



日本語センター

住所: 6011 152nd Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006
電話: 425-891-2129 ファックス: 425-644-7728
ウェブサイト <http://www.japanese-language.net>
メール: info@japanese-language.net

J L C 通信

(つうしん)

Newsletter July 2004

* 文化 (ぶんか) * Culture Corner

七夕 (たなばた) Tanabata

The Star Festival, "Tanabata" is on July 7th. It celebrates the annual rendezvous of the Herdsman (Altair) and the Weaver (Vega), symbolized as a couple of lovers, in the Milky Way on the night of July 7th. It was a very romantic festival originally, however over a period of many centuries it is now considered more as a festival for children. Children decorate branches of bamboo with strips of colored paper "Tanzaku" on which poems, proverbs, or wishes have been written.



* 食べ物 (たべもの) * Food Corner



納豆 (なっとう) Natto

Natto (Fermented soybeans) is a healthy and important major source of protein in Japan. Natto is valued not only for its nutritious qualities, but also for its easy digestion and absorption. The average Japanese life span is very long and some people believe that Natto and green tea contribute to it.

A Japanese-style breakfast usually has rice, Nori (seaweed), raw egg, small fish, Takuan (pickled radish), Umeboshi (pickled plum), and miso soup. Natto is also common on the breakfast menu and some Japanese say that a Japanese-style breakfast without Natto can never satisfy them. You can order Natto-roll at a sushi bar also.

However, even those foreigners who are very fond of Japanese cuisine seem to find Natto extremely difficult to like. Natto has a peculiar smell--like an old sock and mildew. I don't know any American who loves Natto except Bryan, a student of JLC.

* ことわざ * Proverb Corner

「塵も積もれば山となる」(ちりもつもればやまとなる) Chiri mo tsumoreba yama to naru.

A little dust added constantly will make a mountain in time. We learn 52 alphabets (26 capital letters and another 26 lower case letters) to read an English book. To read a Japanese newspaper, you have to know 46 Hiragana, 46 Katakana and 3,000 Kanji. If you learn 10 letters every day, you can read a Japanese newspaper in a year...?

* レストラン * Restaurant

Sushman (Japanese cuisine and sushi)

I often eat lunch at Sushman that is located close to my office. They serve delicious sushi and other varieties of Japanese cuisine. The Soba noodles are good too. I like Japanese food but not the fishy broth (Katsuo-dashi) that comes with it. The owner of this restaurant, Robert has a unique background. He joined the Sumo wrestling society in Japan when he was fifteen and spent strict and manly life for ten years. Then he served an apprentice with a sushi chef in Tokyo. (Terry)

670 NW Gilman Blvd, Issaquah, WA 98027 Tel: 425-391-4295

<http://www.sushman-issaquah.com/>



Our comment: I am curious the meaning of "Sushman." If it is written in Kanji, it would be easy for me to understand. In Japan, there are a couple of common Sushman, 「寿司万」 and 「寿司萬」. Both of them mean "ten thousand" originally and "huge", and also mean almighty, forever, everything, and etc. Someone told me Sushman is not Japanese word but English like "Superman." Maybe it's Japanese as well as English.



🌸 新聞記事 (しんぶんきじ) 🌸 Newspaper Article

Japan princess's woes in spotlight on anniversary

Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito won the heart of his Harvard-educated bride, nervous about her ability to adapt to the conservative court, by promising to protect her "forever with all his might." Eleven years later, he is living up to his pledge.

Naruhito told reporters last month that Masako had tried hard to adapt to life in the imperial household and that the effort had totally exhausted her. "It is true there were moves to negate Masako's career and her personality, which was influenced by that career," he said.

The woes of the 40-year-old princess have shone a harsh spotlight on the pressures of her position and prompted surprisingly blunt comments in her defense from her husband, setting off an unusually public feud over her situation.



The statements, and his persistence, are all the more remarkable because Naruhito, like the rest of the imperial family, has been taught since childhood to avoid controversy. Royal watchers say his remarks have struck a responsive chord among ordinary Japanese women; many of who feel Masako's problems is symbolic of their own.

