

まるごと 日本のことばと文化

中級 1(B1)

スクリプト・テキストの翻訳

(英語)

Translation of Listening Script

and Text in the Textbook

(English)

ver. 20161206

Topic 1 Meeting people for the first time

PART 1 Hello everyone

Host: All right, would you mind introducing yourselves in order?

①

Yamashita: Hello, I'm Tomoko Yamashita-Garcia. I got married here, and I've already been living here for about 30 years. Er, I'm working at a travel agency now. There are a lot of difficult things as well, but I like looking after people, so I think my current job suits me. My hobby is drawing pictures, so at the weekend I usually sketch in my local park. I think my personality is fairly sociable. I'd like to make friends with lots of different people. Nice to meet you.

Man: Er, I'm sorry but I didn't completely understand. What did you say your personality was like?

Yamashita: "Sociable". Er, I like talking to lots of different people.

Man: Oh, I see. Thank you very much.

Host: OK, next person, please.

②

Kimura: Hi. Er, I'm a bit nervous. I'm Kimura. Ah, Ken Kimura. Ken is the same kanji as the kanji in kenko. It means healthy. I'm a third year university student, but I'm studying abroad at the moment. I'm studying at a language school here. Ah, my hobbies... I don't have a special hobby, but I guess I like watching films. Er, and while I'm here, I'd like to travel to lots of different places. If you know any good places, please let me know. I guess that's it. Nice to meet you.

Host: OK, next person...

③

Sawada: Hello! I'm Nobuko Sawada. Three months ago I was transferred here with my family for my husband's job. I have an 8 year-old daughter. Er, I was working in Japan too, but now I'm a housewife. Here houses are big, which is different from Japan, so cleaning is hard work. And my daughter is in an international school, not a Japanese school, so I'm having a lot of difficulty reading the handouts I get from the school. Er, In Japan I was in an amateur orchestra, so I think it would be great if I could do the same here. I'm not used to life here yet, so please teach me lots of different things. Nice to meet you.

Host: OK, last person, please.

④

Matsuda: Er, hello everyone. I'm Toshinori Matsuda. In Japan I worked at an advertising agency, but er, after compulsory retirement, I came here. In Japan every day I worked from morning to night, but after retirement I thought I'd like to take it easy, so I came here. At the moment I'm living with my wife, er, who is busy every day shopping, having dinner parties with friends, and going out a lot. I suppose I'm at home a lot, but I thought this kind of gathering might be interesting, so I came today. Very nice to meet you.

Women: Sorry, I didn't completely understand. Where did you say you were working in Japan?

Matsuda: At an advertising agency. Er, a company where, for example, commercials are made.

Women: Oh, OK. Thank you very much.

PART 2 Excuse me, but...

- Cathy: Excuse me, sorry if I'm being rude, but are you Japanese?
- Nishiyama: Oh, yes I am.
- Cathy: I thought so. You were speaking in Japanese on your mobile phone just now.
- Nishiyama: Can you speak Japanese?
- Cathy: Yes, I'm learning Japanese now. I'm Cathy.
- Nishiyama: Wow, Japanese, here of all places, I'm surprised. Oh, I'm Nishiyama.
- Cathy: You often come to this yoga class, don't you? Is your house nearby?
- Nishiyama: Yes, I live in the block of flats right over there. How about you?
- Cathy: I live near here too. Sorry for prying, but what are you doing in Australia?
- Nishiyama: I'm a housewife. Last summer my husband was transferred here, so we moved from Tokyo as a family. By the way, Cathy, your Japanese is excellent. Where are you studying?
- Cathy: No, I'm still not very good, but I'm studying at the Japan Cultural Centre in Sydney at the moment. In the past I studied a bit at high school, but I soon forgot it. Then I started learning again three years ago. I'm interested in Japanese culture too. I like Japanese food, and I take Japanese drum lessons once a week.
- Nishiyama: Really, Japanese drums? That's amazing.
- Cathy: Er, if it's OK, would it be possible to talk to you in Japanese sometimes? Even though I'm studying Japanese, I don't have many chances to speak to Japanese people.
- Nishiyama: Of course. I don't have many friends here, so I'd be really happy to.
- Cathy: Great. Would you mind telling me your e-mail address later?

PART 3 I'm Mai. Nice to meet you

- Host: OK then, Mai, would you mind introducing yourself?
- Mai: Hello, I'm Mai. Er, today is the first time I've joined the "Japanese Conversation Club". I first started studying Japanese, er, three years ago. I started after watching a Japanese anime. Er, it's really tough studying Japanese after work. But thanks to my teacher and friends I'm enjoying my studies. Er, at the moment I'm doing import and export work at a Japanese affiliated company. I don't use Japanese at work much, but I'd like to be able to speak to the Japanese staff about lots of different things. Er, I joined this club because I would like to make lots of Japanese friends. Oh, my hobby is going out to eat. I love eating and making food. I love talking too, so please don't hesitate to come and talk to me. It's very nice to meet you.

PART 4 Feel free to follow me**Suggested Users**

Kaorin: Housewife spending my fourth year overseas. Living in London. Mother of a 7 year-old daughter. Tweet about everyday life in Europe. Current concern is maintaining daughter's Japanese ability. Recent interests are baking cakes, Zumba, and looking around art galleries. Hope to be able to get to know lots of different people here. Please feel free to follow me.

Ogawara Hiroshi: Japanese teacher working at a private university. Specialise in Japanese pronunciation. Books: "Amazing Japanese", "Study Pronunciation", etc. Studying Vietnamese online at the moment. Don't really tweet about work, but mainly about things related to music. Favourite composer is Rachmaninov. Future dream is to live on a tropical island and lead a quiet life.

Bu-chan: Salaryman who loves hot springs, sake, singing and travel. Libra and blood type O. At the moment really into Japanese. At the weekend I teach Japanese at a local volunteer class. Enjoy communicating with people from overseas. I have a cat. Favourite film "Kamome Shokudo".

Fu: Hello! Postgraduate student studying Japanese in Canada. Born in Singapore, living in Toronto. On this account I will tweet in Japanese. Please forgive my Japanese for being a little strange. Would be great if I could exchange information with Japanese people and people studying Japanese all over the world. Nice to meet you!

Topic 2 Food I recommend

PART 1 The fish is particularly good here

Listener: Which Japanese restaurants do you recommend?

①

A (man): Let me think. If you want delicious Japanese food, then I think "Musashi" is the best. The chefs are Japanese and you can get authentic Japanese food that isn't any different from the food you can get in Japan.

Listener: Really?

A (man): The tempura and sukiyaki is delicious, but the fish is especially tasty there.

Listener: Tasty?

A (man): Oh, delicious. The fish is really fresh and you can get sashimi that's probably much tastier than the sashimi you get in a normal restaurant in Japan.

D (women): That's right.

A (man): And the restaurant staff wear Japanese clothes. The service is also as good as the service in Japan. But it's quite expensive.

C (women): Ah.

D (women): Ah. That's right.

②

B (man): If you prefer a cheaper restaurant, there's a restaurant called "Oishii". It's Viking style.

Listener: What's Viking?

B (man): Ah, buffet, you can eat as much as you want. So, anyway, I recommend it when you want to try lots of different things at the same time.

Listener: Huh.

B (man): But it's a bit different to Japanese food in Japan. The tamagoyaki is like omelette, and there's almost no fish sushi, just chicken cutlet and avocado sushi rolls.

A (man): Ah.

B (man): But it doesn't taste bad.

③

C (women): Come to think of it, Japanese ramen is popular here now too. There's a restaurant that's recently opened called "Takemi", and their ramen is the real thing.

Listener: Huh.

A (man): Oh, that place.

C (women): I reckon it'd even stand up to famous restaurants in Japan.

Listener: Is that right?

C (women): They use a stock from chicken and vegetables...

Listener: Stock?

C (women): Ah, soup, and it's delicious.

Listener: Huh.

C (women): It's also nice that it's not that expensive. But it's always busy, and the queues are incredible, especially if you go at the weekend or on holidays. That's the downside.

D (women): That's right.

④

D (women): There's a bakery called "Bakery My Love". It's a really well kept secret.

Listener: Bakery?

D (women): When I say bakery, it might not really sound like Japanese food, but they only sell Japanese style bread, so you should definitely check it out. Japanese bread is really soft and fluffy.

C (women): That's right.

D (women): It's a bit on the expensive side I suppose. But they have lots of different varieties, like sweet bean buns, melon bread and fried noodle bread. It's delicious.

