

道 Do – the way of art form



There are some traditional Japanese arts such as "柔道"(Judo), "剣道"(Kendo), "茶道"(Sado), "華道"(Kado), and you can see a Chinese character "道" in them, that literally means 'the way'. ("道" pronounced like 'Dough'.)

In Japanese culture, many activities are considered a "way of" art form, for example,

"茶道"(sado) means tea ceremony and Way of Tea, or "剣道"(Kendo) is Japanese fencing, Way of the Sword.

However, "道"(Do) doesn't just indicate 'the way of doing' or 'sporting', it also includes the philosophical and correct moral discipline intrinsic to it - 'what a human should be'.

Therefore, "道"(Do) is the fundamental system of thought and skill. It is also the primary principles of the entire body and skills that constitute an art. These are related to a manner forming an attitude towards one's life.

Here is some Japanese arts with 'Do'

SHODO (Calligraphy; the Way of Writing)

Shodo, Japanese calligraphy, is a specialised art using a brush and black ink to write Japanese characters, Kanji and Hiragana. In its simplest understanding, calligraphy is the art of writing beautifully. However, this method of writing beautifully also mirrors a philosophical truth in human living.

SADO (Tea Ceremony; the Way of Tea)

The activity involving the ceremonial preparation and presentation of *matcha*, a powdered green tea. The simple everyday acts of building a fire, boiling water, serving tea, and receiving it with gratitude forms the basis of this discipline.



JUDO (the Way of Flexibility)

Being one of the martial arts; Judo teaches the principle of flexibility in the application of technique. This is the flexible and efficient use of balance, leverage, and movement in the performance of Judo. The ultimate goal in Judo is to leverage oneself to the maximum extent possible; always striving for perfection so that you can contribute something of value to the world.

KENDO (Fencing; the Way of the Sword)

Kendo is a dynamic, life-long activity, based on traditional Japanese swordsmanship, the techniques of the two-handed sword of the samurai that encourages both physical and mental development. The concept of Kendo is to discipline the human character through the application of the principles of the Katana (sword).



'Start with a bow and end with a bow' is also important for all of the arts, which lies at the heart of Japanese daily life.

Not only the arts, but this is a highly philosophically mind set.

武士道 Bushido (Way of the Warrior), the code of conduct of the samurai class of Japan. Bushido made the basis of ethical training for the hierarchy of society, with the emperor replacing the feudal lord, as objects of loyalty and sacrifice.

Therefore Japanese society these days sometime use 'do' when they have a 'strong commitment' to something, such as "ゲーム道" Geemu do (the way of computer game) or "サポート道" Sapooto do (the way of support) which is used for customer service.

Would you be doing "日本語道" Nihongo do (the way of Japanese language)?

By Noriko

Term 4
22nd Sep - 6th Dec
(11 weeks)

TERM 4
INFO 4

Public Holiday Replacement

We all love our holidays but we love our Japanese classes more. Please see below for replacement dates.

*Tuesday Class
4th Nov → 9th Dec

END OF
TERM 3
EVENT

Language
Exchange
Meeting
& Dinner

Saturday 20th Sep

Language Exchange Meeting

Time : 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Place : iJapanese

Cost : \$5

Dinner Party

Time :

Place :

Cost :

Let's enjoy a fun evening of language exchange and Japanese cuisine!



RSVP: 12th Sep

Student from iJapanese



Carl and Jeannette Stevenson san

We are retired grandparents, travelling the world and playing golf. This year we travelled around the world in 81

days, visiting 13 countries. Our first stop was Japan, as it often is. We have visited Japan 6 times in the last 7 years, always spending at least a week in Nagoya, where our son Ryan lives with his family and works for Toyota.

