

## TERM 4 INFO

How time flies...  
It's our last term for the year!

Starts from  
21st September



We will also be organising  
Christmas holiday courses.



## END OF TERM 3 EVENT

DATE:

TIME:

PLACE:

COST:

RSVP & PAYMENT

# YUZU

## コンビニ Konbini

The very first convenience store (Konbini) opened up in Japan in the early 70's. To date there is now a staggering 52,872 stores throughout Japan. Hence there name "convenient", but like so many other things we take them for granted. For people who have shopped at Konbini, have you ever thought about what is uniquely different about them, apposed to other countries?

### 1: Food quality

Onigiri (rice balls) have all kinds of filling, which tastes very yummy and only costs \$1.50 each. Konbini also has their own variety of original bento boxes and breads. The shop staff are more than happy to heat up your bento box and will ask you 'Obento atatamemasuka? (Would you like to heat it up?)' so you could say 'Hai, onegaishimasu. (Yes, please)' They also sell a variety of drinks including alcoholic beverage. My advice, especially when travelling is to spend more time sightseeing and to drop by a Konbini to grab a quick and cheap meal.

### 2: ATMs

24-hour ATM inside all konbini, allows you to withdraw money using international bank cards. Oddly enough not so many Japanese banks will accept your international bank cards and if the Post Office ATMs are closed, you always have the conveniences of Konbini stores. Remember to always carry cash with you since many small shops and ticket machines will not accept credit cards.

### 3. Courier delivery pickup/dropoff

You can send or pick up your package. You can even arrange for your luggage to be dropped off and kept safe or have it shipped to the airport, saving you the hassle of lugging it around with you while catching the train.

### 4. Café Konbini

Some konbini will have a space where you can relax and enjoy a drink.

Next time, grab your favourite drink and plan where to go next.

### 5. Free public restrooms

Most Konbini have clean restrooms for anyone to use. Even for non-customers who only wish to use there facilities, just a quick saying 'Sumimasen toire o tsukaimasu (Excuse me, I would like to use the toilet)'.

### 6. Free Wi-Fi spot

These days konbini provide free Wi-Fi spots. Just open up your browser in the store, click the English button and follow the instructions. How convenient for travellers!

### 7. Hospitality

Konbini staff are welcoming and kind, creating a comfortable atmosphere for your shopping experience. All things are provided , eg. chopsticks, folks or straws. They will also bag your purchases separately if you have both hot or cold items. If you don't need them, you can say 'Fukuro/ohashi/ fooku/storoo kekkoo desu. (No bag/ chopsticks/folk/straw, thanks)'.

Convenience store in Japan are genially convenient, Enjoy!



By Noriko

# Student from iJapanese

## Angie Wszola san

Hi minna! My name is Angie and I have been studying at iJapanese now for around 12 months. I am currently completing my Bachelor of Health Sciences in Nutritional Medicine and I also work in after-hours recruitment which has me keeping strange hours and starting work at the ungodly time of 2am sometimes.

I guess my introduction to Japan came through TV and anime although that was some 30 years ago and I still am an enormous anime enthusiast today (otaku, haha). From anime, my interest expanded into history, music, art and culture and the rest as they say is history! I had always wanted to learn Japanese at school however none of my schools offered Japanese as a subject and instead I got stuck with learning Italian and French. Fast forward to one year ago where I decided there is no time like the present and here I am at iJapanese!

This year, I finally visited Japan for the first time not once but twice which was AMAZING!! The first time I went was in winter (fuyu) with my partner and spent a month travelling around. I visited Tokyo, Kamakura, Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Hokkaido (Sapporo and Niseko) and Nagano. It was an amazing trip and I was certainly grateful for all the learning I did at iJapanese that allowed me to get around, ask questions and make new friends. I would have to say the highlights for me were going to the Sapporo Yuki Matsuri, The Studio Ghibli Museum (which was smaller and way more crowded than what I anticipated – note to anyone planning to visit: go early in the morning and during the week!! It will still be busy but maybe less so then in the afternoon!) and the Ushiku Daibutsu in Ibaragi Prefecture. As I mentioned before, I have a great interest in Japanese culture and history and the Daibutsu in Ushiku is a little bit off the beaten track but well worth a trip out of the hustle and bustle of Tokyo to see something truly awesome. It is actually the world's tallest Bronze statue standing at total of 120 meters tall and can be seen from great distances away.

