



Japanese Language Center
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J L C 通信
Japanese Language Center (つうしん)
Newsletter October 2005

* **文化 (ぶんか)** * **Culture** **制服 (せいふく)** **Uniform**

The school uniform is an established part of Japanese life. Depending on the discipline level of a particular school. Individual students often attempt to subvert the system of uniforms by adding "illegal" elements to their uniform such as large loose socks or wearing their uniform incorrectly such as altering skirts to "mini" size for girls and wearing trousers about the hips for boys. Certain schools also take to regulating student's hairstyles along with footwear and bookbags.



For Japanese schoolgirls, the school uniform has gone from being a glaring reminder of rules and regulations to a trendy fashion statement. Stylized school uniforms are prominent for instance in the Japanese comic Sailor Moon, or in Cardcaptor Sakura. Since around 1980, school uniforms, especially those of private schools, have been remodeled to become more attractive. The students began wearing their uniforms and carrying school bags as status symbols. The traditional fashion is loved by people of all ages as it is neat and exudes class. Another underlying factor lies in the value attached to being young in Japan.

These uniforms are based on Meiji era, 19th Century formal military dress, themselves modelled on European-style naval uniforms. In elementary school, many boys wear white shirts, shorts pants, and caps. After World War II a style of short pants based on European boy's clothes was commonly adopted and continues to be used in many schools. Both boys and girls wear yellow colored caps to prevent from them getting hit by automobiles.

Prussia was at the time the leading military power in Europe and had succeeded in forming a new German Empire after crushing France in a brief war. Thus Prussian cadet uniforms, **Gakuran** were chosen for Japanese junior and senior high school boys. England was the primary naval power of the day and English sailor suits, **Sailor fuku** were chosen for the girls. The power of tradition is apparent when you consider that Prussia no longer exists and Prussia/Germany has been demilitarized. German youth would not think of wearing such uniforms to school, yet Japan is the only major country to outfit its school children in military uniforms.

* **諺 (ことわざ)** * **Proverb**

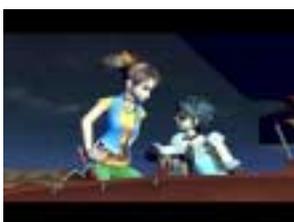
「出る釘は打たれる」 **Deru kugi wa utareru**

It means literally the nail that sticks out gets hammered. This refers to situations when the ones who stand out from the ordinary in certain ways are more likely to receive trouble.



* **クイズ** * **Quiz 1** **What are they?** The answer is on the last page.

1.



2.



3.



4.



プレスリリース Press Release

JLC provides JLPT/JETRO Test Prep Courses

The next JLPT/JETRO courses start on 2 October 2005

The JETRO Test is on November 20th and the JLPT is on December 4th. The Prep course consists 110 minutes lessons and 8 sessions, from Sunday 2 Oct. to 27 Nov. Registration & Lesson fees are due 72 hours prior the first lesson. The schedule may change without notice, so please visit the website for the updated schedule.

JLPT Prep Course 8-week (\$220)

Course	Day	Time	Term	No class
JLPT 3	Sun	10:10- 12:00	10/2-11/27	11/20
JLPT 2	Sun	12:10- 2:00	10/2-11/27	11/20
JLPT 1	Sun	12:10- 2:00	10/2-11/27	11/20



Schedule for JLPT 2005

Application	August 1-October 7, '05
Test date	December 4, 2005
Test result	Mid February, 2006
Register	http://www.jflalc.org/?act=tpt&id=23

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The test has four different levels. Each test is comprised of three sections: writing and vocabulary; listening; reading and grammar.

The contents and criteria of the test are as follows:

