

# awa life

**Welcome  
Messages**

**Tokushima Prefecture  
Japanese Speech  
Contest**

October 2019  
# 348



**Awa Shoku: Tender Squid  
is a Matter of Timing**

**Gairaigo Galore:  
ペーパードライバー**



**TOPIA**



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## Awa Life is a Monthly Publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association

It's October and the weather has started to cool down! Autumn has arrived and one can fully appreciate the beautiful leaves and foliage unique to the season. There are also some great events for everyone to enjoy such as the Machi Asobi vol. 23 and the Tokushima Jazz Week 2019. Of course, you can't forget about Halloween! Does everyone already have a costume they want to wear? It's finally cool enough to go outside and enjoy the weather, so make sure you don't miss this chance to have enjoy some time with friends and family.

For all of those who like writing, please feel free to submit an article to us at any point in time about basically anything. There are a few limitations though, such as you can't write about religion, politics, commercial activities or businesses or anything that we deem inappropriate. But, other than that, we would be more than happy to receive articles about anything and everything including but not limited to concerts, lectures, other events, culture, sports, community group information or anything cool that's happening in your local community.

We highly appreciate all of your articles and we love reading them. So if that writing bug of yours is buzzing about, grab a pen or a computer and write and send away! Please send all submissions to our email:

**[awalife@gmail.com](mailto:awalife@gmail.com)**

Your editors,  
Sydney and Nico

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*Download a PDF file of awa life or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!*



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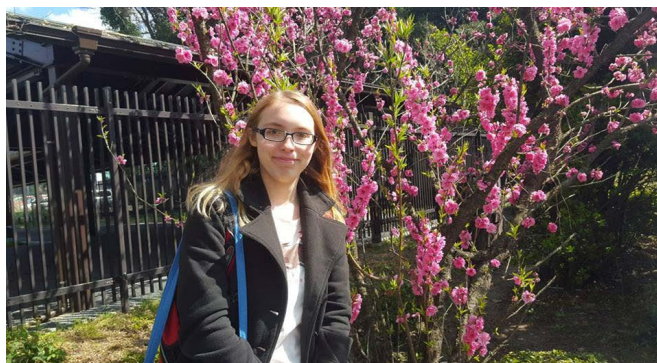


## New CIRs in Tokushima!

**Sydney Bartig**

**H**ello! I'm so excited to meet everyone. My name is Sydney Bartig and I will be working as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) at the Tokushima Prefectural Office and TOPIA. Please feel free to just call me Sydney! (Yes, like the city in Australia.) My hometown is Flint, Michigan. Michigan is known for the Great Lakes, so if you like swimming and nature, I would definitely recommend visiting at least once!

In high school I studied Spanish, but I had always had an interest in Japanese culture so I began studying Japanese in college. However, I wasn't sure how I wanted to make use of Japanese in my future career. When I was in my third year of college, however, I was granted the opportunity to participate in the Kakehashi Exchange Project and visited Japan for the first time. I visited Tokyo and Ishikawa-ken, and while there I was able to experience a homestay, learn more about Japanese culture such as calligraphy, history, etc. and meet a variety of wonderful people. A little less than a month later I returned to Japan (Shiga-ken) again as a study abroad student.



My time in Japan left a great impression on me, and after returning to America I immersed myself in my Japanese studies and hoped to one-day return to Japan for work. By now I knew I wanted to help teach people more about my culture, as well as learn more about other cultures myself. Like the Kakehashi Project, I wanted to become a 'bridge' between countries. I also wanted to make use of my current Japanese skills and continue to improve upon them.

Although this is my third time in Japan, this is my first time in Tokushima (and Shikoku). I have only been here for a short time so far, but everyone I have met has been truly kind. The nature of Tokushima is also extremely beautiful, so I look forward to exploring more of what Tokushima has to offer. I hope that I can also help others learn more about America and Michigan. (If anyone has any questions, please do ask me!)

If you ever see me walking around, please feel free to say "Hi"! I'm always excited to meet and talk to new people.



**Emily Yocom**

Hello everyone! My name is Emily, and I'll be working as a CIR in the Sports Promotion Division at the Tokushima Prefectural Government. I'm from a small town in Pennsylvania, USA and just recently graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in international affairs from Penn State University.

My first time in Japan was a semester abroad in Chiba; I went for fun and spoke zero Japanese. When I got home, all I wanted was to go back - so I picked up a Japanese minor and became events director for the Japanese Friendship Association. After a few years of studying the language, I interned at Minato City Hall in Tokyo. This internship taught me a lot about working in internationalization in a

Japanese government office, which got me all the more excited to be a CIR!

