



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

\* 文化 (ぶんか) \* Culture 酒 (さけ) Sake

I believe that everybody knows about **Sake** (rice wine). It is a traditional Japanese alcoholic beverage brewed from fermented rice and water.

There are three different kinds of sake in terms of its manufacturing process: **Seishu** (refined sake), **Genshu** (crude sake), and **Nigorizake** (unrefined sake). Seishu, the kind most popularly drunk, has an alcoholic content of about 12-15% or, as strong as grape wine.



Taste-wise, every brand is typically referred to as either **Amakuchi** (sweet) or **Karakuchi** (dry). It is usually said that you can enjoy sake at its best condition when warmed up to **hito-hada** (your body temperature), however you can enjoy sake both cold and warm. I like to sip cold Nigorizake from a **masu** (square wooden box). The choice may also depend on the weather or the dishes eaten with sake.

There are more than 2000 sake manufacturers producing about 4,000 different brands across the country. Local brands are appreciated as much as national brands. Below are the labels of my favorite sake.



☒ おたより ☒ From Guest book



I requested a free quote for translation of a Japanese document to three translation services agencies including Japanese Language Center, but one agency refused to provide a quote, while another agency's quote is extremely high (I can't afford it), and your answer was "Unfortunately, we are not sure about some parts so we are omitting those pages from our quote at this point." What is the problem with the omitted parts? Do I have to find someone in a college language department?

**Our answer:** The Japanese document is more than 100 years old and it includes several Haiku (poems) and Renka (a series of poems). The poem's text is very artistic (deformation) and as a result we are not sure how to interpret the intent of some part of poem.

We are very capable of translating old Japanese documents most of the time. We often receive similar orders from other translation services agencies or Japanese language/Asian study departments of universities as a result of our unique capabilities translating the language and characters of ancient Japanese. However, it is difficult to understand or translate without specific subject education, very much like an art curator. It sometimes happens even with us.

In addition, it is very difficult to translate old documents that were written with brush in a very cursive, artful style with the old Japanese language. The most difficult part is not to translate, but to recognize the characters and then read between the lines as simple character-by-character translation can result in gibberish. The knowledge of old Japanese proverbs and sayings is also required to do the translation properly.



Of course, it's ideal if someone can do all pieces together. You can search for someone who provides a perfect job with a reasonable price. Please understand that it should cost more compared to the price for translation of modern printed Japanese documents. However, if you understand these conditions and still would like to have them translated, we will be happy to do so.

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



🌸 **焼酎 (しょうちゅう) Shochu**

**Shochu** is a traditional Japanese distilled spirit. It is made from sweet potatoes, buckwheat, molasses, barley, rye, rice, corn, sugar cane, carrots, tomatoes, sesame, strawberries, or even coffee beans. The shochu of Okinawa is made from millet and is called **awamori**.

As its alcoholic content is very strong, 25-50%, shochu is generally drunk with hot or cold water, or mixed with soda (called **chuhai**). The popularity of shochu is now becoming more and more conspicuous, because the price is more reasonable than any other kinds of alcoholic beverages due to lower liquor taxes and it's said that it's alcohol causes less hangover and metabolizes faster.



🌸 **Schedule for JLPT 2005** 🌸

Application period	August 1-October 7, '05	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:
Test date	December 4, 2005	
Announcement of test result	Mid February, 2006	

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	

📢 **プレスリリース** 📢 **Press Release**

**JLC provides JLPT/JETRO Test Prep Courses**

Japanese Language Center (JLC) offers prep courses for JLPT/JETRO Test (JLPT Level 3, Level 2, and Level 1). Registration for the next JLPT Course has already started. Please sign up early before it becomes full.

The JETRO Testing date is November 20th and the JLPT is on December 4th. The Intensive JLPT Prep Courses in 2004 were a great success. The students who took more than 2 semesters of Intensive JLPT prep courses at JLC last year were all certified.

<b>6-day Intensive (Mon/Wed/Fri)</b>		
Course	Time	Term
JPN 100	10:40-1:10 PM	8/29-9/12
JPN 200	10:40-1:10 PM	8/29-9/12
JPN 300	12:40-3:10 PM	8/22-9/2
JLPT 3	2:40-5:10 PM	8/29-9/12
JLPT 2	2:40-5:10 PM	8/29-9/12
JLPT 1	2:40-5:10 PM	8/29-9/12
Teens 100	10:40-1:10 PM	8/1-9/26

JLPT/JETRO Test Courses have 110 minutes lessons and 8 sessions. Intensive Courses have 150 minutes lessons and 6 sessions on Mon/Wed/Fri. Registration & Lesson fees (\$220) are due 72 hours prior the first lesson. The Self Level Check Test and other free materials for JLPT are available. The schedule may be changed without notice, so please visit the website for the updated schedule.

