar by Internet.

◆ What is your favorite Japanese food? Conversely, is there anything you absolutely cannot eat? Is there anything you began being able to eat?

I love sushi and okonomiyaki. I cannot eat natto. I've become slightly used to eating wasabi, and now I enjoy eating sushi garnished with wasabi.



◆ What has impressed you the most in Japan?

I was most impressed with snow after coming to Japan. We have winter in Myanmar, too, but it doesn't snow in my town.

◆ How do you spend your days off? What do you do to refresh yourself?

I spend my days off going shopping, cooking, or cleaning my room. Sometimes I ride my bicycle to the park.

◆ How do you study Japanese?

I practice writing kanji and reading books every day. I'm beginning to understand more of what people are saying when I watch Japanese anime and dramas. Watching Japanese anime and dramas also makes for good listening practice.

◆ What is your dream for the future?

My dream is to become a certified care worker and to work for a long time in Japan.



◆ A message to junior technical internal trainees!

文化も違うなから 困る事も 悩む事もあるけれど 楽しい事も 出るから 音声を聴いて 日本語を 勉強して 頑張ろう

JITCO sells a series of lifestyle guidance books for foreigners living in Japan titled 日本の生活案内, in 13 languages. On JITCO's Teaching Materials Online Shop site, you can sample read them before making a purchase, so we invite you to come and check out the site!

<https://onlineshop.jitco.or.jp/shopdetail/000000000233>



How Much Do You Know about Japan's "Noodle" Culture?

There are various types of noodles in the world. Many of you probably enjoy noodle dishes in your home country, but they are also popular in Japan. They are not only eaten in restaurants but prepared in homes as well. For many people, representative Japanese noodle dishes include udon, soba, and ramen, but the taste of the broth, the ingredients, and the firmness and thickness of the noodles vary from region to region. In winter, people prefer piping hot miso ramen and nabeyaki udon to warm their body, and in summer when appetites wane due to the heat, people prefer zaru soba, somen and other such cold noodles that are light and refreshing. Furthermore, various regional areas of Japan have local noodles that people enjoy as their hometown taste.

When eating noodles, many Japanese people slurp the noodles and make slurping sounds. The noise they make may have surprised you. In many countries and cultures, it is bad manners to make noise while eating, but why do you think the Japanese have come to make slurping sounds when eating noodles? There are several different theories to this. One is that by slurping noodles and thereby sucking in air, the flavor of the noodles and broth spreads throughout the mouth

and enhances their taste. This might be particularly so when eating soba noodles. According to another theory, people have come to slurp their noodles so they could eat them quickly while they are the most delicious before they stretch and lose their chewy texture with time.

You might find it interesting to search for and have a taste of the local noodles in the region where you live. When you do, you might also want to boldly slurp them as many Japanese do.



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.)

(3) おり紙 (origami), あげた (ageta), ぼく (boku), たん生日 (tanshinichi), 金メダル (kinmedaru), やね (yane), 夜中 (youchu), ねこ (neko), なにしていた (nani shite ita), 上 (ue), 強い (tsuyoi), ふきとばした (fukitobashita), 風 (kaze)

(2) 文 (ぶん) を作り (tsukuri) まし (ma) しょう (shou).
カード (kaado) の言葉 (kotoba) と、
がはに (ga) に (ni) て (te) の (no) か (ka) ら (ra) 合 (あ) う (う) もの (mono) を (を) え (え) ら (ら) ん (ん) で (de).

(1) 文 (ぶん) に (ni) ま (ma) と (to) め (me) ん (ん)

指導・元世田谷区立
小学校教諭
高橋 伸子
イラスト・奈良 恵

Technical Intern Trainee Photo of the Month



Technical intern trainees from Indonesia who work at a nursing home in Japan visited Disneyland for their first time. They spent a fun-filled day despite the rainy weather and gained motivation to go back to work in full swing once more!

※2023年6月投稿 (ケアサポート瑞穂)

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/>)



JITCO has held the 31th 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.



Inquiry and Consultation Services

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



◆ここへこたえの例

文は、主語と述語で成り立ちます。まず、主語と述語を確かめましょう。

(1)は、「ふきとばした」のは「ふうし」です。

(2)の「夜中」には、「に」をつけてもつけなくてもいいでしょう。「夜中」が、時を表しているからです。

(3)では、「誕生日」は、ぼく・弟のどちらかわかりません。決め手は、「あげた」です。「弟がぼくにあげた」とは言いません。

ぼくは、弟のたん生日に、おり紙の金メダルをあげた。

夜中、やねの上で、ねがないうていた。

強い風がふうしをふきとばした。

Sentences are made up of a subject and predicate. Let's first examine the subjects and predicates. In (1), the “風” did the blowing, and the “ぼうし” was what was blown. The “夜中” in (2) may or may not be suffixed with a “に.” This is because “夜中” expresses time. In (3), we do not know whether “誕生日” refers to the birthday of “ぼく” or “弟,” but the deciding factor is the verb “あげた.” We cannot say “弟がぼくにあげた.”

とも

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