For my honors thesis, I spent a month in Tokyo studying the Japanese refugee resettlement system. I also served as the president of my school's chapter of a non-profit called Liberty in North Korea that raises money for escaped North Korean refugees. I hope I can continue learning about refugees and immigrants in Japan during my time in Tokushima.

In my free time you'll probably find me cooking, watching dramas, or going to concerts. I hope to take advantage of cheap airfare and travel Asia while I can, as well.

I'm very much looking forward to helping advance intercultural exchange in Tokushima and becoming a part of the community!



## Emergency Interpretation Services

From May 1st, 2019 simultaneous interpretation in many languages will be available at the fire department by calling 119 (fire and emergency). This will be available 24/7 all year round. When a fire breaks out and you need firefighters, or in case of sudden illnesses or injuries, please dial 119. Even if you can't speak Japanese you can talk with the fire operations center through our interpretation center (limited to Tokushima City).

Contact: Tokushima City Firefighter Communications and Command Division  
TEL: 088-656-1198



**Dial “119” to make an emergency call (fire/medical emergency)**

**消防(火災・救急)へのホットライン119**  
24時間365日「5カ国語」での緊急通報ができます。

**英語** In case of emergency (fire/medical emergency) call 119.  
(Available in five languages, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year)

**中国語** 火災或急救时请拨打消防热线119  
(365天24小时5国语言应对)

**韓国語** 소방(화재, 구급) 119 핫라인  
(24시간 365일 5개 국어, 대응)

**ポルトガル語** linha direta com o corpo de bombeiros 119,  
(Incêndio, emergência médica)  
(Atendimento 24 horas por dia, 365 dias por ano, em 5 idiomas.)

**スペイン語** línea directa con el bomberos (incendio y ambulancias) 119.  
(Puede emergencia en 24 horas del día, los 365 días del año, en 5 idiomas.)

**119番通報は落ち着いて、日本語が話せない時は通訳が対応。電話を切らずにお待ちください。**

**英語** You will be connected to an interpreter if you do not understand Japanese. Please hold the line.

**中国語** 如果您不会日语, 有翻译对应。请不要挂电话, 稍等片刻。

**韓国語** 일본어를 할 수 없을 때는 통역이 대응합니다. 전화를 끊지 말고 기다리세요.

**ポルトガル語** Caso não fale japonês, um tradutor irá ajudá-lo. Aguarde sem desligar o telefone, por favor.

**スペイン語** Caso no hable japonés, un traductor ira ayudarle. Porfavor, espere sin colgar el teléfono.

## Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest

Winning Speech by Jacobo Sanchez



The Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest was held on Sunday, July 21st at Awagin Hall. 13 participants from 8 different countries and regions presented their speeches to members of our community.

Here is a list of the top five winners of the speech contest:

**Grand Prize:** Jacobo Sanchez (Mexico)

**Tokushima Prefectural Assembly International Exchange Federation-Chairman's Award:**

Ngô Thị Duyên (Vietnam)

**Runner up Awards:** Korley Theophilus (Ghana),  
TURMUNKH DORJPUREV (Mongolia),  
Dan Qing Guo (China)

This year Jacobo Sanchez (Mexico) won the grand prize for his speech "Viva Tokushima". Please see the translation below for his award winning speech.

### ***Viva Tokushima!***

Hola!!!!, buenas tardes a todos y gracias por asistir.

Hello, my name is Hakobo and I'm from Mexico. How are you?

By the way, do you think that there are any similarities between Mexico and Japan?

At a young age I grew to love Japan because of the many different cultural aspects such as anime, samurai, ramen, language, history, etc. At that

time I thought that these things were completely different from Mexico and I started to get more and more interested in Japan.

I developed several goals and worked hard for a long time in order to come to Japan. I thought that I wanted to experience Japan as more than just a tourist. I wanted to be something more than a tourist. I wanted people to know who I was, what I thought about things, and I wanted to share my Mexican culture. At the same time, I wanted to experience a more real, intimate side of Japan.

In October of last year I decided that I wanted to apply for a volunteer program. After applying and being accepted to NPO The University of Bizan I bought my plane ticket in December. I then arrived in Tokushima this year in the first week of March. I ended up choosing the University of Bizan because I would have many chances to help out in society.

The activities included in the volunteer program are interesting and diverse. For example, we take care of flowers for a project called 'Flower Road', help out at preschools and elementary schools, play with the children there, and clean the rivers. We also play with children with disabilities. That experience was truly unique and enjoyable.

Thanks to all of these activities I got to know many people and made many friends. I was also able to learn more about festivals, culture, and was able to practice Japanese. Moreover, I was able to learn more about myself.