**Group courses 8-week (\$220)** \* 8/30 9/13 10/11

Course	Weekday				Weekend			
	Day	Time	Term	No class	Day	Time	Term	No class
JPN 101	Mon	6:40-8:30 PM	8/22-10/17	9/5				
JPN 102					Sat	1:10- 3:00 PM	8/20-10/8	9/3
JPN 103	Fri	6:40-8:30 PM	8/19-10/7		Sat	11:10-1:00 PM	8/20-10/15	9/3
JPN 104	Wed	6:40-8:30 PM	8/31-10/19		Sat	11:10-1:00 PM	8/20-10/15	9/3
JPN 201-202	Mon	4:40-6:30 PM	8/22-10/17	9/5	Sun	10:10-12:00	8/21-10/16	9/4
JPN 203-204					Sat	9:10-11:00 AM	8/20-10/15	9/3
JPN 301-302	Thu	5:10-7:00 PM	9/1-10/20		Sun	8:10-10:00 AM	8/21-10/16	9/4
JPN 303-304	Thu	7:10-9:00 PM	8/18-10/6					
Advanced	Tue	7:10-9:00 PM	8/23-11/1	*	Sat	3:10- 5:00 PM	8/20-10/15	9/3
JLPT 3					Sun	10:10- 12:00	8/21-10/16	9/4
JLPT 2					Sun	12:10- 2:00 PM	8/21-10/16	9/4
JLPT 1					Sun	12:10- 2:00 PM	10/2-11/27	
Teens 101	Fri	4:40-6:30 PM	8/19-10/7					
Teens 102	Wed	4:40-6:30 PM	8/24-10/12					
Teens 200	Wed	2:40-4:30 PM	9/28-11/16					



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📰 **新聞記事 (しんぶんきじ)** 📰 **Newspaper Article SUDOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box containing the digits 1 to 9. (The answer is on the last page)

日本育ちのパズルが英国で大流行中だ。その名も和名そのまま「SUDOKU」。新聞各紙は連日新聞を掲載し、通勤客がペン片手に熱中する。紙上で「全英選手権」を開催する新聞も登場しブームは熱を帯びる一方だ。

パズルは縦横3マスの小ブロックを九つ正方形に並べ、空きマスに1から9までの数字を入れるというもの。縦横の各列と小ブロック内は同じ数字が一度しか入れられない。ブロック数は16や25も可能で数字は1から16、1から25となる。

一般に「ナンバープレース」と呼ばれるこのパズルは、18世紀にスイスの数学者が考案したといわれ、1970年代にニューヨークのパズル専門誌が取り上げた。日本ではパズル専門誌「ニコリ」が84年に「数独」と名付けて紹介、洗練されたパズルに育てた。

3	2	5				9	8	
	9					8		
8		1	3			7		
		2				7	6	
			4			3		
		8	9			3		
		6				5	2	4
			8				3	
	1	3				8	7	5



ニコリの許可を得て「数独」ウェブサイトを立てた元裁判官のウェイン・グールド氏が、英タイムズ紙に持ちかけ、同紙は昨年11月に「SUDOKU」を掲載開始。たちまち読者の反響が「過去に例のない勢いで届きだした」という。

同紙によると「熱中しすぎて子供が学校に遅れる」との苦情や、パズルの解答締め切りが正午のため複数の会社幹部から「社員が午前中仕事にならない。昼休みに解けるよう締め切りを午後2時にずらして」と頼まれたこともあった。

爆発的な人気に、他紙もこぞって「数独」を掲載し始めた。インディペンデント紙は「全英選手権」を開催し、「最高賞金は1000ポンド」と打ち上げ、大衆紙サンは紙名をもじって「SUDOKU」と名付けた。(毎日新聞)



❀ **ことわざ** ❀ Proverb Corner 「心頭滅却すれば、火もまたすずし」

(Shinto mekkyaku sureba, himo mata suzushi)  
 “If you do believe that it is cold, even fire can feel cold.” If you have strong spirit, you can overcome any problem.

🍣 **レストラン** 🍣 Restaurant **Blue C Sushi**

A few friends recommended this Sushi bar. There are two locations, Fremont and University village. I like the Fremont one better. It's so cool! You had better check it out. I like their business system also. The only problem is that they don't accept any reservation for small groups. To make a reservation requires a group with 8 people or more.

It's very simple

- 1: see the dish you want
- 2: take it off the belt
- 3: eat
- 4: stack your plates
- 5: press the button for service and check out



Fremont Hours

Mon - Thu: 11:30am-10:00pm  
 Friday: 11:30am-11:00pm  
 Saturday: 12:00pm-11:00pm  
 Sunday: 12:00pm-10:00pm

3411 Fremont Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98103 Ph: (206) 633-3411 <http://www.bluecsushi.com/gallery/index.shtml>

❀ **おしらせ** ❀ Remarks

- Please note: Lesson fees for Group Lessons are \$220 (No refund/No reschedule/No makeup).
- 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 meeting is 7-9 PM on Tue, 13 September at the Bellevue Region Library meeting room #4. A Field Trip is scheduled for 7:00-9:00PM on 30 August. They are planning to visit Blue C Sushi (Fremont). Event fees are \$1.00 per person. Please visit the website, <http://japanese.meetup.com/17> for more information.



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

Answers: They are popular games in Japan. 1.碁 (Go) 2.将棋 (Shogi/Japanese Chess) 3.麻雀 (Mahjongg) 4.百人一首 (Hyakunin-issu/the one hundred famous poems card game) 5.パチンコ (Pachinko)

3	2	5	7	4	6	9	8	1
6	9	7	2	1	8	4	5	3
8	4	1	3	5	9	7	6	2
4	3	2	5	8	7	6	1	9
1	7	9	4	6	3	5	2	8
5	6	8	9	2	1	3	4	7
7	8	6	1	3	5	2	9	4
9	5	4	8	7	2	1	3	6
2	1	3	6	9	4	8	7	5

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をわ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をわ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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**Japanese Language Instruction**

**and Translation Services**