Our first trip to Japan to visit Ryan was in 2007, during cherry blossom time. We made good use of a Japan Rail Pass taking shinkansens to Osaka, (Kyoto and Nara), Hiroshima, Himeji, Kamakura, Hakone and Tokyo. During our 2009 trip we climbed Fuji-san (Carl reached the icy summit but Jeannette couldn't manage the last 100 metres). During that trip we also went to Nagasaki and Fukuoka on Kyushu. The memorials at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were very touching and left a huge impression on us. Another fascinating town was Takayama, inland from Nagoya. It is so easy to get around on the buses and trains in Japan and lots of lovely historical sites to visit.

2011 was a big year as Ryan married a Japanese girl, Tsukasa, and we started learning Japanese. Carl used his rudimentary

Japanese in his speech at the wedding in August of that year. The Japanese guests were appreciative of his efforts.

Lots of our family joined us in our travels around Japan that year. August in Japan is hot and humid so it was great to go into the mountains on the Alpine Route and trips to Shirakawa-go, Matsumoto and the Nakasendo way. It was like travelling back in time at Shirakawa-go and along the Nakasendo way.

In 2012 our main reason for continuing to study Japanese was born – a beautiful grandson named Kai. So we had to go and meet him! Then we had to return for his first birthday in 2013 and his second birthday this year (although we were a bit early). He's been attending Kumon Japanese classes since before he turned one, and his language learning is much faster than ours.

Our trips to Japan may soon be unnecessary, as Ryan, Tsukasa and Kai will be moving back to Australia to live later this year, but our reason for learning Japanese continues with grandchildren learning Japanese as their first language.



HONNE or TATEMAE ?

Have you thought about Japanese people and their characters? Have you had a doubt as to what they are saying?

For example, when you are speaking to a Japanese person, they often say 'sugoi!!' (awesome) and 'kawaii!!' (cute) to everything. Do you think they say it sincerely?

I would like to write about the Japanese spirit and hopefully you will understand why they speak in this manner.

和 (WA)

Harmony

'Wa', which is one of the concepts of making Japanese mentality, represents the idea of respecting and accepting other people's thoughts and feelings. In human relationships, 'wa' is considered to exist when you decide to be in harmony with others. However, today, 'wa' is sometimes criticized as preventing the development of individuality and independent thought.

本音・建前 (HONNE・TATEMAE)

True feelings and the public face

'Honne' is one's true inner feelings or desires and 'tatemae' is the behavior or opinion that one shows in public in

consideration of other people. It is said that the Japanese value 'tatemae' is more than 'honne'. Based on the concept of 'wa', Japanese try not to hurt or anger others by telling 'honne'.

I hope now you may understand Japanese people better, and of these two spirits, we do not usually say negative things. However it doesn't mean that we do not have our opinion or tell lies to you. Overall, we would prefer to keep good harmony with people around us and to people we know.



Now I can see some of you may have doubt if sensee speaks to you with HONNE or TATEMAE :P

By Ayano

Kisai heading off to Japan

Coming to Australia for the first time in August 2012, I spoke very little English, and had no friends or family around. In working alongside the wonderful staff and students at *iJapanese*, I have never regretted my decision to come to Australia. I found my family at *iJapanese*.

As a teacher, there was nothing that could give me more satisfaction than knowing the students have succeeded in not only conversing in Japanese, but also understanding the culture.

Your achievement is reward for all your hard work and dedication that you put in, drawing a smile on our faces.

Learning is not only about hard work, it is also about having fun and a genuine desire to improve. Above all, it is about making many mistakes, which is how we all learn effectively. Never be afraid of making mistakes. The more mistakes you make, the better you will become.

I have enjoyed my journey and endeavour to do so during my stay here.

It has been an experience to remember and an eye-opener where I have learnt so much more than I initially thought. I have become a more confident, understanding and relaxed person; all thanks to you. I will never forget these fantastic experiences.

However, after a wonderful and unforgettable 2 years, it is now time for me to leave Australia as you may already know. I would like to thank Phil, Noriko-san, Ayano-san and most importantly the students that I have met throughout these years.



[End of Term 2 Party 2013]

It is not a goodbye but see you later!