Tokushima is the first city in Japan that I've lived in, and I think that I made a good choice. I believe this because the people in Tokushima are very friendly and are interested in getting to know more about foreign cultures and people. Although the city isn't that big, there are many lively and fun places to visit. You can enjoy beautiful nature year-round as well as enjoy the unique Awa Odori festival. I was able to see the cherry blossoms, learn about Golden Week, enjoy the Machi Asobi, and witness Japan's transition from the Heisei Era to the Reiwa Era.

Just like how I have been able to experience Japanese culture, I have also been able to share Mexican culture with others.

For example, I taught Spanish, danced to Latin rhythms, explained about the situation in Mexico, and cooked Mexican food to eat together with friends.

I particularly like to make guacamole, a traditional Mexican sauce made using avocado. Compared to Mexico, the price of avocados in Japan is pretty high which makes preparing guacamole expensive, but it's definitely worth it. Another ingredient is Mexican lemons which can be quite hard to find in Japan. However, I discovered that using sudachis produced almost the same taste. This made me think that Tokushima's sudachis

and Mexican lemons were very similar.

Just like how Tokushima's sudachis and Mexican lemons are similar, the kindness of the people in Tokushima reminded me of the people in my country. It made it seem like I wasn't on the other side of the world. Although it may seem like Mexican and Japanese culture aren't very similar, there are actually many common points that they share.



Finally, I would like to express my deepest thanks to all the people who let me take part in this wonderful volunteer program and worked together with me.

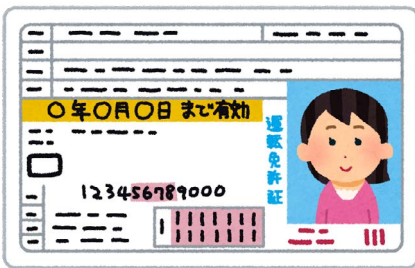
Thank you so much, everybody!  
Muchas gracias!

## Gairaigo Galore

ペーパードライバー (paper driver; someone who has a driving license but doesn't drive)

By: Nico Bohnsack

A common phenomenon in modern Japanese society, with its extensive railway and bus network, is that many people don't own cars or don't use the car they own anymore. Financial reasons can play a big role as well. However, getting a driver's license is often still considered a must and is an important part of becoming adult. The result is an increasing number of so called "paper drivers"



which means people who have a driver's license, but don't drive and, hence, maybe even lose the ability to drive. The expression is widely used in Japan and when you search for the term on the internet you will realize that many driving schools even make a business out of this phenomenon and offer trainings aimed at paper drivers. Paper drivers are also famous for having the "golden driver's license"

which people can get after about five years without traffic violations. Guess why!

While English speakers might understand this word in the same way as Japanese do, the word actually doesn't exist in the English language. It's another example of Japanese-made English (*wasei eigo*) and has been widely used in Japan since the 2000s. In English an expression people would usually understand is the "driver on paper only". How about you? Are you also a paper driver?





## Awa Shoku: Tender Squid is a Matter of Timing

By Lance Kita

Squid and octopus are not familiar seafood ingredients in many North American and European cultures (except the Mediterranean), and have a bad reputation for being rubbery and tough. Tokushima's southern fishing ports bring in significant amounts of big fin reef squid (**aori-ika** アオリイカ) in autumn and are highly sought after in the Kansai region. The squid grow significantly between October and December in the nutrient-rich waters of the Seto Inland Sea and Kii Strait, and specimens over 1 kg are quite common.

The key to preparing squid that is tender but not tough comes down to the timing. It's often said, "either cook it 20 seconds or 20 minutes." This adage rings true, but Japanese cooking offers two additional points of time where squid is absolutely delicious.

### 0 seconds

Wait, what? Yes, one of the most delicious ways to enjoy squid is raw. Fresh squid has a jewel-like transparency and a pleasant firmness combined with the fragrance of sea foam. It's often cut into very thin strips which resemble noodles that are referred to as "squid vermicelli" (**ika somen** イカ素麺). Of course, it also makes sushi with a wonderful mouthfeel.

### 20 seconds

So keeping squid tender with a fresh taste means cooking for under a minute. Chinese cooking often serves it stir-fried with vegetables in black bean sauce. Italians will toss it into marinara or pepperoncino sauce at the last minute and let the residual heat cook the squid to just the right

point. Japanese cooks will usually deep-fry it as tempura or sauté it on a flat griddle (**teppan** 鉄板) with garlic butter or ponzu sauce. You can also boil squid strips for a minute and marinate them with vegetables as a vinegared dish (**sunomono** 酢の物).

### 20 minutes

After a minute, squid turns to rubbery chewiness, but after 20 minutes or so the proteins break down and the flesh takes on a tender, meaty texture. Japanese simmered dishes (**nimono** 煮物) often pair squid rings with white radish (**daikon** 大根) or taro (**satoimo** 里芋) in a light soy sauce-sake-sugar broth. With most simmered dishes, letting the food cool down naturally off the heat will allow the flavors to be absorbed by the ingredients and keep the squid tender.