Level	Contents			Criteria
	Sections	Min	Points	
1	Writing-Vocabulary	45	100	The examinee has mastered grammar to a high level, knows around 2,000 <i>Kanji</i> and 10,000 words, and has an integrated command of the language sufficient for life in Japanese society. This level is normally reached after studying Japanese for around 900 hours.
	Listening	45	100	
	Reading-Grammar	90	200	
	Total	180	400	
2	Writing-Vocabulary	35	100	The examinee has mastered grammar to a relatively high level, knows around 1,000 <i>Kanji</i> and 6,000 words, and has the ability to converse, read, and write about matters of a general nature. This level is normally reached after studying Japanese for around 600 hours and after completion of an intermediate course.
	Listening	40	100	
	Reading-Grammar	70	200	
	Total	145	400	
3	Writing-Vocabulary	35	100	The examinee has mastered grammar to a limited level, knows around 300 <i>Kanji</i> and 1,500 words, and has the ability to take part in everyday conversation and to read and write simple sentences. This level is normally reached after studying Japanese for around 300 hours and after completion of an elementary course.
	Listening	35	100	
	Reading-Grammar	70	200	
	Total	140	400	
4	Writing-Vocabulary	25	100	The examinee has mastered the basic elements of grammar, knows around 100 <i>Kanji</i> and 800 words, and has the ability to engage in simple conversation and to read and write short, simple sentences. This level is normally reached after studying Japanese for around 150 hours and after completion of the first half of an elementary course.
	Listening	25	100	
	Reading-Grammar	50	200	
	Total	100	400	

Group courses 8-week (\$220)

Course	Day	Time		Term		No class
		Start	End	Start	End	
JPN 101	Fri	7:10	9:00	10/7	12/2	
	Sun	10:10	12:00	10/9	12/4	11/20
JPN 102	Mon	7:10	9:00	10/10	11/28	
	Sat	11:10	1:00	11/26	1/14	
JPN 103	Mon	7:10	9:00	11/21	1/9	1/2
	Sun	10:10	12:00	10/9	11/4	11/20
JPN 104	Mon	7:10	9:00	1/2	3/6	1/16 2/20
	Sat	11:10	1:00	10/15	12/10	11/19
JPN 201	Sat	11:10	1:00	10/15	12/10	11/19
JPN 202	Sun	10:10	12:00	10/16	12/11	11/20
JPN 203	Sat	9:10	11:00	10/29	12/24	11/19
JPN 204	Sat	9:10	11:00	10/29	12/24	11/19
JPN 301	Mon	4:40	6:30	10/10	11/28	
JPN 303	Sun	10:10	12:00	10/9	12/4	
JPN 304	Wed	7:10	9:00	10/5	11/30	
Advanced	Tue	7:10	9:00	10/4	1/3	2 nd 4 th Tue
	Sat	3:10	5:00	10/8	12/12	11/11 11/26
Teens 101	Fri	4:40	6:30	10/21	12/23	
Teens 102	Fri	4:40	6:30	10/21	12/23	
Teens 200	Wed	2:40	4:30	10/26	12/14	

✉ おたより ✉ From Guest book

I am senior in college. I would like to know of any opportunities to work in Japan. I took 4 years Japanese language in university as well as 4 years in high school.

Our answer: Studying hours/years doesn't mean much about Japanese language skill level. If you have Japanese skill with JLPT level 1, it may help to find a job that requires Japanese skill. JLC has several students who are focus on acquiring the JLPT Level 1 certificate because of their job requirement.



If you want to work in Japan for a few years, there are opportunities to teach English in Japan. Please check "JET Program." It requires that you be a U.S. citizen, 40 years old or younger, and have/will have Bachelor Degree.

✿ JET Program ✿



The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program seeks to help enhance internationalization in Japan by promoting mutual understanding between Japan and other nations. The program aims to enhance foreign language education in Japan, and to promote international exchange at the local level by fostering ties between Japanese youth and foreign youth. The objectives of the program are being achieved by offering JET Program participants, the opportunity to serve in local authorities as well as public and private junior and senior high schools.

Application Deadline: 29th November 2005

JET Program official site: <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/JETProgram/application.html>

- You must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in any field or obtain one by July 1st, or be qualified to teach at primary/elementary schools in the U.S. or obtain such qualifications by July 1st.
- There is an age limit of 40 years of age or younger
- You must have U.S. citizenship (not a resident foreigner or green card holder). The Embassy in Washington, D.C. accepts applications from U.S. citizens only. If you are a citizen of any of the 44 other countries participating in the JET Program, you may apply through the country in which you have citizenship. You must contact the Embassy of Japan or Consulate General of Japan in your home country.

✉ 自己紹介 (じこしょうかい) ✉ Student of JLC



はじめまして、私はレベッカです。どうぞよろしく。(Hello, I'm Rebecca. It's nice to meet you). I started taking Japanese language in my freshman year of High School with the goal of passing the International Baccalaureate Standard Level examination for Japanese. However, I moved last summer, and my current High School does not offer Japanese classes. Thus, I am taking lessons at JLC.

