

**NEW TERM
COURSES
6 APR
TO
28 JUN
12 WEEKS**

**END OF
TERM 1
EVENT**



*Let's enjoy a fun evening of
Japanese cuisine!*

What year is this? It's 27. It's 2015 isn't it?

When you ask Japanese people what year it is, they will say 27.
In Japan, they use their traditional dating system and this year is "Heisei 27nen". (平成27年:nen' means 'year')

The era name system was a common tradition of most East-Asian countries. It was originally derived from Chinese Imperial practice, although the Japanese system is independent from the calendar systems. Unlike other similar systems, the Japanese era name is still in use.

The Japanese traditional calendar system is called 'gengoo' (元号) which has been used since the seventh century. The first era name 'Taika' (大化), it was created in 645 by Emperor Kootoku (孝徳天皇 Kootoku-tenno) acceded to the throne. Since then, era names have been used continuously up through the present day. The system of giving a name to the period of a Japanese emperor's reign, but also many earlier emperors decreed a new era upon any major event, such as natural disaster or augury of good, celebration, major political incidents and so on. Around 10th century, gengoo was changed quite often. Some emperors changed 7 or 8 times during their reign, some changed it within less than one year. Emperor Nijo (二条天皇 Nijo-tenno) changed gengoo 5 times even his reign was only for 7 years. From the era down to the present era Heisei, there are 247 gengoo!

However, as of the Meiji Era (1868–1912), it was determined that the practice assigning one era names to the reign of each Emperor permanently. Era name commences the day the Emperor ascends to the throne and ends on the day of the Emperor's death. In modern practice, the first year of a reign (元年 gan nen) starts immediately upon the emperor's ascension to the throne and ends on December 31st. Subsequent years follow the Western calendar.

For Example, "Showa" (昭和) began in 1926 when Emperor Hirohito ascended until his death in 1989. The year 1989 can be referred to as "Showa 64 nen" or "Heisei gan nen" (平成元年) as the Emperor passed

away on
the 7th
January
during the

64th year of his reign. "Heisei gan nen" was the rest of the year. So this year 2015 is "Heisei 27 nen".

Era names had been selected by the emperors, but today it is the cabinet that decides era names. "Heisei" was the first selected under this new system.

Although the Western calendar is widely known and used today in Japan, the system demands that dates be referred to according to their era and it is required for most official documents. For example, when getting your Japanese driver's license or filling out forms at the City Hall.

You might be familiar with such as JR train tickets and might have been confused.

Japanese calendar follows the Year, Month, day format, so "23rd March 2015" will be printed "27, 03, 23" on the ticket.



(26th July 2011)

For Japanese people, gengoo is well-recognised, it can be shared distichal events and they can also turn back the pages of their personal life with a feeling of nostalgia, such as "time of showa". So there is more to it than mere system of names.

Would you like to know which era you were born?

Here is the conversion.

<http://www.sljfaq.org/cgi/date.cgi>

By Noriko

Student from iJapanese

Interview with Richard Farrugia san



Hi everyone, my name is Richard and I have been studying at iJapanese for a touch under a year now. I work at RMH as a Clinical Coordinator (a Nurse) with the Orthopaedic Department, doing patient screening, research and some IT support.

My introduction to Japan came through the medium

of Tele Vision when I was young. So long ago that it wasn't through Anime (although I did – and do – watch that to) but an old black and white program that was run on Saturday mornings, The Samurai, known as Onmitsu Kenshi in Japan. It is about a Master Swordsman posing as a Ronin to help protect the Shogun. At that rather impressionable age, I found I was hooked on the history, setting (even if it was a little stylised), and, of course, the pretty girls in Kimono's. In my middle high school years I was fortunate to meet a Japanese Exchange student, Izumi Hanari, who was able to source video tapes (yes, I am old) of the show in Japanese. Even though I couldn't understand it, it actually made it better hearing the cadence of the Japanese language, and I was hooked. Of course watching it with Izumi chan didn't hurt!