Much of the pressure on Masako has come from the need for an heir. Their only child, born after eight years of marriage, is a girl, Aiko, and laws currently prohibit female succession. Disappointment over

Aiko's gender prompted Japan's top courtier to call publicly for the royal couple to have a second child.

Some royal watchers say Naruhito's statements have been aimed at the future of his daughter as well as his wife, that he has been signaling there is unlikely to be another child and the country should start preparing for an empress, also allowing Masako to take on the "royal envoy" role she had hoped for.

"People want to see the royal couple brimming with happiness, not in a state of constant agony," it said in an editorial. (Reuters)



📧 自己紹介 (じこしょうかい) 📧 Student of JLC

Hello, my name is Aimee. I am going to Japan this summer and live there for three years as part of a foreign exchange program. I have been taking private lessons for that and realized that Japanese is totally different. I really want to devote as much time as I can to this. My major is International Study and I lived in Africa and Europe for my study before. From my experience language skills are a must in order to be successful in endeavors. My achieving motivation is very high and I would like to improve my Japanese skill very quickly. I am no stranger to this. I was in the Peace Corps in West Africa and had to learn an African language in 3 months. I also speak French and have studied Spanish.

✉️ おたより ✉️ From Guest book



I designed my own tattoos with a couple of phrases in Japanese. I used a professional service to translate my original English sentences into Japanese. It's cool to me, however I think something wrong with the tattoo. Some Japanese people stared at my tattoo with strange look on their face. I can send a copy of the translation so please check it for me. I hope it's free. It may take only a few minutes for you to do that. Do you still charge me?



Our first response: We often receive requests for free translation or free consulting by email or telephone from all over the country. We do provide free estimate but any translation services or consulting services are not free. We expect everyone respect our business and policy. The minimum order of translation services is \$8. Our price system is very simple (\$0.13 per English word). Please visit the website: <http://www.japanese-language.net> for more information.

I often see very strange tattoos with Japanese characters in this country and feel sorry for the people wearing them. I hope your case is not like this. Please send us the source document (and a photo of your tattoos) for free estimate. We will feed back an estimate (time and price) in 12 hours.



Our second response: I can't tell exactly why some Japanese people stared your tattoos with a strange face but there are common reasons.

First, since the influence of Buddhism on the Japanese culture, tattoo art has a negative connotation for the majority of the Japanese people. Japanese tattoo as art in general became stylish in Edo era and were considered cool but were restricted to the lower classes. From 1720 on, the tattooing of criminals became an official custom and continued until 1870. The criminal received a tattoo around the arm or on his forehead for each offense. This visible punishment created a new class of outcasts that had no place in society and nowhere to go. They had no alternatives than organizing in gangs. These men formed the roots of *yakuza* (the Japanese mafia) in the twentieth century. In the eyes of an average Japanese a tattoo is considered a mark of a *yakuza* or a macho symbol of the lower classes.

Second, the translation may not have any mistakes as a business document. If you order the tattoo translation without telling your purpose, you may not get the characters with the meaning you are looking for. Most of agencies translate automatically from English to modern business Japanese. There are many kinds of language styles depending on female/male, polite/casual, old/contemporary, business/literature, and etc. During the Edo era (1603-1868) Japanese tattoo as art became popular and a part of culture. Tattoos need a certain style of Japanese language, especially if you like classical Japanese styled tattoos. Modern business style is not for tattoos.



In your case, your tattoos are modern business language style and also contemporary font style. They don't match the Japanese traditional designed picture. I have attached the translation in old poem styled Japanese language and better font style for tattoos.

 [プレスリリース](#)  **Press Release**

Summer Language Camp for Teens and Intensive Courses for Beginner's/Advanced level

The Intensive courses are designed for business people and college students. High school students are also welcome, however Japanese Language Center (JLC) also provides Summer Camp for teenagers. Two different Intensive Courses are available: "Intensive Japanese 101-104" and "Intensive The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test Courses."



"Intensive Japanese 101-104 Courses"

These courses are for beginners and focus on conversation. If you have plans to go to Japan on business or vacation, these courses are perfect. If you finish a 6-day Intensive course, your trip would be more comfortable and fun.