The Sapporo Yuki Matsuri is the annual snow festival and was also fantastic. There are so many sculptures to see and there are ice sculptors who travel from all over the world to display their amazing creations for a few days. The sculptures



themselves vary from abstract, anime, western cartoon characters, animals and the atmosphere is fantastic. It's also really cool to stroll

around sipping hot sake from a glass flask and eating yakisoba in the snow. Hokkaido is a truly beautiful place and also having the opportunity to sit in an outdoor onsen with snow falling around you is such a truly unique experience. Not to mention the phenomenal amount of SNOW everywhere!!

Later in the year I was fortunate enough to win tickets to see one of my favourite Seiyuu (voice actor) groups perform in Kobe (thanks to Noriko san's help filling out the application form) and was then able to purchase tickets to see my favourite Japanese Band Oldcodex play in Osaka so off I went again to Japan for just under 3 weeks in the summer. I was lucky to be able to catch up with both Yumiko san and Ayano san when I was over there which was great also. The concerts were AMAZING (Oldcodex were so awesome!!) and going to a "raibu" in Japan is certainly an experience that I hadn't had before – Japanese audiences are certainly very genki haha!



It was great to see the contrast between the 2 seasons, everything was lush and green and added a completely different dimension to places that I had been to see in the winter time. I visited Miyajima, Hiroshima and Himeji Castle which were all incredible. Plus, further developing my understanding and knowledge of the language went along way and I have returned home having made new friends who I keep in regular contact with and will see again when I return next year (I miss Lawson sweetie treats, vending machine tea and curry! Oishi!!!!!!)

Studying at iJapanese is truly a rewarding experience, I look forward to my classes every week and the learning environment is open, supportive and a lot of fun. All our teachers are fantastic and always put so much effort in to ensuring we get the most out of our classes.

Ganbatte Minna San!!



# Japanese phrases that sound like English

Have you even heard English while speaking or listening to Japanese? You may say "Huh" but in actual fact I can show you a few phrases in Japanese that when spoken out loud sound just like English.

Remember to say these out loud... Listen and write them down.

## 湯のみ – Yunomi

Means "tea cup" but sounds like.... You know me?

## 兄移住 – Ani iju

Means "My brother emigrates" and sounds like...

## ハマチ – Hamachi

Means "Yellowtail", sounds like...

## わしゃ、変 – Washa, hen

Means "I'm really strange." Yet sounds like...

## 寝具破損 – Shingu hason

Means "The bed is broken." This one is a little more difficult...

## いつ相撲終わる？ – Itsu sumo owaru?

Means "When is the sumo over?", but sounds like....

## 幅ないっすね！ – Haba naissune

Meaning is "Not enough width." But in English sounds like...

## ほった芋いじんな – Hotta imo ijinna

Means "Don't touch this potato I dug." In English sounds like...

Okay, Let's try the opposite way.

## "He's such a bully."

Which Japanese word does this sound like?

... This concludes my Japanese lesson for today.

Can you think of other Japanese words or phrases that sound just like English? If so, Let us know.

Associating Japanese words with other commonly used English words will always help you to remember them in future.

Best of luck with your studies and I hope this has helped.

*By Phillip*

## New teacher – Tomoe Iguchi

Konnichiwa!

My name is Tomoe Iguchi and I am from Shizuoka, where Mt Fuji is! Unfortunately, I can not see Mt Fuji from my city because it is some distance away. Shizuoka is a large city and famous for green tea. If you have an opportunity to visit, make sure you try green tea ice cream, it's so tasty.

At high school I did Kyudo, a Japanese archery. When I practiced Kyudo the etiquette was the most important thing to remember. For example, at the beginning I must bow once to show respect and then walk silently step by step to the hall. I learnt Japanese etiquette and manners from Kyudo. I also used to enjoy belly dancing at university. I like all types of dancing not just belly dancing. If you are interested in dancing, let's dance together.

I have lived in Melbourne for only 8 months. Before coming to Australia, I was working at a cram school in Kanagawa. Cram school is called "JUKU" in Japanese and it is a after school tutoring activity. I was not a teacher, but instead working as a manager. However on rare occasions I have taught students Japanese, English or Math.