I will be going back to Osaka for a while. If any of you happen to visit Japan, make sure you slip in Osaka in your itinerary. If you do, please contact me and I will bring you to eat exotic local foods. :)

ありがとうございました。
またすぐに会いましょう！！

Kisai



[June 2014]



[End of Year BBQ 2012]

Thank you Kisai san, we look forward to seeing you again very shortly!

				2			6	
8					3	9		5
7		2	4		6			
	2		1		7		5	
9								1
	3		9		8		4	
			5		4	3		6
5		3	6					8
	6			9				

数独 Sudoku

Try this Sudoku and exercise your brain !

Place a Number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

3 Interesting Aspects of Japanese Culture

Japan..... some say it's a unique place, a place to find the unexpected. A place that creates, invents and refines. Japan is a place full of history and culture like no other. It's where the new meets the old, a country so entangled with technology and traditions that it creates a very diverse culture. However it can be misunderstood by those unfamiliar with the east. See below for an array of interesting, yet perhaps the most strangest aspects of the Japanese culture.

Hikikomori

Have you heard the term "Hermit"? 'Hikikomori' is Japan's version of the hermit but completely withdrawn from society. They live within the confines of their own bedrooms, not even speaking with family members. Known contributing factors to this reclusive behaviour is the Internet, the academic pressures of success and parents who allow this continuing way of life. In some cases they can be stricken with mental illnesses such as depression and agoraphobia. Psychiatrists refer to these young teens as "The Missing Millions".

Nonimication

Nominication is a combination of 'nomimasu' (to drink) and the English word 'communication', the common practice of going out to drink with your colleagues or clients after work.

We know that Japanese culture prides its self on a strong work ethic, yet behind the scenes, beyond the confines of the office corporate, relationships are forged over a bottle of Sake or two. These drinking sessions are fundamental cultural building blocks of the Japanese business model, and perhaps explains why the perpetuating stereotype "the stumbling businessman", continues to find a place in Japanese corporate culture.

Yaeba

Beware of the blood sucking 'Yaebas' in Japan! Without a doubt, we all strive to have even and perfectly straight teeth, however, 'Yaeba' translates into "vampire tooth" to create a crowded appearance, popular with young woman of Japan. Here I was worrying about my teeth all this time! Just smile, I say.



By Phillip

Onigiri - Rice Ball

Sushi is very popular in Australia and you can buy sushi rolls anywhere, but what about Onigiri?

おにぎり (onigiri) is a rice ball made from plain steamed rice formed into triangular or oval shapes and often wrapped in *nori* (seaweed). An onigiri is filled with umeboshi (pickled plum), shio-jake (salted salmon), katsuobushi (bonito flake), tarako (salted cod egg), or any other salty or sour ingredients.

Japanese people eat onigiri for lunch or snacks and can be home made but you can also buy them at convenience stores or super markets in Japan.

It is hard to find onigiri in Melbourne, so why don't you try making it yourself!

Ingredients

- 4 cups of cooked rice. (short grain rice)
- Nori (seaweed)
- Salt
- Fillings. (Any! Of various types such as; pickled plum, Bonito flakes with soy sauce, cooked salty cod roe, or canned tuna with mayo.)

Method

1. Prepare your rice. It must be warm/hot.
2. Wet your hands, sprinkle with salt and take a handful of rice (not too much) make a little dent in the rice and put in some of the filling (again not too much).

3. Work quickly and wrap the rice around the filling, and get shaping. To make the triangular shape you just cut your hands sharply to make each corner, keep going till you get the shape you want.

4. Wrap the rice ball with some nori.

[Youtube]

How to make onigiri

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EoQS2BjeKw>



数独 Suudoku
Answer:

3	5	1	8	2	9	7	6	4
8	4	6	7	1	3	9	2	5
7	9	2	4	5	6	1	8	3
6	2	4	1	3	7	8	5	9
9	8	7	2	4	5	6	3	1
1	3	5	9	6	8	2	4	7
2	7	9	5	8	4	3	1	6
5	1	3	6	7	2	4	9	8
4	6	8	3	9	1	5	7	2