"Intensive Japanese-Language Proficiency Test Courses"

These courses are relatively high levels (Proficiency Level 2-3). They cover read, write, listen, and speak. JLC has excellent instructors for these intensive courses. All of them are Master's Degree/MBA/PhD holders with several years experience as University faculty, or the equivalent. Their teaching method is unique and you will learn Japanese quickly.

"Summer Japanese Language Camp for Teens"

JLC provides a great language camp. This is a 6-day session during the Summer Break. Students will learn writing, reading, and conversation. The lessons focus on the realistic topics and vocabulary of the average teenagers' life. The curriculum is very organized and the instructors are enthusiastic about teaching Japanese. They have been teaching Japanese at college level for several years. This is a fun, and interesting camp that stresses academically high quality.



**** Camp/Intensive Course****

6-day: Mon/Wed/Fri (2 weeks) Morning Course: 9:30 - 12:30PM
 Afternoon Course: 1:00 - 4:00PM
 Lesson Fees: \$200

The registration has already begun. Sign up early. The new Camp/Intensive Courses start every two weeks during the summer months. Visit the website at <http://www.japanese-language.net> for detail schedules and more information.

* 新しい言葉 (あたらしいことば) * New word

「上司マネジメント」部下がいかに上司をマネジメントしていくか。

1. ボスを「理解」する

まず、上司も人の子である。上司も上司を持つっている。上司の長所・短所、思考癖、好みのワークスタイルなどを理解することで、かなり関係は円滑になるはずだ。

2. 自分の状況を常に知らせる

自分がいま何を考え、何に取り組んでいる最中なのかを常に上司に情報を入れて、知ってもらう。「あいつはいつも何をやっているんだ」と上司にげんな顔をされるのが、関係をぎくしゃくさせる始まりになってしまうからだ。

3. 「聞く」ことを覚える

部下にとって、上司とのコミュニケーションは「問う」「聞く」がベースである。上司と考えが異なっても、それをいきなり「変えよう」とか「説き伏せよう」としないこと。粘り強く質問を繰り返し、上司が的確な意思決定をできるような雰囲気を整えてやるのだ。

4. 自分の行動を組織内に透明にしておく

業務上の進捗や課題点、自分の行動内容は上司のみならず、他の社員の目にもよく触れさせるようにする。自分をできるだけ組織内のオープンな環境に露出させておく。

5. ボスはキャリア発展のための「テコ」であることを知る

能力が優秀というだけでは昇進はスムーズにいかないことが多い。やはり、上司の世話や紹介、はたらきかけは昇進の近道になる。上司が好き、嫌いという感情を超えて、上司の力をうまく活用できるような関係を目指すべきである。

上司マネジメントは、部下のほうから「大人の」人間関係を築いていかなければならないということ、日本流に言えば、「負けるが勝ち」「柔よく剛を制す」ということだろう。上司に悩まされているあなたも、いちど取り組んでみてはどうかだろうか。部下のほうが大人数になろう。



📅 クラススケジュール 📅 Class Schedule

Evening course starts on

Japanese 101 Thu 22 July	Japanese 104	Fri 16 July
Japanese 102 Mon 12 July	Japanese 200	Fri 29 June
Japanese 103 Fri 23 July	Japanese 300	Wed 28 July
Teens Japanese Wed 7 July	More Advance	Fri 16 July

Saturday courses start on 3 July 2004.

Class Schedule may be changed without notice

For information about Intensive classes and Summer Camp for Teens, please visit our website at <http://www.japanese-language.net>

Registration / Lesson fees are due 72 hours before the first lesson of the course. We don't accept payment for enrollment on the first day of the course. Also we will close enrollment when a course gets 6 registrants. Please sign up early before the class becomes full.

🌸 おしらせ 🌸 Remarks

Please bring your friend to JLC. Any referrals signing up for a class results in a 20% discount of your next block of lesson.

あいうえおかきくけこさしすせそたちつとせにぬのひひるへろろむめもやゆりるれろわんあいうえおかきくけこさしすせそたちつとせにぬのひひるへろろむめもやゆりるれろわんあいうえお



Japanese Language Center

6011 152nd Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006
 Phone: 425-891-2129 Fax: 425-644-7728
<http://www.japanese-language.net>
<mailto:info@japanese-language.net>

Japanese Language Center provides

Japanese Language Instruction

and Translation Services