Listener: Huh. Is that right?

D (women): They sell sweet rice dumplings on a stick and Japanese sweets as well as bread. And there's a space in the bakery where you can eat. It's a nice place to have tea too.

PART 2 Okonomiyaki flour is...

- Yupaka: Let's see, um, there doesn't seem to be any okonomiyaki flour.
- Takatsuka: There usually is. Never mind. OK let's make it with ordinary flour. I've got some at home.
- Yupaka: Huh, is ordinary flour OK?
- Takatsuka: Yes. If you mix this powder stock into the flour, you can make okonomiyaki.
- Yupaka: This? How do you use it?
- Takatsuka: If you mix flour, water and an egg together well, and then add one spoon of stock, it'll be OK.
- Yupaka: Really? After that we also need, what is it again, that brown stuff made of fish that you sprinkle on top.
- Takatsuka: Bonito flakes? That's right, we have to buy Bonito flakes too. I nearly forgot.
- Yupaka: And we should buy sauce too, shouldn't we? Let me see, pork cutlet sauce, Worcester sauce... there seems to be a lot, but which is best?
- Takatsuka: Let's see. Found it. Here. This. Otafuku sauce. This is special okonomiyaki sauce, which is slightly sweet.
- Yupaka: Huh.
- Takatsuka: We already have eggs, cabbage and meat at home. Are there any other ingredients that would be good in okonomiyaki?
- Yupaka: Let's see. How about clams? We have a dish in Thailand called hoy tod. It's a dish like okonomiyaki with clams in it. They'll definitely suit Japanese okonomiyaki too.
- Takatsuka: Ah, that sounds great. I wonder where clams are sold.
- Yupaka: I think buying clams at a market will be cheaper and fresher than buying them at a supermarket.
- Takatsuka: OK, let's do that. But I want you to teach me how to make that hoy tod dish too.
- Yupaka: OK, let's buy some coriander and chili sauce and then go.

PART 3 You should definitely try it

- Cholpon: Mori-san, I'm going to take you to a Kyrgyz restaurant this evening.
- Mori: Huh. What kind of food is Kyrgyz food?
- Cholpon: Let's see, there are lots of different things, but I think what suits Japanese people's tastes is lagman.
- Mori: Huh. Lagman?
- Cholpon: Yes. Lagman is noodles made from wheat flour and, um, they're white and similar to Japanese udon. You boil the noodles, and put stir fried meat and vegetables on top. Soup comes out of the meat, so it's really delicious. You often sprinkle parsley on top before eating.
- Mori: Huh.
- Cholpon: Actually, they have lagman in other central Asian countries too, and there are lots of different varieties depending on the country.
- Mori: Is that right?
- Cholpon: If you ask Japanese people their favourite Kyrgyz food, they usually say lagman. You should definitely try it.
- Mori: I'll look forward to it.

PART 4 Using potatoes is the key

Okonomiyaki with potatoes

Okonomiyaki that's a little bit different from usual. Adding potatoes is the key!

Ingredients (serves 2 people)

okonomiyaki flour: 100g
 1 egg
 water: 100cc
 thinly sliced meat: 200g
 cabbage: 200g
 1 potato
 okonomiyaki sauce and mayonnaise: according to taste
 green laver, bonito flakes and red ginger: according to taste

- 1 Peel the potato, cut into a suitable size, boil until soft, and, after cooling a little, mash.
- 2 Shred the cabbage.
- 3 Put the okonomiyaki flour, water, egg and potato from 1 into a large bowl and mix well. After mixing well, add the cabbage from 2 and mix further.
- 4 Fry the meat in a frying pan or on a hot plate.
- 5 Pour oil into the frying pan or onto the hot plate and heat. After setting to a medium heat, add the batter from 3 while spreading it out evenly.
- 6 When the bottom side hardens, add the meat from 4 to the top.
- 7 When the top side hardens too, turn over and cook further.
- 8 Spread on the okonomiyaki sauce and mayonnaise, sprinkle on ★ according to taste, and it's ready!

Key points

Feel free to try adding shrimp, minced meat, corn, cheese, spring onion, etc. as alternative ingredients. If you don't have any okonomiyaki sauce, mixing a little ketchup to normal Worcester sauce produces similar results.

Background to this recipe

While living overseas I wanted to eat okonomiyaki, so I tried making it. When I tried adding potatoes, it was delicious. It's very easy to make.

PART 5 How to make "Simple Sukiyaki"

Simple sukiyaki (serves 2 people)

Ingredients

thinly sliced meat: 300g
 1 leek
 Chinese cabbage: 200g
 1 packet of shirataki noodles
 2 eggs
 1 block of tofu
 1 bottle of sukiyaki sauce
 (if you don't have any, you can make it by mixing 50cc each of water, soy sauce, sugar and sake)

How to make it

- 1 Cut the leek, Chinese cabbage, shirataki noodles and tofu into an easy-to-eat size. Cut the leek diagonally.
- 2 Pour oil into the pot or frying pan and stir-fry the meat.
- 3 Add the sukiyaki sauce.
- 4 Add the leek, Chinese cabbage, shirataki noodles and tofu. In about 5 minutes it's ready!

How to eat: Dip in a raw egg and eat. It's delicious if you eat it as it is too.

Topic 3 My favourite music

PART 1 Enka of course!

①

Listener: Kiyota-san?
 Kiyota: Yes?
 Listener: Er, I'd like to listen to some Japanese music. What's good?
 Kiyota: Let me think, hmm, there's a lot of different music, but do you know kodo, for example?
 Listener: No, I haven't heard of them.
 Kiyota: They're a famous Japanese taiko collective.
 Listener: Eh? Japanese taiko...
 Kiyota: Japanese taiko collective. Erm, Japanese taiko group.
 Listener: Huh.
 Kiyota: I've been to their live show twice, and they were great. A big group of people playing drums is very powerful. Everyone's rhythm was exactly in time like a machine, so they must have practised a lot.
 Listener: Huh, that's interesting.

②

Listener: Hey, Sanae, do you have any favourite Japanese singers? I was thinking I'd like to listen to some Japanese music.
 Sanae: Japanese singers? Hmm, I like Kobukuro. Do you know them?
 Listener: No, I don't. Are they J-POP?
 Sanae: Yes. But, there are lots of different types of J-POP like idol type and rap type J-POP. You could probably call Kobukuro music oriented J-POP.
 Listener: Huh, what's that?
 Sanae: They're a group with two male members and they are both incredible singers. The melody of their songs is really beautiful, and they harmonize the high and low parts perfectly.
 Listener: Eh? Harmonize the...
 Sanae: Harmonize the high and low parts... erm, the high and the low melodies are harmonized and beautiful.
 Listener: Huh.
 Sanae: The lyrics are a bit difficult, but kind of deep. Songs like "Sakura" and "Flowers Bloom" are really moving. Have a listen. I'll lend you a CD.
 Listener: I will.

③

Listener: Ueno-san, do you have any Japanese music recommendations?
 Ueno: Recommendations? Let me think, well, if you want to listen to music representative of Japanese music you should listen to X JAPAN.
 Listener: X JAPAN?
 Ueno: Yes. They've been around for a while, but they don't sound out-of-date at all.
 Listener: Huh.
 Ueno: Their image is the so-called visual type.
 Listener: Eh? Visu...
 Ueno: Visual type. A band with showy clothes and haircuts, but their music is really incredible too.
 Listener: Is that right?
 Ueno: Their melodies are beautiful and simple, but the accompanying guitars and drums are incredibly complex and played really well.
 Listener: Huh.
 Ueno: My recommendation is "Silent Jealousy". Yoshiki's drumming combined with the beautiful melody is beyond cool.
 Listener: Huh, is that right?

④

Listener: I'm interested in Japanese music, what do you like, Matsumoto-san?
 Matsumoto: Hmm, let me think, it has to be enka I suppose.
 Listener: Enka?
 Matsumoto: Young people don't listen to it very much, but as you get older it finds its way into your heart.
 Listener: Huh.

Matsumoto: My favourite singer is probably Ikuzo Yoshi.

Listener: Ikuzo, Yoshi... ?

Matsumoto: Yes. "Snow Country" and "Sake-yo" are very famous songs of his.

Listener: Huh.

Matsumoto: The lyrics give a real flavour of the typical enka world.

Listener: Huh.

Matsumoto: Things like men and women splitting up and remembering your old dreams while drinking alcohol. The melody is simple, so a lot of people sing his songs at karaoke, but it's actually quite difficult to sing.