From then on I had a desire to learn the language, but just never quite got there, so, after 2 previous trips to Japan, a couple of Japanese girlfriends and meeting many Japanese colleagues, I decided to take the plunge last year, and started

at iJapanese Language and Culture School. Why iJapanese? Well, I had looked around and, before moving to Moonee Ponds in 2010 almost started going to a school out near Thornbury, but the class times never fitted in with my work schedule. So, when I decided I was going to start last year, I looked online and checked a few schools in the inner Melbourne / CBD region. I liked the reviews of iJapanese, the flexibility of class times, and that it also looked at the culture, not just the language, as some schools do. I contacted Noriko sensei, visited the school and liked the setting, so here I am. Learning at iJapanese is a fun and very supportive environment. Now I just have to work harder, so Yumiko sensei can maintain her sanity :)

It is my hope to return to Japan next year, to see more of that fabulous country, and catch up with former teachers who have returned home... and indulge in more of the wonderful Japanese cuisine, which is good here, but spectacular there. Favourite city to date? Kyoto, without a doubt, and I will always visit there, but Osaka and Hiroshima were great, and I'd love to go to Okinawa one day. Suzuka is also a great F1 race, even if the 2004 race I went to was a touch wet as a result of Typhoon activity. Japanese will also come in handy in another favourite holiday spot, Hawaii. Hmm, lot's of travelling ahead.



A Japanese word you may not know exists

Kuuki Yomenai or KY
(空気読めない/くうき よめない)

"A person incapable of reading the air."

Not that you could ever hope to read air but it's a term use to describe a person who is unable to read the sounding atmosphere or a social situation around them.

In more ways than one, KY can be representative of the Japanese culture. Why, simply because Japanese people tend to avoid direct confrontations and tend to be indirect when spoken, they wish to avoid embarrassment to you, to be polite and to allow you to save face. This has shaped the very social dynamics of Japanese society to bring you the very important physical behavior, know as "body language". Body language is important part of Japan, to notice a subtle clue is an important tool to surviving the complexity of Japanese business and social environments.

A person with a lack of common sense can also be label as KY.

Embarrassing those around you, having bad manners or just plain mysteries behavior is a recipe for being labeled a "Kuuki Yomenai" especially if you are unaware of it. If you are able to create enough of a nuisance around you, you may even be labeled as a Super Kuuki Yomenai (SKY for sort). Commonly the older generation feel this way about the younger generation as SKY because of there general incompetents or clueless of their own soundings.

KY and SKY boils down to pure common sense. As most people grow older and gain life experiences, it becomes easier and easier to read social situations thus peoples body language but sadly some people just never develop this cognitive ability.

By Phillip

iJapanese 5th Anniversary



This month we are excited to be celebrating our 5 year Anniversary!

We are often asked why we decided to start iJapanese?

Well... when we first came up with the idea to start a Japanese school we were sitting on a park bench. We did not think too much about how to properly do it; we just had an idea and passion to do so. At that time in our lives, Phillip wanted to do something new and challenging and Noriko was interested in managing her own Japanese tuition school. So we said, 'Why not? Let's do it!' and just like that, iJapanese was born.

Like all things in life, nothing is ever easy. So we are proud of ourselves to be announcing our 5 years anniversary and would like to thank you all for your support over the years.



Introducing Our New Teacher

Hajimemashite!

My name is Mihono, and I'm a new teacher at iJapanese Language & Culture School.

I'm from Yamaguchi which is between Hiroshima and Fukuoka. A lot of people and tourists pass through, but almost no one stops by to visit. However it is actually a very nice place to visit.

My name, Mihono, is a rare name. I have never met another person who has same name in my entire life! I tend to like unusual things, but to be honest I didn't like the sound of my own name. Because it sounded too feminine. So I made a nickname that sounds like a boy's name, then my friends called me by this nickname all through childhood until I went to University. My old school friends still use that nickname to this day. But since I asked my father the meaning of my name I have grown too really like it. My name's Kanji (Chinese characters) are 美帆乃. 美 is beautiful, 帆 is sail and 乃 has very little meaning but is part of my father's Kanji so my two sisters and I have the same Kanji in our names. My father said to me "we can see the sail even though it's so far way in the ocean", and so that is the kind of person he intended me to be.

