

iLanguage Exchange Meeting

Everyone is welcome as every person can help one another to improve their language skills.



Saturday 18th July

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Entry: \$5 Includes drinks & snacks



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DATE :
Saturday 27th June

TIME :
6:30pm - 8:30pm

PLACE :
Horse Bazaar
[397 Little Lonsdale St]

COST :

RSVP & PAYMENT :
Saturday 22nd June



EVENT 2015

School lunch in Japan - Kyuushoku

Kyuushoku means school lunch in Japan. Japanese school system, Kyushoku is predominantly compulsory throughout primary school and until year 9. Students and teachers eat Kyuushoku together which usually consists of a bread roll or rice, a bottle of milk and a main meal (meat or fish) with soup.

At lunch time, students who are in charge of serving lunch wear aprons, face masks and hair caps, and carry the pots of food from the kitchen to their classroom (kyuushoku tooban). Once ready to serve lunch, class lines up to receive their food. Kyuushoku tooban people will deliver lunch, one serves the main food while another ladies out the soup, etc.

This system is not only efficient but also can be a good way to foster students' sense of responsibility and team work. After everyone has received their food, they put their hands together and say 'Itadakimasu' (thank you for the meal) and start eating together. Divided into small groups the homeroom teacher goes around to each group every day and eats with them.

After eating, students clap their hands together and say 'gochisosamadeshita' (thanks for the food/we have finished). Teachers then make sure they have eaten all their food with no leftovers. Then they all neatly put back all their food trays, wipe down the tables and head off to the play ground to enjoy the rest of their lunch time.

They are given a copy of the menu at the beginning of the each month. They can sometime get 'special menu' such as a small cake when seasonal festival or on occasions, children's day or at Christmas time.

Parents pay approx 5,000 yen, (\$55) for a month of school lunches - that's about \$3 a meal. That is very reasonable considering they can receive a bottle of milk and a hot meal. Parents then don't need to

worry about lunch for their children. Usually, school lunches

incorporate local produce and products, and every meal follows a set nutritional standard. At some schools, while eating students listen over the PA system about their lunch and which vegetables came from whose garden so that they can learn about how they can get food and appreciate food from local people.

The kyushoku program is not only providing meal to children every day but also an integral part of school's educational activities: it is designed as an important function in understanding natural health, eating habits, learning table manners, developing a sense of service and good-fellowship, and enhancing to understand the aspects of Japanese culinary culture.



By Noriko

Student from iJapanese

Raphael Haddad san



My Japanese family for the Hanami

Hello Everyone

During April I was lucky enough to travel throughout Japan. This also coincided with the famed cherry blossom season! It was my second time travelling through this beautiful and intriguing country. But unlike last time I was armed with basic conversational Japanese! This was going to prove to be a very useful skill!

It all started at Osaka International Airport.

"Sumimasen, Pen o karitemoïidesuka"?(
(Excuse me, can I use a pen?)

Boom!

My first words on Japanese soil! I hit Mr Ojisan (old man) up with some classic Genki Book 1. I had executed a clear and understandable Japanese sentence right off the bat. Unfortunately the gentleman didn't have a pen but I was directed to an area where I could fill out my Immigration card. But that was ok, more importantly I wanted to get my Japanese off and running straight away! I didn't want to shy away from speaking the native language. Best just to get stuck in!

I often found myself having conversations with Japanese people on trains. On one occasion I spoke to a nice lady on a train trip to Nara. She was delightful and I had a long chat mostly in Japanese! She told me about the area and how the building on the 10 Yen coin was in the area. I was also given Sakura flavoured Turkish delight to try!!!

iJapanese skills get you sweets from Obaasan (old lady).

2 years ago I went to a bar in Tokyo with my brother. It was a great night! And was a highlight of my previous trip. I had decided to visit the same bar 2 years later! Most of the same people were there! I was greeted with AUSTRALIA! It was nice that I was remembered! But what really made the night was how I managed to speak mostly in Japanese this time. Everybody was quite shocked when I just started speaking Japanese. The constant praises of 'Jyouzu' ('great') and 'ehhhhhh' was most encouraging.

iJapanese skills rewards you with looks of admiration.

Be it Subways, JR trains or Shinkansens travelling in Japan is easy! However if by chance I didn't know what platform to take or I had confusion I could always rely on asking in Japanese.

iJapanese skills gets you going in the right direction.

Hanami!

One day I visited Himeji Jo Castle. And apart from viewing its obvious beauty and the surrounding cheery blossoms which were in full bloom (Mankai). I was invited to do Hanami! Sitting on mats underneath cherry blossoms while snacking on picnic food and drink. Enjoying the company of Kansai people!

NINSHINOMIYA, Airbnb

In my first week, I based myself in Koshien, Ninshinomiya. It's an area in between Osaka and Kobe in the Hyogo prefecture. I used Airbnb for most of my accommodation alongside Hostels. I totally recommend it as you have the opportunity of staying with Japanese people! My host couldn't speak English that well. However that was great because I had the opportunity to use Japanese even more so in the home setting! Saying things like 'ittekimasu' (I'm leaving) and 'tadaima' (I'm home) enhanced the Japanese experience. Also watching a film with my host about Romans played by Japanese actors and actresses while sitting on a traditional tatami mat does the trick too. Simply witnessing daily life in the community was special for me. Walking past the local school, stopping by to my local convenience store (Family mart, Lawsons ect) then heading to one of two trains stops located near me was part of my daily routine. After a week I was very familiar with the Hanshin line. Koshien is known for it's old Baseball stadium. So it was only natural to adopt the Hanshin Tigers Baseball team. Tigers IKEEE (Go Tigers)!