Listener: Why's that?

Matsumoto: Because unless sung well by a talented singer, it sounds too simple and boring.

Listener: Huh, is that so?

PART 2 Good songs never grow old

- Murakami: Judit, are you free this Saturday evening? I'm going to karaoke with everyone. Would you like to come? You said you liked karaoke, didn't you?
- Judit: Karaoke? Yes, I'd love to join you. When I was studying in Japan, I used to go all the time. But are there karaoke places here in Budapest too?
- Murakami: Yes. There's a Japanese style karaoke box, and they have lots of Japanese songs too. Do you know any Japanese songs?
- Judit: Of course. I always used to sing Dreams Come True, Southern All Stars and Miyuki Nakashima. The melodies are beautiful, aren't they? Songs like "Jidai" and "Ellie My Love"...
- Murakami: Wow, they bring back memories. But aren't they a little old?
- Judit: Good songs never grow old. What kind of songs do you sing?
- Murakami: Enka I suppose. And anime songs if I'm drunk. Pretty standard.
- Judit: Huh, is that so? I like Enka and anime songs because they're very Japanese. I sometimes listen to Enka and anime songs on the Internet.
- Murakami: Are you going too, Sato-san?
- Sato: No, sorry, I'm not very good at singing. I don't mind just listening to other people sing, but when I go I'm always made to sing even though I don't want to.
- Judit: No one will make you sing when you don't want to. Let's just drink, talk and have fun with everyone while listening to Japanese songs.
- Sato: Really? Hmm, OK, I'll go too.
- Murakami: All right, that's two more people.

PART 3 The great thing about her is...

- Nishikawa: What are you listening to, Janet?
- Janet: Lady Gaga. She's really good.
- Nishikawa: What do you like about Lady Gaga?
- Janet: Let me think. She's famous for her unusual fashion, but her music is really good.
- Nishikawa: Huh. Is that so?
- Janet: Her singing and piano playing is really good, but the great thing about her is, erm, that she writes all her own songs.
- Nishikawa: Huh.
- Janet: The melodies and rhythms in her songs are unique, and, erm, she's got an appeal you can't forget after listening to her once.
- Nishikawa: Huh.
- Janet: On top of that her music videos are just like watching a film and really exciting.
- Nishikawa: Is that right?
- Janet: And it's not just that, Lady Gaga, erm, does a lot of work for charity too, so I think she's a great person. You should definitely check her out, Nishikawa-san.
- Nishikawa: Is that so? OK, I'll check her out online next time I get a chance.

PART 4 I went to see BEGIN in concert!

Kaoru's Blog

"I went to see BEGIN in concert! "

Last Saturday I went with my friend Maki to a BEGIN concert at Saitama International Centre Hall. I knew BEGIN's songs enough to sometimes sing them at karaoke, but I'd never had the chance to see them live, so I was really looking forward to it.

When I arrived at the venue, I was really surprised at the wide range of people there from small children to older people. I think this is one of BEGIN's special features.

So, the first half of the concert started with "Koishikute" and centred on serious songs. The moment the singer, Higa-san, started singing, the atmosphere in the place completely transformed. He's such a good singer. Then the second half was a greatest hits of Okinawan songs like "Nada sousou" and "Sanshin no Hana". It felt just like we were in Okinawa. The encore was my favourite song "Shimanchu nu Takara". I was dancing and singing along, and really enjoyed myself.

Another thing is that the atmosphere in the place was really gentle and kind. A baby started crying when Higa-san was singing, but no one was bothered by it, including Higa-san, who said, "I don't know why, but when I start to sing a ballad, babies always cry", and then laughed and clearly didn't mind, and that put me in a really happy mood.

In that way I became a diehard BEGIN fan. Every June in Okinawa a "Songs Day Concert" takes place, and I'm definitely planning on going. But I wonder if I can get tickets.

PART 5 Would you like to go?

BEGIN concert

Hi Kaoru

How are you?

I have an extra ticket for the BEGIN concert - would you like to go with us?

It's on the 12th of April and starts at 5:30. The venue is Saitama International Centre Hall.

You were singing BEGIN songs at karaoke, so you like them, don't you?

You have to hear BEGIN live. The atmosphere is great! I think you'll definitely enjoy it.

Let's go together. Looking forward to your reply.

Maki

Topic 4 Let's go to a hot spring!

PART 1 I'm at a hot spring now

①

Hello! This is "Japan Marugoto Hot Spring Tour". Today we've come to Jigokudani hot spring in Nagano prefecture. Jigokudani hot spring is famous for a certain animal. It is ... look, there are monkeys in the hot spring. They're so cute. These monkeys are known around the world as "snow monkeys". And this outdoor bath is only for them. People aren't allowed in. It looks like it feels really good, doesn't it? People can use the outdoor bath at the Japanese inn down below, so don't worry. But I heard the monkeys also come into the bath meant for people on cold winter days. If you're lucky, you might be able to have a mixed bath with a monkey.

②

Phew, finally arrived! We've been hiking for four and a half hours since getting off the bus. After climbing the mountain, we are finally able to reach our destination, Hakubayari hot spring in the Northern Alps. This is a summer season only hot spring next to a mountain lodge. The path was very tough. I thought I was going to die! Even though it was hard, the reason I wanted to come here was for this outdoor bath. The bath, situated at 2100 meters above sea level, is actually above the clouds. What an amazing view. If you're lucky, apparently you can watch the sun rise from the bath. Tomorrow morning I plan to get up early and watch the sun rise. It'd better be sunny!

③

Today, the hot spring we're going to introduce is Tsurunoyu in Nyuto hot spring village, Akita prefecture. It's a hot spring with a history extending more than three hundred years from the Edo period. The large outdoor bath surrounded by nature contains cloudy pure white water. This water is very good for your health. Apparently the Japanese inn's old buildings have also been here since the Edo period.

You can feel the ancient atmosphere as if nothing has changed.

There is an "irori" inside the room and you eat dinner around it. I feel as if I've gone back in time to the Edo period. The hotel is fully booked every weekend for the next six months by people seeking the atmosphere of this "hidden hot spring".

④

Hello, this is Shirahama hot spring in Wakayama prefecture. At the moment we're at an outdoor bath called Sakinoyu. All I can see in front of me is sea, sea, sea. There's a great ocean view. What do you think of it? OK, I think I'll get in now. Wow, this is so peaceful. It feels amazing. The weather's great too. I feel so glad to be alive. Aaaaah. Now, the other real pleasure of holidays is the food at the Japanese inn. Of course it's mainly seafood. Fresh fish and... ta da. Ise shrimps. Big, aren't they? I'm going to eat now. Mmm, so sweet! They feel like they're melting in my mouth. Aah, I'm so happy.

PART 2 My first time in a Japanese inn

- Kuroiwa (hot spring owner):
Hello, Kusatsu Hot Spring Sanshu Inn.
- Yogi: Hello, this is Yogi Sharma speaking. I've made a booking for next week on the 23rd.
- Kuroiwa: Could you hold the line a moment, please. I'm just going to check. Let me see, yes, Yogi Sharma, the 23rd of March for two people.
- Yogi: That's right. Er... actually I sent an e-mail last week about the food, and I didn't get a reply, so I'm calling from India now.
- Kuroiwa: Oh, I'm so very sorry about that.
- Yogi: That's OK, so... er... we can't eat beef or pork, so would you be able to make our meals without using beef or pork?
- Kuroiwa: Well, the food we serve is things like sashimi, sukiyaki, and tempura, but sukiyaki contains beef, so how about if we serve yudofu instead?
- Yogi: Well... erm... what kind of food is yudofu?
- Kuroiwa: It's tofu served and eaten in a casserole dish, and it doesn't contain any meat.
- Yogi: Oh, OK can I have that, please? And... er... and... as for the room... would we be able to have a room with a private bath?
- Kuroiwa: I'm very sorry, but we don't have that type of room. Everyone uses the large hot spring bath.
- Yogi: Is that right... ? That's OK with me, but it's my wife's first time in a Japanese inn, so it might be a little difficult for her to share a bath with other people. It said on a travel website that you have private baths...
- Kuroiwa: Oh, that must be the family baths. We have baths that families can use privately, so when you arrive here, if you tell the reception, they will show you where they are.
- Yogi: Oh, that's great. OK, I'll do that. Thank you very much.
- Kuroiwa: Thank you very much. We're looking forward to your visit.

PART 3 The place I want to go to most of all is...