From my experience in teaching, when students can say "I got it", I feel pleased. If you can also say "I got it", I will also become very glad! The acquisition of a new language opens up and expands life's opportunities. The more you can study Japanese, the more chances you'll have to talk with Japanese people and expand your cultural understanding and knowledge. Your Knowledge is your own property, which can never be stolen from you. So in order to gain new knowledge, let's study Japanese together!

I'm happy there are so many people who are interested in Japan and Japanese language in Melbourne, including you as well. I hope you can enjoy my lessons at iJapanese.  
Yoroshikuonegaishimasu.





## Fushigi - I wonder...

I will introduce my favourite poet from Senzaki in Yamaguchi. Her name is Misuzu Kaneko and she wrote over 500 poems in her short life from 1903 to 1930. Senzaki is a fishing village, relying particularly on catches of Japanese sardine and whale. Scenes of fishing and the sea often make appearances in her poems. After she died, her poems were forgotten for many years but Setuo Yazaki, a collector of her poems republished them in 1984. Shortly after the Tokyo University used her poems in their entry exams and nowadays her poems are also used in Japanese textbook at primary school. Needless to say I have read her poems as a child and was given Misuzu's books for a birthday present from my mother. I visited Misuzu Kaneko memorial hall and watched the drama about her life.

I like her poems, because she can think about such small things in life, the fish, snow and trees change your perception towards them giving me more of an open mind and a feeling of sympathy from her poems.

When I was a child and still today I am the person who keeps wondering about everything in life and ask, Why? Why? and Why.

The answer, is "why not?" or "that is nature" but these answers never seem to satisfy me. I remember my childhood memory's of feeling different than other people felt.

When we were studying about stars at school we learnt that even we could see the star right now the star might not exist anymore. I was just like "Wow! How does it happen! So cool!" and could not stop asking the question, why?. Full well knowing the reason, yet could not stop wondering. Don't you think how fantastic that is too?

Everybody would comment and say "why is it such a wonder, it's a natural occurrence", continue to look at me oddly, like I was a crazy or weird person. Yes, sure! Perhaps I am but I did not understand why everybody could not think like I did.

That day, after school I read one of Misuzu's poems "FUSHIGI". I felt she could understand my feeling, she could recognise me like I was her, she was me. Since then "FUSHIGI" is my favorite poem.

She wrote a lot of wonderful poems so if you would like to read them, please google her.

I hope you will like her poems as much as I do.

不思議  
私は不思議でたまらない  
黒い雲からふる雨が  
銀にひかっていることが

私は不思議でたまらない  
青い桑の葉たべている  
蚕が白くなることが

私は不思議でたまらない  
たれもいじらぬ夕顔が  
ひとりではらりと開くのが

私は不思議でたまらない  
たれにきいても笑って  
あたりまえだ、ということが

FUSHIGI  
watashi wa fushigi de tamaranai  
kuroi kumo kara furu ame ga  
gin ni hikatte iru koto ga

watashi wa fushigi de tamaranai  
aoi kuwa no ha tabete iru  
kaiko ga shiroku naru koto ga

watashi wa fushigi de tamaranai  
tare mo ijiranu yuugao ga  
hitori de parari to hiraku no

watashi wa fushigi de tamaranai  
tare ni kiitemo warattete  
atarimaeda to iu koto ga

WONDER  
I cannot help wondering  
why rain from black clouds  
are shiny silver

I cannot help wondering  
when they eat green mulberry leaves  
silkworms turn white

I cannot help wondering  
without a poke from anyone  
moonflowers open at dusk

I cannot help wondering  
people I ask laugh and say,  
"Nothing strange in that."

By Mihono

## Japanese phrase answers

Could you hear them ?

**Yunomi** - you know me?

**Ani iju** - I need you.

**Hamachi** - How much?

**Washa, hen** - Wash your hands.

**Shingu hasan** - Sing a song.

**Itsu sumo owaru?** - It's a small world.

**Haba nai sune** - Have a nice day.

**Hotta imo ijinna** - What time is it now?

**He's such a bully.** - Hisashiburi