MY FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT JAPAN

- **Hanging out with my yakuza friends....** just kidding. Seriously my Japanese friends were great. I hope I can see them again sometime in the near future. Make as many friends as possible at the language exchanges!!
iJapanese gets you buddies.
- **Seeing iJapanese teachers!** - Seeing Ayano sensei and Kisai sensei was quite nostalgic. I had great evening with them in Osaka and Tokyo. Kisai san took me to a batting centre where I had heaps of fun, you should try it! I had ramen and chilled out with Ayano san and Megumi san!
- **Conbini!** Lawsons, Family Mart, 7-11 I love them all.
- **Japanese advertisements** - I often found myself taking photos and videos of posters and TV advertisements. Just like two years ago it still had me fascinated, interested and cracking up.
- **Shinkansens** - I can't get enough of the Shinkansen, the smooth ultra fast train was always a highlight. It had everything from bathrooms, smoking rooms, over head luggage space and a lady that pushed a trolley packed with snacks.

- **Ghana and Calpis** - 100Yen chocolate became a staple in my daily diet. Nothing like a bit of Ghana after a long day. I miss it terribly.
- **Contemporary art** - I managed to visit Teshima island, Scai the bathhouse, Kanazawa's 21 century art museum, Kobe museum. The art available in Japan is a must see.
- **Animate, Tower records and Mandarake** - you wouldn't believe the amount of anime and manga I bought from these stores.
- **Castles and super cool samurai armour.**
- **Suica card!**



Ken Watanabe performs the Rasengan for Suzuki



Naruto Exhibition, Mori Art Tower

Thoughts...

- It was great testing my skills in Japan and was a satisfying experience. But there's still a very long way to go!
- Bumping your head is inevitable. No matter how vigilant, if you're tall it will happen at least once.

Noriko's thought

When I was a child, I thought Kyushoku was just one of normal every day routines such as studying and playing with classmates. I remember I looked forward to my favourite meal and didn't enjoy being a kyuushoku tooban. During my generation, we had to finish our plate no matter how much you didn't like the food. Luckily there wasn't much food I disliked. If you struggled to finish the food, you missed out on your remaining lunch time. Unfortunate classmates who didn't like to drink milk, they always stayed longer in the classroom to finish it. (Schools these days don't force children to finish their food anymore.)

There are also restaurants which provide kyushoku menu so Japanese adults can feel nostalgic towards their childhood.



Yoru Toru Choruru Choruru

I introduced myself last time so I will introduce my hometown this time.

My hometown is 山口 (Yamaguchi). Yama 山 means "Mountain", Guchi 口 means "Mouth" so Yamaguchi 山口 is "Mountain entrance" and my city is 岩国 (Iwakuni). Iwa 岩 means "Rock", 国 Kuni means "Country". I used to live at "The Rock country in the Mountain entrance". Sounds fantastic, doesn't it? I'm sure you can imagine how my home town countryside looks just by reading the name.

Even though it's country side, we have our own mascot character "CHORURU". It is also "Yuru-Kyara (If you don't know Yuru-Kyara means go to iJapanese website and read newsletter 12).

CHORURU's hair represents 山 and his/her face is 口. If you could read 山口 from seeing CHORURU you are already Japanese!
The name of "CHORURU" is made from the Yamaguchi dialect "CHORU". "CHORU" is, in common Japanese, "TEIRU" the aspect which is the progress aspect and the perfect aspect. We will learn this grammar in chapter 7 so if you would like to know more about it please look at page 170 and 171 in Genki textbook.

As you see "TEIRU" has different meanings but has one way to say. On the other hand the Yamaguchi dialect has "YORU", "TORU" and "CHORU" as "TEIRU."

That means the Yamaguchi dialect shows different meanings for different situations. "YORU" is for the progress aspect and "TORU" and "CHORU" are for the perfect aspect.

Eg: 今、昼ご飯を食べよる。Ima hirugohan o tabeyoru.
I'm eating lunch now.

もう昼ご飯を食べちよる。Moo hirugohan o tabechoru.
I've already eaten lunch.

I will introduce one more famous word from the Yamaguchi dialect. That is "BUCHI". Can you guess what that means? For example, "Nihonogo wa BUCHI omoshiroi!", "Melbourne wa BUCHI samui!". Yes, as you think "BUCHI" means "TOTEMO" (very) in common Japanese.

Japanese has a lot of dialects. Even common Japanese is from the Tokyo dialect too. And people say Hokkaido dialect and Okinawa dialect is as different as English is from German. When you talk to Japanese people please ask where they are from and discover another Japanese!

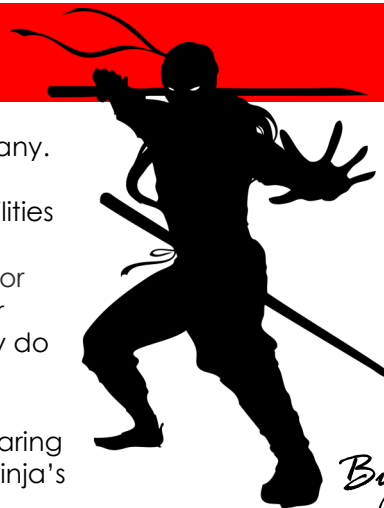


By Mihono

Do Ninja's still exist?

The mysterious nature of a ninja has long captured the imaginations of many. Ninjas figure prominently in folklore and legend, and as a result it is often difficult to separate historical fact from myth. Legend has it that ninjas abilities include invisibility, walking on water, and able to control the elements of natural. Despite these legendary skills, ninja's (meaning one of darkness, or deception) were essentially assassins who would infiltrate governments for espionage. Put simply, they were spies operating the same as modern spy do today.

Ninjas have predominant been apart of Japanese popular culture, appearing in many forms of entertainment media, yet the question still remains, do Ninja's still exist in today's modern times?



By Phillip