- Ota: Is that a holiday brochure, Aini?
- Aini: Yes, I'm thinking of going to Japan...
- Ota: Is that right? Where in Japan do you want to go?
- Aini: Tokyo. The place I most want to go to is "Ooedo Hot Spring" in Odaiba.
- Ota: Why?
- Aini: I heard from a friend that it's like a hot spring theme park, and apparently you can choose the yukata that you would like to borrow.
- Ota: Really?
- Aini: She said inside is like an old Edo town, and it's really interesting. I want to have a bath, wear a yukata, have a meal, and spend the whole day there.
- Ota: Really?
- Aini: After that, the next place I want to go to are anime shops like "Animate"
- Ota: Really?
- Aini: I love Japanese anime, so I want to go at least once to see what kind of place it is.
- Ota: Really?
- Aini: They have every kind of anime DVD apparently, and the character goods look really interesting too.
- Ota: Is that so?
- Aini: And I have to go to Skytree too. Apparently the view from the observation deck is amazing, and it looks beautiful when it's lit up at night.
- Ota: Really? You know a lot about Tokyo, Aini.

PART 4 I was very satisfied

Kusatsu Hot Spring Sanshu Inn Customer Reviews

Akiko : I was very satisfied. Transport was not very convenient, but because of that we were able to enjoy a very peaceful stay. The water in the hot spring was cloudy and white, and left our skin feeling very smooth. The large outdoor bath was nice too. The food was also delicious. The service from the owner and the other hotel staff was great. It was a real pleasure and I would definitely like to come and stay here again.

Kusatsu Onsen Sanshu Inn :

Thank you very much for choosing Sanshu Inn. We are very pleased to receive your kind words of praise. At this inn we believe the happiness of our guests is the most important thing above all else. The fact that you seem so satisfied gives us great peace of mind. We look forward to welcoming you again.

T.H. : The baths were great, but the food was mediocre. Maybe because it was busy, the tempura was cold. Also it was a bit annoying that the reception staff were chatting with each other. When we checked out, even though there were lots of guests, there were only two people at the reception, so we had to wait for a long time. We thought that was a bit unacceptable for a high class Japanese inn at this price.

Kusatsu Onsen Sanshu Inn :

Thank you very much for choosing Sanshu Inn. We are very sorry that you had an unpleasant experience during your stay. We can assure you that based on your opinion, we intend to seriously consider how to improve our services. We look forward to welcoming you again.

PART 5 Enquiry about food

Enquiry about food

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing with a request regarding food for my stay on the 23rd of March. Both my wife and I cannot eat beef or pork. Would it be possible to prepare our meals without using beef or pork?

I am looking forward to your reply.

Best regards

Yogi Sharma

Topic 5 How have you been lately?

PART 1 Listen to this

①

Yokota: Listen to this.
 Listener: What?
 Yokota: I got a cat the other day.
 Listener: A cat?
 Yokota: Yes, the other day I got a phone call from a friend asking for advice about what to do with her cat, because she suddenly had to move overseas for work. So I got it from her.
 Listener: Really?
 Yokota: I was sad because exactly three months ago my Guinea pig had died, so it was a perfect opportunity.
 Listener: Is that right.
 Yokota: It's still a kitten, so it soon got used to me...
 Listener: I see.
 Yokota: It comes up to me meowing, and it's really cute...
 Listener: Right.
 Yokota: But...
 Listener: Uh huh?
 Yokota: It's scratching the legs of my sofa with its claws, and I think, "Stop that!", but it's so cute I just let it off.

②

Ito: The other day I went to renew my visa...
 Listener: Ah, your visa?
 Ito: But why are public offices always like that?
 Listener: Like what?
 Ito: When I first went, I was told I didn't have all the documents I needed. Even when I told them that when I'd asked on the phone I was told I didn't need that document, they said they didn't know about that, and that I need what I need. They're extremely stubborn.
 Listener: Ah, that happens a lot, that kind of thing.
 Ito: There was nothing I could do, so I prepared the document and brought it again on a different day. When I did, this time too... I was told that again there was another document that I didn't have. I thought if that was the case, why hadn't they told me about it the previous time?
 Listener: That's absolutely right.
 Ito: Eventually I ended up going to the public office dozens of times, and I just felt, "Give me a break".
 Listener: That sounds like hard work.

③

Takeuchi: You know what, I had my car broken into the other day.
 Listener: Someone broke into your car?
 Takeuchi: Yes, on Sunday I parked my car in the underground car park at the station...
 Listener: Yes.
 Takeuchi: At the time, I accidentally left my camera on the dashboard.
 Listener: Ah, you can't do that.
 Takeuchi: Later, when I got back to the car, the camera had gone.
 Listener: Oh no.
 Takeuchi: And when I had a good look, the place where the car navigation system had been was now completely empty.
 Listener: Empty?
 Takeuchi: That's right, there was nothing there. I felt, "They got me!"
 Listener: That's terrible.
 Takeuchi: And, when I had a good look, even my Doraemon cushion that I'd brought from Japan had gone. I was shocked.

④

Nakagawa: You know what, my daughter's getting married.

Listener: Really? Congratulations!

Nakagawa: Well, it's good, but...

Nakagawa: But the person she's marrying is 17 years older than her, and he's been divorced.

Listener: Really?

Nakagawa: I was really surprised when I heard. I thought, "Why?"

Listener: Is that right?

Nakagawa: But when I met him...

Nakagawa: But when I met him, he was a really nice person. The other day he came to our house to introduce himself.

Listener: Really?

Nakagawa: He seems really kind and funny. But my husband...

Nakagawa: But my husband seems to have had a bit of a shock. Their ages are similar and he joked that the man she's marrying seems more like a friend than a son-in-law.

PART 2 Work's been busy recently

- Franky: Hello, Tsetseg.
- Tsetseg: Hello, Franky. Long time no see.
- Franky: It's certainly been a while. Work's been busy recently and I haven't had time to do Skype. What's it like over there? Is Mongolia cold?
- Tsetseg: Very cold. It's minus 30°C outside. Isn't Indonesia cold?
- Franky: It's summer all year round here. It's rainy season now, so it's raining a lot though.
- Tsetseg: That reminds me, you're having a lot of rain in Indonesia at the moment, and the streets are covered in water, aren't they? Are you OK?
- Franky: Yes, it's OK here. But apparently Jakarta is really bad. My friend's car was submerged in water.
- Tsetseg: Really? So, how have you been recently, Franky?
- Franky: Incredibly busy. I'm going on a business trip to Singapore next week, so I'm really busy preparing for that at the minute. How about you, Tsetseg? How old is your baby now?
- Tsetseg: One. But he's our second baby, so everything's going without a hitch. The other day he finally started walking.
- Franky: Really? Congratulations.
- Tsetseg: Thanks, and I've decided to start working again from next April.
- Franky: Really. That reminds me, Yupaka from Thailand said her kids are starting elementary school next year. She put some pictures on Facebook.
- Tsetseg: Really? But time flies, doesn't it? I'd love to go back to Japan.
- Franky: Yes, but it's really convenient now the way we can talk to overseas friends straight away like this, and get information about Japan.
- Tsetseg: That's certainly true. Oh, sorry, my baby has woken up. He's crying. OK, let's say goodbye for today. See you again.
- Franky: Yes, see you again. Bye.

PART 3 I've been getting into yoga recently

- Choi: Ah, Yamaguchi-san, long time no see.
- Yamaguchi: Ah, Choi-san, it's been a while, hasn't it? How have you been recently?
- Choi: I've been very well, thank you.
- Yamaguchi: That's nice.
- Choi: Actually, I've started doing yoga recently. Hot yoga. It's really good.
- Yamaguchi: Really? Hot yoga? What's that?
- Choi: It's yoga done in a hot room.
- Yamaguchi: Wow!
- Choi: You slowly stretch your body, but at first I couldn't do it well and I was always saying, "Ouch!" and, "I can't do it!". But the other people were all doing it with ease.
- Yamaguchi: Is that right?
- Choi: I continued and gradually got able to do it too.
- Yamaguchi: Really?
- Choi: You sweat buckets, so the shower afterwards feels amazing.
- Yamaguchi: Right.
- Choi: Recently I've started sleeping like a baby at night, and I'm in really good shape.
- Yamaguchi: Really?
- Choi: I recommend it.
- Yamaguchi: Is that right? It sounds great.

PART 4 As for my family, recently...

Hello. Sorry for not being in touch for so long. How are you? It's been exactly one year since you returned home. It's still hot every day in Japan. How about over there?