I used to play the trombone and conduct for a long time, so music and arts is part of my life. Also I like playing soccer, Shogi (Japanese chess) and studying/teaching Kanji. If you would love to play Shogi or talk about Kanji please let me know (I bought a Shogi set from Japan.)

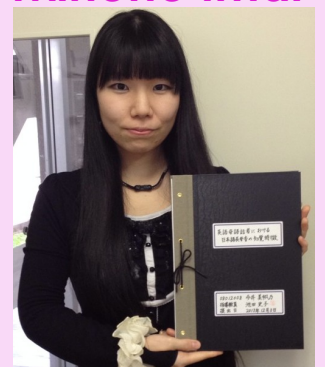
I was a Japanese teaching assistant at a university in Canada and a high school in New Zealand for one year each.

Now finally I'm a Japanese teacher at iJapanese in Australia! It was always my biggest dream to live and teach in Australia. So I'm truly happy about working here at iJapanese! And I really love and enjoy teaching and studying Japanese. Actually everyone gets " ? " when I say I'm studying Japanese, but hey! Japanese people need to study Japanese too!

My teaching motto is "ENJOY". Hope you love and enjoy learning Japanese at iJapanese with us!

Yoroshiku onegai shimasu!!

Mihono Imai



Japanese Name - How do they name their children?

As Mihono tells about her name in her self-introduction, there is an own special meaning in each Japanese names.

In this article, I am going to talk more about Japanese names. In any country, a name may be one of the important elements of your personality. A name not only represents your identification, but sometimes affects the impression of your character.

In Japan, too. Moreover, giving a name in Japanese might be more complicated than in any other language. You have already known that we use three different writing systems. So some names are written in Hiragana, some in Katakana, some in Kanji and some in mixed characters such as キヨ子 (Kiyoko : Katakana and Kanji).

When we name a child in Kanji, we have to consider the meanings that each Kanji has. Because many Kanji have the same sounds but each of them has different meanings. For instance, there are so many ways to write my name "Yumiko" in Kanji, such as "弓子", "佑美子", "祐未子" and more. However, the meanings are really different from each other.

Talking about my name, Yumiko is "由美子" in Kanji. My parents gave this name with their hope that I would grow up in a relaxed environment and be beautiful inside.

As Mihono talks about her name, some names use the same Kanji as the one in their parent's name.



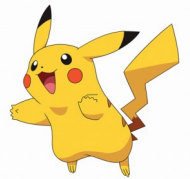
Also, naming trends are sometimes influenced by the entertainment industry. Parents may choose the same name as a famous actor or actress. Also they may choose the same

name as a singer or even a popular game character. However, some Kanji have been always popular among parents. For instance, "心" (kokoro) means Heart and "愛" (ai) means Love.

Recently, parents tend to give their child a really unique and uncommon name. We call this kind of name "Kira kira neemu" (キラキラネーム/ literally means 'sparkly name'). For instance, parents give a name "心" to their child and they call it "ハート" (Haato : Japanese pronunciation of Heart). Also when it comes to a name "心愛", they call it "kokoa" (ここあ). Yes, its pronunciation is same as cocoa in English. Each Kanji doesn't have anything to do with cocoa, though. There are a lot of other kira kira name in Japan. And some are really difficult to guess their pronunciations.

Here are more examples of kira kira name below.

- ・騎士(なにと: Naito) means knight.
- ・光宙(びかちゅう: Pikatyuu) means one of the popular characters in Pokemon.
- ・三二一(みに一: Minii) means Minnie Mouse.
- ・宝冠(ていあら: Tiara) means tiara.



Still the meanings of each Kanji are important. But it seems people give more priority to differentiate their child from others by the name sounds than by the real meanings of Kanji.

Do you have any kira kira name in Australia?

By Yumiko

LANGUAGE EXCHANGE MEETING

Providing cultural activities, we encourage our students to interact between different cultural ties and as a result they creating an exciting and enjoyable language exchange meeting.