Though Japanese is VERY difficult for me, Junko-san is a FANTASTIC teacher, I enjoy my classes immensely, and I recently went to Japan for a month as an exchange student. I did pretty well, though I'm told I picked up a bit of Kansai-ben, which is a non-standard accent! Now, because of this trip, I have two goals: To pass the International Baccalaureate exam, and to dazzle my host mother and host sister with how much my Japanese has improved when I go back to visit them!

* レストラン * Restaurant きく鮨 Kiku Sushi

Look closely or you will miss the entrance to Kiku Sushi and that would be a sad thing. A single doorway located immediately beside Uwajimaya (Asian grocery store) in Bellevue The inside is bigger and prettier than I expected. My host family took me there on my birthday and I enjoyed the food. I think it is a good place for our next field trip. (R)

15555 NE 24th St, Bellevue, WA 98007 ☎425-644-2358 Mon-Sun Lunch 11:30-2:00PM Dinner 5:00-9:30PM

Our comment: I think Uwajimaya is a good place for our field trip also. Uwajimaya & Kinokuniya Bookstore in Seattle is one of my favorite places.

📖 生徒の日記 (せいとのにつき) 📖 Diary of JLC student

九月一日

二週間前、私は「アメリカ碁コンgres」という行事に参加した。それはアメリカの碁碁の大会だ。一年間に1回、いろいろなところからあるひとつの町に集まり、碁碁をたくさんする。今年は、タコマという私が生まれた町であった。シアトルから50キロの近さなので、私は出席することにした。私は、毎日家から会場まで車でいった。45分ぐらいかかった。



毎朝トーナメントで試合をひとつしなければならなかった。始めは日本人とだった。私はびっくりした。日本人が5人ぐらいタコマに来ていた。碁碁のプロは5人いた。しかし、もちろん私の相手はアマチュアだった。相手は英語が全然わからなかったので、日本語で話した。しかし彼女はびっくりしていなさそうだった。日本語で話せるアメリカ人は少ないと思うけど・・・



水曜日は、試合がなかった。大会のいろいろな人と一緒に「レニア山」という山へ行った。富士山みたいなのところだ。その山の周りには大きな山が少ないし、火山だし、すごく高いので、レニア山は富士山に似ていると思う。レニア山は4,392メートルだ。バスで1,500メートルまで上り、そして歩いた。天気がよかつたし、楽しかった。

最後の日にもう一人の日本人に会った。その女性は英語が上手だった。しかし彼女は日本語の先生なので、私が「私は少し日本語がわかる」と言うと、彼女はそれから全然英語を使わなくなってしまった。日本語のいい練習だったけど、時々難しかった。(D)

八月十九日

今日、私は父とクーガー山に走りに行きました。私たちは一緒にトライアスロンをやるので、今そのためのトレーニングをしているのです。私は、根性がありますが、それだけで勝てるとは思っていません。私たちのチームは、本当に信じられないくらいとても遅いです。でも、私たちが設定した基準のペースでいければ、それでうれしいです。そう思って、私は5km走り、汗びっしょりになりました。(A)



🌸 おしらせ 🌸 Remarks

- Lesson fees for Group Lessons are \$220, however an early registration with payment by check/cash before your present course ends can get \$7 discount.
- Please bring your friends to JLC. Any referrals signing up for a class results in a 20% discount of your next block of lessons.
- JLC supports a Japanese Language conversation group in the community and JLC's instructor Junko is the organizer of Bellevue-Factoria Japanese Language Meetup. The next regular monthly meetup session is on Tue, 11th October at the Starbucks in Factoria. Field Trip is on 25th October. Please visit the website, <http://japanese.meetup.com/17> for more information.



Answer of the quiz: They are new video games. 1. Grandia III (Square Enix) 2. Princess Maker 4 (GeneX) 3. GENJI (Sony Computer Entertainment) 4. Tales of Legendia (Namco)

あいうえおかきくけこさしすせそたちつてとにぬねのほひるへほまみ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てとにぬねのほひるへほまみむめもやゆりるれろわんあいうえおかきくけこ



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and Translation Services