Looking at the photographs that you kindly sent brought back good memories. I'm also really glad that you seem to be continuing your Japanese studies.

As for my family, recently Daigo has started the first year of university, and he started living on his own from April. I was worried whether he could live on his own because he had never cooked or done the washing before, but at the moment he seems to be managing somehow. Yuko is in the third year now, but for the last year before she graduates it seems she wants to go on a working holiday to Australia, and is doing a lot of different preparation for that now.

Your host father is at home watching TV as always. Now that he's retired and he finally has some free time, I thought we could go out together, and I have invited him to lots of different things like concerts and art exhibitions, but he doesn't want to go. That's why recently I've been enjoying myself alone.

Sorry I don't use e-mail. It seems letters suit me better.

Anyway, I'm looking forward to your next letter. If you end up coming to Japan again, definitely get in touch. Take care of yourself.

Kinuko Masuda

Topic 6 Let's read manga

PART 1 It's a really well-known manga

①

- Listener: Erm, excuse me, are you Japanese?
 Daisuke: Erm, yes, that's right...
 Yuka: Yes.
 Listener: I'd like to read a Japanese manga, but I don't know what's good... . Are there any manga that you would recommend?
 Daisuke: Hmm, a manga that I'd recommend? Right, a popular one is probably something like "Death Note".
 Yuka: Ah, yes, "Death Note". Good choice.
 Listener: Death Note? What kind of manga is that?
 Daisuke: Let me think, Death Note's a story about people who die because their names are written in a notebook from Death.
 Listener: Really?
 Daisuke: The hero is called Light and he's a high school student, but when he uses this notebook, he ends up killing people one after another.
 Listener: Really? So it's a scary story?
 Daisuke: Yes, but it's not just scary. Light is really clever, and no one thinks he's the culprit.
 Listener: Really?
 Daisuke: But a really smart detective turns up, and notices that Light is the murderer.
 Listener: Is the detective a policeman?
 Daisuke: Yes, well, kind of. The showdown between the two characters is really exciting.
 Yuka: Oh, I know.
 Listener: Is that right?
 Daisuke: How about you, Yuka? Do you have any recommendations?

②

- Yuka: What I'd recommend is... let me think... Do you know "Nodame Cantabile"?
 Listener: Hmm, I've heard of it.
 Yuka: I love that. Found it. Here, this.
 Listener: Really? Is it a music manga?
 Yuka: Yes. It's a romantic comedy about a female pianist called Nodame and a cool, talented conductor called Chiaki.
 Listener: Orchestra conductor?
 Yuka: That's right. And Nodame's character is really funny and disorganised, and she has funny lines, and, anyway, she's really funny.
 Daisuke: That's right.
 Listener: Really? Is it that funny?
 Yuka: Yes. But there are stories about how Nodame develops as a pianist, and what happens in her love affair with Chiaki too, so it's good because there are lots of different things to enjoy.
 Listener: Is that right?
 Daisuke: It's been made into a TV drama and film too.
 Yuka: Yes. It might be better to watch those before reading the manga.

③

- Lin: I'm sorry, but that sounds like an interesting conversation you're having there. Is it OK if we join in too?
 Yuka: Of course.
 Daisuke: Feel free.
 Lin: As an introduction to Japanese manga... I think my recommendation would have to be "Berubara".
 Daisuke: Berubara!
 Listener: Berubara?
 Lin: Yes. "Berusaiyu no bara" (Rose of Versailles). It's quite an old manga, but it's very well known.
 Listener: Right, what kind of story is it?
 Lin: It's set during the French Revolution, the heroine is called Oscar, who's really a girl but was brought up as a boy, and it's absolutely wonderful.
 Listener: Really?

Yuka: Oscar's really cool, isn't she?
 Lin: Yes. At first Oscar tries to protect Marie Antoinette, but...
 Listener: Marie Antoinette?
 Lin: Ah, the queen of France
 Listener: Does "queen" mean a king's daughter?
 Lin: No, it means a king's wife. So, erm, as the revolution progresses, Oscar moves from the side of the King to the side of the people.
 Listener: Really?
 Lin: As well as this historical drama, there's Oscar's love affair with her childhood friend André as well, it's really dramatic and moving.
 Listener: I see.
 Lin: Look, here it is. How about having a read? What do you think Cai?

④

Cai: Hmm. The greatest masterpiece of Japanese manga has to be "Fullmetal Alchemist", doesn't it? Let me see. This, this. This manga here.
 Listener: Alche...
 Cai: Alchemy. In this manga it kind of means making something into something else using magic.
 Listener: OK. Is it a story about magic?
 Cai: Well, it's a kind of fantasy, and the brothers who are the main characters try to bring their dead mother back to life using alchemy, erm, but they fail and the older brother loses his hand and the younger brother loses his whole body. So it's a story about how they travel the world searching for a way to return to their original bodies.
 Daisuke: It's really interesting.
 Listener: Really?
 Cai: The scale of the world the story is set in is huge and it's easy to get hooked. And it's not just that, it also covers deep themes like the importance of life, so you're really made to think.
 Daisuke: That's right.
 Listener: OK.
 Cai: And the pictures are beautiful and it's easy to read, so I really recommend it.
 Listener: Is that right?

PART 2 This is Chopper's hat

- Higashi: Hello, Leon. That's an interesting hat.
 Leon: This? It's Chopper's hat. I'm going to wear it to a manga expo tomorrow.
 Higashi: Chopper? What's that?
 Leon: What? You might not know it, but Chopper's a character that appears in "One Piece". He's really cute.
 Higashi: "One Piece"? My daughter's got that manga. But I've never read it. What kind of manga is it?
 Leon: It's a story about pirates who explore the world together with their friends. It's really interesting! I've got all the books. I've read them over and over again. Though they're French translations...
 Higashi: Right. What's so good about it?
 Leon: Let me think, erm, "One Piece" is a story about how it's really important to look after your friends. Erm, things happen and there are fights, but finally friendship wins through. It's really moving.
 Higashi: Really? Is that right?
 Leon: Chopper at first didn't have any friends, but when he's helped by a doctor, he learns the importance of trusting other people. The scene where the doctor dies makes me cry my eyes out no matter how many times I read it!
 Higashi: Uh-huh...
 Leon: You should try reading one of your daughter's books. It's not just funny, you're bound to be moved by it as well.
 Higashi: Right. But there are dozens of books, aren't there? It might be a bit long.
 Leon: Yes, that might be true, but once you start reading, you'll get into it, and you'll be able to read it really quickly.
 Higashi: Right, I might try reading it. If you like it so much, Leon, you should read it in Japanese next time.
 Leon: Yes, I'm planning to!

PART 3 The story of the big man who liked to drink

- Zhang: Hara-san, you really like manga, don't you?
 Hara: Yes, because manga are really interesting. Do you read manga too, Zhang-san?
 Zhang: Not very often. But I used to read classic Chinese manga when I was a kid.
 Hara: Really? Such as?
 Zhang: Let me think, one I liked was "Water Margin".
 Hara: Really? What kind of story was it?
 Zhang: "Water Margin", erm, is a story in which 108 characters fight against wicked millionaires and rulers. There are lots of different stories, but, let me think, the one I like best is the story about the big man who drinks called Wu Song.
 Hara: The big man who drinks?
 Zhang: Yes. One day Wu Song, as always, is getting drunk in a bar, and when he leaves, the bar man says, "There's a man-eating tiger in the mountain up ahead, so you definitely shouldn't go there alone". But Wu Song climbs the mountain while still drunk and falls asleep.
 Hara: Oh.
 Zhang: Suddenly a big tiger appears, but Wu Song fights it on his own.
 Hara: Really?
 Zhang: Finally he rides the tiger like a horse while punching it on the head, and defeats it.
 Hara: Really? That kind of story exists.

PART 4 She reads nothing but manga

My daughter reads nothing but manga and never reads literature

A Worried Mother

Hello. I'm a mother with a daughter who is a 1st year high school student. Even though my daughter's now a high school student, she reads nothing but manga, and almost never reads books. I've always liked literature, and read a lot of classic books when I was a high school student. Compared to novels the themes covered by manga are shallow, and because there are so many pictures they make your imagination poorer. This summer holiday she had to read Soseki Natsume's "Kokoro" for homework, but it seems she only read the manga version. I'm worried she's going to end up not being able to read proper novels. Is this way of thinking out of date?

