

1. May 2023

Getting To Know You!

This is our first lesson for this year so it's time for us to introduce ourselves!

Please tell us about yourself, where you were born, where you grew up, your family, what your dreams were when you were a child, what kind of job you did or are doing, your hobbies, and so on.

If you have an interesting story from your past, why don't you share it with us! Let's get to know each other!

2. June 2023

Keeping Clean!

One of the things I like about Japan is that everything is so clean! There is very little trash on the streets, people take off their shoes in their houses, shoppers disinfect their hands before entering stores, and almost everyone takes a bath every day!

These things are normal here, but some people say that Japan is too clean! What do you think? Do you disinfect your hands before entering every store or when you come home? Do you eat food that falls on the floor?

3. July 2023

What's on your menu?

30 years ago it was hard to find a place to buy a pizza in Japan. Now pizza motorcycle delivery services are replacing soba and even sushi deliveries!

Do you think it is wonderful to have so many food choices? Tell us what's on your typical daily menu. How often do you eat pizza or pasta these days? How westernized have your food choices become? Are these changes healthy and good?

4. September 2023

Hot summer fun!

How was your summer? What did you do? Did you take a trip somewhere?

Tell us about what you did? If you didn't do anything special, tell us about some memorable events you enjoyed during past summers in your life!

5. October 2023

The importance of keeping active!

Doctors tell us that exercise is essential if we want to live long, healthy and happy lives. We all know this but it can be difficult to actually do exercise on a regular basis.

Do you have an exercise plan? Do you play tennis, take regular walks, do yoga, work in your garden, or go to a sports gym? When did you start exercising and why? Tell us what you do to keep fit!

I know that some of you are not active now and don't do any exercise, but what about in the past? Did you play any sport? If you never did, tell us why. You can also talk about your favorite sport that you like to watch, or any other topic.

6. November

Books and reading. (Please choose two questions to answer from the questions below.)

How often do you read a book these days? If you do read books, what is your favorite kind of book? Action, mystery, suspense, detective, science fiction, non-fiction, history, biography, autobiography classic or modern literature.

What is the longest book, funniest, saddest or strangest book you have ever read? Have you ever joined a book club or book society?

How do you choose a book to read? By its cover? By its reviews? By recommendation?

What was your favorite book growing up?

What is your favorite time of day for reading? Do you often read a book before going to sleep? What is your favorite book of all time?

Have you ever read a book and then watched the movie or vice versa? Which was better the movie or the book?

Have you ever tried to read a book in English, or in another language? What other languages than English have you tried to read a book in?

7. December

Songs. (Please choose two questions to answer from the questions below.)

I was listening to the car radio this morning and I heard The Carpenters singing "Yesterday Once More," I thought how nostalgic it was! Have you ever heard a song and felt the same?

What is one of your favorite songs? Who sings it? When did you first hear it? Why did you like it? Because of its lyrics?

Do you like to sing karaoke songs?

What songs reminds you of your youth?

Do you prefer listening to songs in Japanese or in English? What about in another foreign language?

8. January

Culture. (Please choose two questions to answer from the questions below.)

What do you think is interesting about the Japanese culture?

When people from other countries think about your culture, what do they usually think of?

What has surprised you when you've met people from other countries?

Are there many people of different cultures living in Sakura? Have you spoken with any of them?

Have you ever felt confused by actions of someone from other cultures? If so, please tell us about it.

What is considered rude or polite in Japanese culture? If a group of people just come to Japan from overseas, what advice would you give them?

Do you think “ When in Rome, do as the Romans do?” Is this always good advice?

Have you ever experienced culture shock or reverse culture shock?

9. February

Childhood. (Please choose two questions to answer from the questions below.)

Where did you grow up? Did you have a happy childhood? What’s one of your happiest memories?

Children can be scared of many things, real or imaginary, were you frightened of anything as a child?

Did you have a favorite toy as a child? What was it?

Children often mimic adult behavior. Did you ever pretend to be grown up?

Did you often get into trouble? What kind of mischief did you get up to?

What chores did you have to do? Were you diligent at getting them done? Did you get any pocket money for doing them?

Do you have any vivid memories from early childhood? If so, what can you remember?

For example, do you remember your first day at primary school?

Did any of you spend your childhood living overseas? Where was it and what was it like?

10. March

Languages.

(Please choose two questions to answer from the questions below.)

How many languages can you speak? Was it difficult to learn them?

How did you learn them?

What languages are spoken the most throughout the world?

Which do you think is the most difficult language? What is the language that you have ever heard?

Why are you studying English? Would you like to study any other language?

Which one?

Do you think studying a foreign language is needed in schools? Do you think learning a foreign language from an early age is a good idea?

Do you enjoy studying grammar? Do you think studying grammar of a foreign language helps to speak it?

When you study a language, do you like to study reading, writing, speaking and listening? What techniques do you use to remember vocabulary?