Torisugari (Passing by):

You wrote that the themes in manga are shallow, but have you ever actually read a manga? For example, Osamu Tezuka's "Phoenix", and others like it, deal with deep themes that aren't inferior to those found in novels. I don't think it's good to criticise your daughter without having read manga yourself.

Mangafan :

I laughed when I read that your daughter had read the manga version of "Kokoro" for homework. You've got a clever daughter, haven't you? Manga with pictures are much easier to read and understand than novels. These days you can read about Japanese history, business etiquette and the theory of relativity through manga, so we might have reached the age where you don't need to have such good reading skills.

Fuyume Souseki:

Apparently high school students often read writers like Haruki Murakami these days. How about casually leaving a current best-seller novel lying around the living room, and saying, "That was interesting. You should read it too."

Mariyo:

You think manga are for children, don't you? But that's not true. There a lot of different genres of manga aimed at a wide range of age groups. There are manga aimed at children and manga aimed at adults. Manga are the same as films and novels. Only the mode of expression is different. The idea that manga are inferior to novels and other media is entirely wrong.

Topic 7 Take on the challenge of martial arts !

PART 1 I do JUDO

①

- Listener: Yamauchi-san, I'm interested in Japanese martial arts, and... you do some kind of martial art, don't you?
- Yamauchi: Yes, I do judo.
- Listener: Judo?
- Yamauchi: Yes. There's a dojo next to the station, so I go there twice a week.
- Listener: Ah, I know it. It's a big dojo, isn't it?
- Yamauchi: Yes. Lots of different people from children to older people come to the dojo. Almost all the people who come are local people, and there's me and about two other Japanese people.
- Listener: Really? More local people than Japanese people. What's judo like?
- Yamauchi: Let me think, the good thing about judo is the more effort you put in, the more you can feel yourself getting stronger.
- Listener: Is that right?
- Yamauchi: Practice is pretty hard, but after all the exertion, beer tastes really good.
- Listener: I see.

②

- Listener: I was thinking of learning a martial art, so I'm asking people what they think about martial arts. Nakagome-san, you do karate, don't you?
- Nakagome: Yes, kyokushin karate.
- Listener: Kyokushin... ? Is it different in some way to normal karate?
- Nakagome: Yes, erm, in traditional karate it's normal to stop your punches and kicks immediately before the opponent's body without making contact.
- Listener: Oh.
- Nakagome: But, in the kyokushin karate I do, it's full contact.
- Listener: Really? Contact? Is it not sore?
- Nakagome: It's sore. But being attacked by an opponent and feeling pain, makes your body and spirit become stronger.
- Listener: Is that right?
- Nakagome: You might think it's scary at first, but lots of women and children come to the dojo, so it's OK.
- Listener: Is that right?
- Nakagome: The teacher trained in Japan and he's a really nice guy.
- Listener: Really?

③

- Listener: Ishii-san, don't you do some kind of martial art?
- Ishii: Yes. I do aikido. But why do you ask?
- Listener: I'm thinking of starting some kind of martial art.
- Ishii: Right. Aikido's great. I've been doing it for about 30 years.
- Listener: You've been doing it for a very long time.
- Ishii: Yes. Aikido doesn't have any fights, so you can do it at your own pace.
- Listener: Really? There aren't any fights?
- Ishii: Right.
- Ishii: Because there's no winning or losing, and it doesn't matter if you're strong or weak, if you work hard at it, anyone can become good at it.
- Listener: Really?
- Ishii: And the techniques in aikido use the attacker's strength, so strength and body size isn't important.
- Listener: Small people can do it too then?
- Ishii: Yes.
- Ishii: That's why it's popular with women as well, and you can keep doing it for a long time even if you're old.
- Listener: Is that right?

④

Listener: I'm thinking of trying some kind of Japanese martial art. You do kendo, don't you, Shinozaki-san? Where do you do it?

Shinozaki: Yes, I do it at the Japan club. But, obviously it's not just Japanese people. If you're interested in kendo, anyone is welcome. Quite a lot of local people come too.

Listener: Really?

Shinozaki: A lot of people probably feel like a samurai when they do it and think it's cool.

Listener: Oh.

Shinozaki: But the practice is very serious. Concentration is especially important for kendo, so it's good mental training. And your posture will improve as well.

Listener: Is that right?

Shinozaki: It's quite tough because you need a lot of equipment like armour and a bamboo sword, but in the beginning the club will lend it to you.

Listener: Is that right?

PART 2 What day is practice on ?

- Ohzeki: Hello!
- Lisa: Hello.
- Ohzeki: Ah, Lisa. You phoned, didn't you?
- Lisa: Yes. Thank you for letting me come and watch today.
- Ohzeki: I'm Ohzeki. OK, you can sit over there and watch.
- Ohzeki: What did you think?
- Lisa: The way everyone moved was really beautiful, I really want to try it now. But do you think I can do it?
- Ohzeki: Of course you can. Aikido's a martial art anyone can do; both men and women, young and old. If you've got any questions, please feel free to ask.
- Lisa: Yes, erm... do you have to buy the clothes you wear during practice?
- Ohzeki: Yes, everyone buys the dogi. If you wore thin clothes like a T-shirt you'd easily get injured.
- Lisa: I see. And there are some people wearing something that looks like a black skirt and some people not. Is there some difference?
- Ohzeki: Ah, the hakama. If you get a "dan" and become a black belt, you can wear a hakama.
- Lisa: Is that right? OK, so first of all I should just buy a dogi, right? But the hakama is really cool too.
- Ohzeki: That's right. Depending on the dojo, there are places where women wear it from beginner level, but here both men and women wear it from the first dan. If you want to wear a hakama, please practise a lot and get good quickly.
- Lisa: OK. What day is practice on?
- Ohzeki: Training is every day. Today's Friday, so it's the general class, but the beginners' class is on Monday and Wednesday evenings. I think it'd be best to come on those days at first.
- Lisa: Is that right? Wednesday's OK, but Monday's a bit difficult because of work... Is it possible to come on other days? I want to come as much as possible.
- Ohzeki: Is that right? If those days aren't possible, you can come whenever you like.
- Lisa: Thank you very much. OK, I think I'd like to come on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Ohzeki: OK, so next time you're coming is next Wednesday.
- Lisa: Yes. Thank you very much. Looking forward to getting started.

PART 3 I learnt it at school when I was a child

- Dakila: Good game, wasn't it?
- Matsui: Yes. Filipinos really like basketball. By the way, are there any traditional Filipino sports?
- Dakila: Let me think, there's a Filipino martial art called arnis. It's sometimes called eskrima or kali too. Do you know it?
- Matsui: No, I don't. What kind of martial art is it?
- Dakila: Hmm, arnis is similar to fencing, but you sometimes do it bare-handed, or you can do it using a knife or pole too. There are techniques for repelling attacks from an attacker with a weapon, and techniques for disabling the attacker so that they can't use the weapon.
- Matsui: Really?
- Dakila: Arnis has been around in the Philippines for a long time, but when the Spanish arrived it became mixed with European fencing and took on its current form.
- Matsui: Is that right?
- Dakila: Actually, arnis has become the Philippine's national sport.
- Matsui: National sport?
- Dakila: I learnt it at school when I was a child, and it was a lot of fun. I've got a friend who's really good at it, so if you like, why don't we go and watch him together some time?
- Matsui: Really? OK, could you take me along some time?

PART 4 Japanese martial arts are becoming more and more popular overseas**Japanese martial arts are becoming more and more popular overseas**

Budo, or Japanese martial arts, are pretty well known even overseas. The number of people who do judo in France is around 800,000, which is four times the number in Japan. The judo that Mitsuyo Maeda introduced to Brazil has become well known around the world as "Brazilian Jujitsu". Not just judo, but aikido, karate and kendo are now becoming more popular overseas, but these kinds of budo often change their form when they leave Japan and go overseas.

For example, judo. Judo, which has become an Olympic event, is graded into a number of weight classifications. It's become a contest where in order to win you have to earn as many points as possible. Blue dogis have been brought in as well to make it easier to understand for spectators.

But the most important thing in judo is supposed to be the philosophy of "softness often overcomes hardness", which means that if you become good enough, even small people can beat large opponents. The white judo dogi has got the important meaning of showing a "pure heart" too. Judo, when it has lost these things, is "judo" not "柔道".

Originally the main objective of budo was to train your mind. The spirit of budo is all about growing as a human being through respecting your opponent during training and facing them with a sense of appreciation. Concerning yourself with winning and losing, and only thinking about how to earn points isn't budo. This is different from budo, it's changed into something other than budo.

As budo leaves Japan and spreads around the world, the original spirit of "starting and ending with a bow" will be lost. Should we think it's a good thing that budo is spreading to more people overseas by changing from its form in Japan in the same way as California roll sushi? It's a difficult problem.

Topic 8 Convenient gadgets

PART 1 I can't go anywhere without my smartphone !

①

- Inoue: Sorry I'm late.
 Yoshimura: You've finally got here.
 Listener: Didn't you know where the place was?
 Inoue: No, that wasn't the problem. I used Google Maps to get here.
 Lee: The world's become so convenient, hasn't it.
 Inoue: Right. In the past we had to get someone to draw a map, or listen to directions on the phone, but now smartphones can guide us where we want to go without fail.
 Yoshimura: That's right.
 Inoue: I've always had no sense of direction, so whenever I went somewhere, I'd usually go in completely the wrong direction.
 Listener: Really?
 Inoue: But with a smartphone map you can see straight away where you are now and which direction you're going in, so it's really convenient. I can't go anywhere without my smartphone anymore. It feels like a necessity.
 Lee: I know.
 Yoshimura: I'm the same.
 Takahashi: Anyway, let's drink up.
 Lee: Good idea. Cheers.
 Everyone: Cheers!

②

- Lee: Speaking of smartphones, I use the Internet almost only on my smartphone now, so I hardly ever use my computer at home. Of course for writing things like reports for work I use a computer, but for using things that need the Internet my smartphone is far more convenient.
 Yoshimura: That's right.
 Lee: You can see text messages and e-mails instantly, and you can easily check on Google when there's something you'd like to check.
 Takahashi: Check what?
 Lee: Erm, for example, the other day I was talking to a friend, and we were discussing what kind of fruit dragon fruit is, so we searched for a photo.
 Takahashi: Right...
 Inoue: How trivial.
 Lee: Yes, but you can check lots of other things as well, like train times and whether there's a nice restaurant nearby.
 Listener: That's right.
 Yoshimura: Yes.

③

- Yoshimura: And other things that are really convenient are apps like dictionary apps. When you live overseas like us, there are often times when you think, "Oh. What's that word?" and you want to look it up straight away.
 Inoue: There are.
 Yoshimura: In the past I used to walk around carrying a dictionary, but now I use a dictionary app on my smartphone, so I can look up words straight away. I really appreciate not having to walk around carrying a heavy dictionary.
 Inoue: Right.
 Yoshimura: And you can take photos, so when you go on holiday you don't need a camera either.
 Lee: Right.
 Yoshimura: Because you can easily take pictures of anything, I've got into the habit of taking photos of food when I go out for a meal and posting them online.
 Lee: I know what you mean.

④

Takahashi: It seems like no one can live without their smartphone these days, doesn't it?

Lee: What? Are you not like that too, Takahashi-kun?

Takahashi: Yes, I've got a smartphone too, but I think I'd be fine without it.

Listener: What? Why?

Takahashi: Just a mobile phone is enough, isn't it? You can make phone calls and send texts. And anyway, it's got a camera, so if I want to take photos too, I can.

Yoshimura: What? That's all you use?

Takahashi: The thing is people don't actually use their smartphones for much, they just look at them.

Lee: That might be right.

Takahashi: For example, there are people who look at their smartphones without speaking even when they are with a friend. It's a bit strange, isn't it?

Listener: You might be right.

Inoue: A bit.

Takahashi: I want to appreciate the time we're spending together.

Inoue: OK, let's drink to the time we're spending together!

Everyone: Cheers!

PART 2 I'm thinking of buying an electronic dictionary

- Fongaro: Ryoko, can I just ask you something?
- Ryoko: Sure.
- Fongaro: I'm thinking of buying an electronic dictionary. You don't know any good ones, do you?
- Ryoko: You're going to buy a dictionary? But I heard there are some good ones available as free apps for your smartphone.
- Fongaro: Mmm, but the Japanese ones are more like word lists. I've got one, but it's not very useful, so I'm thinking I'd like a Japanese dictionary that's a little more fully-fledged.
- Ryoko: OK, What kind would you like?
- Fongaro: Let me think, I'd like one that's not like a word list or a phrase book, but like a proper dictionary. There aren't any that contain dictionaries for Japanese language learners, are there?
- Ryoko: No, I've never seen ones like that. I think Japanese dictionaries are all basically aimed at Japanese people.
- Fongaro: I suppose that can't be helped... . But you know, when you can't read a kanji, it'd be great even when you don't know the radicals or the number of strokes, if you could look it up by writing it with your hand.
- Ryoko: You mean writing input? Most recent electronic dictionaries have writing input.
- Fongaro: Is that right? And are there dictionaries where you can check the pitch accent? Ones where you can find out the different ways to pronounce words like ame (rain) and ame (sweets). If you don't know the pitch accent, you can't pronounce Japanese very naturally.
- Ryoko: Just a moment. I'll look online. ... Ah, this one contains a pronunciation dictionary. It has sound output too.
- Fongaro: It does, doesn't it. Great. And, um, and if there's one that contains an Italian and Japanese dictionary too, that'd be amazing, but there isn't one like that, is there.
- Ryoko: I'll check. Oh, there is one. This one contains an Italian dictionary. It's got writing input and contains a pronunciation dictionary too.
- Fongaro: Oh, OK, maybe I'll get this one. Thank you very much.

PART 3 I bought an amazing gadget

- Toriyama: This morning was really tough because I couldn't find my mobile phone.
- Stacey: Is that right? That reminds me, I bought an amazing gadget recently.
- Toriyama: Really? What kind of gadget was it?
- Stacey: A detector for finding things you've lost. I bought it in Japan and it's really handy. It tells you where something you've lost is.
- Toriyama: Really? What is it exactly?
- Stacey: Erm, there's a transmitter and receiver about the size of a coin, which you attach to things that you don't want to lose, like keys. When you press the button on the transmitter, the receiver makes a beeping sound, and you can see where it is.
- Toriyama: Really? That kind of thing actually exists.
- Stacey: I use it with my wallet, car keys, house keys...
- Toriyama: Is that right?
- Stacey: For example, I use it in the morning when I'm like, "I can't find my car keys", "beep beep beep", or I'm like, "I can't find my wallet", "beep beep beep".
- Toriyama: Really?
- Stacey: I used to lose things all the time and was always in a panic, but since starting to use it, that kind of thing never happens anymore.
- Toriyama: But, in your case, Stacey, you might end up losing the transmitter.

PART 4 Which of Doraemon's gadgets would you most like?

Ranking Search : Which of Doraemon's gadgets would you most like?

"It'd be great if you could do this." One reason why Doraemon who's loved by Japanese people from children to adults is so popular, is the secret gadgets that make your dreams come true, which Doraemon brought from the future. You too must have once thought, "I'd love to have these kinds of gadgets".

Urawa Research conducted an online questionnaire asking, "Which of Doraemon's gadgets would you most like?" The top three are presented here.

1. The Anywhere Door

The honour of first place goes to a gadget that allows you to freely transport yourself to different places: "The Anywhere Door". As soon as you open the door, you are at your destination. Respondents' reasons for choosing it included things related to their dreams such as, "I want to travel to lots of different parts of the world", and practical things like, "My daily commute would probably become really easy".

2. The Time Machine

"The Time Machine", which allows you to travel freely to the past and the future, came in second place. There were a range of answers, such as "I want to go to ancient Egypt and see the pyramids being built", "I'd travel to the future and take a note of the lottery numbers", and "If I could meet my past self, I'd be able to give myself lots of advice".

3. The Hopter

"The Hopter", in third place, is a gadget that allows you to fly freely in the sky when you attach it to your head. You could say that this is the most popular gadget among Doraemon's gadgets. It won popularity for its convenience, such as, "It's amazing that with something small enough to fit in your pocket, you can soon be flying in the sky", and "It seems pretty convenient for going shopping".

Other than those gadgets, there were a whole range of other answers received, such as the "What-If Phone Box", with which, if you say into the telephone, "What if the world were ... ?", the world you imagined will come true; "The Computer Pencil", which automatically writes the correct answer when you use it in an exam; and the "In-Advance Diary", with which the things you write in the diary actually come true exactly as you wrote them. Which of Doraemon's gadgets would you most like?

PART 5 Please sell it to me

Household electrical appliances bought and sold

Please sell me a rice cooker.
Kayosan

I'm looking for something that has got as many functions as possible. Something with a timer that can boil the rice quickly. If possible, one that can make rice porridge would be good. My family is quite big (there are four of us), so I'm looking for quite a big one. If within one hour by car, I'll come and pick it up. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Topic 9 Traditional festivals

PART 1 The festival is on until the 7th

①

Hello. Today I've come to the Kanazawa Hyakumangoku Festival in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture. This festival commemorates Maeda Toshiie, the samurai commander who founded Kanazawa, entering Kanazawa castle in June 1583, and takes place every year during the first weekend of June. But this festival didn't start until after the war in 1952, so it's actually a relatively new festival. Anyway, there are a lot of people here. Everyone's gathering to watch the main event of the festival, the Hyakumangoku Parade. In this parade lots of different processions, including bands, shishimai (lion dances), Kaga-tobi (acrobatics on ladders by firefighters), and people dressed in historical samurai costumes of the day, stretch for as far as four kilometres in total. Another of the enjoyable things is the fact that every year a famous actor is chosen for the main role in the procession, the role of Maeda Toshiie. The sight of Maeda Toshiie wearing his armour on top of his horse has become a very popular sight. Ah, here comes the parade.

②

Hello everyone. Now I'm at the Ground Cherry Pod Fair in Asakusa, Tokyo. Today and tomorrow is the temple festival at Sensoji temple. It's said that offering a prayer on these days is equivalent to praying 46,000 days, so a huge number of people are gathered here. There are a lot of food and toy stalls too. It's very lively. But of course, as it's a ground cherry pod fair, there are ground cherries. There is a long line of street stalls selling ground cherry plants here. I think I'll buy one pot. Excuse me, how much are these? (2,500 yen.)

OK, I'll take one please... and so, I've bought the biggest one. The red of the ground cherry plant is beautiful, isn't it. When you see these ground cherry plants, you feel that summer has arrived. They're really typical for summer. This ground cherry pod fair lasts for two days, today and tomorrow, 9th and 10th of July. Everyone should come.

③

Hello, today's programme is from Aomori. The Nebuta festival started the day before yesterday on the 2nd of August here in Aomori City. This famous Nebuta festival is known as one of the big three Tohoku festivals, and every year as many as 3 million people visit. The main attraction of the festival are these huge doll shaped floats called Nebuta. When you see them up close, they're absolutely massive, aren't they. Apparently they're 9 metres across and 5 metres tall. The sight of the Nebuta shining in the darkness of the evening is really beautiful. And Nebuta is also famous for dancing. The dancers, called Haneto, dance to the festival music shouting out, "Rassera, rassera". While on the topic of these Haneto, apparently if you rent the costume, anyone can take part in the dance. The festival goes on until the 7th.

④

Hello everyone. Today I'm going to introduce a festival from Okayama called Uraja. Uraja is a festival connected to a demon called Ura, from which the legend of Momotaro originated, which has been passed down here in Okayama. The main role in this festival, which is held every year on the first Sunday of August and the Saturday before that in the centre of Okayama City, is played by young people. In the parade a lot of different groups of young people put on costumes that they created themselves, and dance original dances that they also created themselves. What's special is that they wear makeup to look like demons. The history of this festival is surprisingly short, starting in 1994 apparently. The young people's dances are very energetic. They get very excited.

PART 2 Even I was dancing

- Endo: Ronaldo, it's been a while, hasn't it. Are you well?
- Ronaldo: Endo-san, long time no see. Actually I've been on holiday to Japan and just got back yesterday.
- Endo: Right. Great. So how was it? Japan.
- Ronaldo: It was really hot, but a lot of fun. I went to a lot of different places, and had some unbelievable experiences.
- Endo: Really? Such as?
- Ronaldo: I had a lot of different Japanese food and went to a hot spring. But the best thing was going to the Awaodori festival.
- Endo: Really? Awaodori festival. Did you go to Tokushima?
- Ronaldo: Of course. I heard it was such an amazing festival it could even stand up to the Rio carnival, so I thought I definitely had to go once.
- Endo: Right. So how was it?
- Ronaldo: Absolutely brilliant. The professional dance teams were really good at dancing and very powerful. But the best thing was being able to take part in the dance parade.
- Endo: Really, you were dancing. Wow!
- Ronaldo: In Rio you can't dance in the main carnival unless you join a team. But at the Awaodori festival, if you get taught a little bit of the dance, anyone is free to take part in the dancing. They'll lend you a happi too.
- Endo: Really?
- Ronaldo: When I was dancing, it was like everyone was a friend, and the atmosphere was amazing.
- Endo: They say, "The dancers are fools, and the watchers are fools. Both are fools alike, so why not dance?"
- Ronaldo: Yes. The whole town had a festival atmosphere, and everyone was drinking and dancing all over the place. I was treated to lots of sake by a local person who I'd never met before. I was able to talk to lots of different people in Japanese. It was a lot of fun, and an amazing experience.
- Endo: You certainly seem to like festivals and sake, Ronaldo.

PART 3 The highlight of the festival is...

- Customer: While I'm living in Spain, I'd like to go and see a festival or something, do you have any recommendations?
- Volunteer: Let me think. My number one recommendation... has got to be "Las Fallas" in Valencia. The fire festival.
- Customer: Fire festival... .
- Volunteer: Las Fallas is a festival where you set fire to and burn paper dolls that decorate the whole town. This festival is held in Valencia, erm, every year from the 15th to 19th of March.
- Customer: Really?
- Volunteer: The paper dolls are called "fallas", and there are lots of different types, from big ones to small ones. The biggest falla is more than 30 metres tall.
- Customer: Wow.
- Volunteer: There are fallas of politicians and sports people too. While the festival is on, there are hundreds of fallas lined up along Valencia's streets and squares.
- Customer: Really? Is that right.
- Volunteer: Yes, the highlight of the festival is when the fallas are set alight and go up in flames on the evening of Saint Joseph's Day on the 19th of March.
- Customer: Right.
- Volunteer: The whole town turns completely red, and it's very impressive.
- Customer: Is that right?
- Volunteer: It's said that when this festival finishes, spring will come.
- Customer: Really?
- Volunteer: But lots of tourists go, so if you go, you'll have to book early.
- Customer: Is that right? I'd really like to go.

PART 4 My first Christmas

My partner is an American.

My first Christmas.

The first Christmas I was welcomed to my partner's family home. His family home is in quite a countryside area of Kentucky, so we had a thoroughly traditional Christmas. Inside the house there was a huge Christmas tree, and the house was decorated with lots of ornaments. It was identical to the scene I had seen before at the Lake Yamanaka Christmas museum! My partner's family home was decorated to the same standard as a museum!

Then, on Christmas Eve we opened lots Christmas presents that had been placed at the base of the tree with everyone, but it was actually quite hard work! I wasn't allowed to just gather up my presents and then open them by myself. We had to open each present, in order, one by one in front of everyone, and make some comment without fail.

It was like,

"OK, next present. This is a present from David to Judy."

"(opens) Oh, great. A red sweater."

"When I went on holiday to Europe in October, I bought it because I thought it'd really suit you."

"Thank you. Next time I go skiing, I'll wear it."

"I'm so glad you like it."

And so on. Even when you got a strange present, you were obliged to say something like, "Ha ha ha, that's really funny..." or, "That's just like you to choose a present like that". I wasn't very good at English, so it was really tough for me. And this would go on and on, so it seemed like it would never end.

Thinking about it, if there were 10 relatives there and everyone gave a present to each of the other people, that is 9×10 , so 90 presents! Opening each of those one after the other and making a comment takes an awful amount of time. When we were about half way through, Christmas Eve was getting late, so we decided to call it a day and go to bed.

Then the next morning we started where we'd left off, but, just as I was thinking, "Eh, haven't the presents increased?" it turns out that, "Those presents are from Santa," and there were more than ten additional presents!!

And in that way, this "never ending present exchange marathon" continued.

PART 5 Festival experiences

Japanese travel diary number six

I danced at the Awaodori festival in Tokushima!

Did you know that anyone can take part in the Awaodori festival? They will lend you a happi and teach you how to dance, so it's OK even if it's your first time.

And that's how I took on the challenge of Awaodori dancing. While dancing with everyone, a mysterious power envelops you that's hard to beat. It was great fun.

I made friends with lots of different people, was able to speak a lot of Japanese, and it was a really great experience. Just watching the professionals dance is impressive, but you really have to dance yourself! You should really dance. I'd love to go again.

翻訳・翻訳協力

Andrew Drought

Erin Isomura