### 1 day

Okay, I don't mean to cook the squid for a whole day, but Japanese fishermen will dry whole squid for a day in the open air. This is not the beef jerky-like dried cuttlefish (**surume** スルメ) eaten as a snack by the older generation. Instead, the short drying period removes a little moisture to firm up the meat and concentrates the flavor, bringing out the umami. The squid is then grilled lightly and sliced up, served with mayonnaise and seven-spice chili pepper blend (**shichimi** 七味). If you want to order this with your beer or sake at an izakaya, ask for **ichiya-boshi** 一夜干し, literally "one night dried." This is one kind of semi-dried seafood (**himono** 干物), a technique that is used with lot of oily or whitemeat fish.

Don't be afraid to try squid while you're here in Japan. Remember these four points of timing, and you'll be enjoying tender, flavorful calamari all through autumn. *IKA-dakimasu!*



*From raw to slow-simmered, the secret to tender squid is on opposite ends of the time spectrum.*

## 「V た形 + ことがあります」

This month we will study the grammar point 「V た形 + ことがあります」. This is used to talk about things you have experienced, or to ask if someone else has experienced something.

A: スカイツリーにのぼったことがありますか。

A. Have you ever climbed the Sky Tree?

B: ええ、あります。2年前に、のぼりました。

B. Yes, I have. I climbed it two years ago.

A: どうでしたか。

A. How was it?

B: 楽しかったです。

B. It was fun.

A: そうですか。私もぜひのぼりたいです。

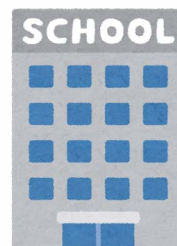
A. Is that so? I want to climb it as well.



You can use the form 「V た形 + ことがあります」 in the present to talk about an experience that happened in the past. You can express details about the experience by using 「V た形 + こと」.

You can make the [ た ] form by changing the 「て」 form of a verb. 「て」 becomes 「た」 and 「で」 becomes 「だ」.

- |     |     |   |     |
|-----|-----|---|-----|
| I   | 書いて | → | 書いた |
|     | 飲んで | → | 飲んだ |
| II  | 食べて | → | 食べた |
| III | 来て  | → | 来た  |
|     | して  | → | した  |



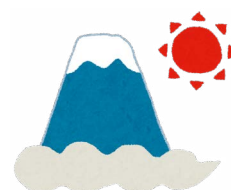
「V た ことがあります」 is used to express something you have experienced, and is not used for obvious, everyday things. For example, you would not ask 「学校に行ったことがあります。」 or 「本を読んだことがあります。」.

To answer the question 「V た形 + ことがありますか」, you would respond with either 「あります」 or 「ありません」.

## Practice Questions

Change the below words in parenthesis to the correct form.

- わたしは馬に(乗ります→ ) ことがあります。
- きのう、映画を(見ます→ )
- A: 富士山に(登ります→ ) ことがありますか。  
B: はい、く。>
- A: アメリカに(行きます→ ) ことがありますか。  
B: いいえ、く。>



References: みんなの日本語初級



# Events & Memoranda

## Japanese Classes 2019: Term 2 Schedule

- Hour : 10:30-12:00
- Location : Meeting rooms at TOPIA
- Textbook : We will be using the "Minna no Nihongo I" or the "Minna no Nihongo II" (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) textbooks (2,700 yen for the book and audio CD). Please prepare the textbooks on your own. As well, there will be themed lessons on various topics such as seasons and life in Tokushima.
- Fee : Free

DAY	TEACHER	LEVEL	CLASS DESCRIPTION	
TUE	Ms. Tamaki	Elementary 1	We will study various verb forms and sentence patterns using those verb forms. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 14~25	From October 1 (20 times)
WED	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up in different levels. *For parents of young children, a childcare worker will be on hand to look after your child during the lesson (please inquire in advance). Due to unforeseen circumstances, the rooms may change.	From October 2 (20 times)
THU	Ms. Yamada	Elementary 2, 3	We will study various forms and expressions such as potential, volitional, imperative, prohibitive, conditional, reasoning, passive, causative, and honorific expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II – from Chapter 26~50	From September 26 (25 times)
FRI	Ms. Aoki	Beginner	We will take the first step towards learning basic expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 1~13	From October 4 (20 times)
SUN	JTM	Elementary 2	We will study reasoning, passive, causative and honorific expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II – from Chapter 26~38	From October 6 (20 times)
	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up in different levels.	
TUE	Ms. Kimura Others	Special Beginners Class	A class for those who cannot read or write hiragana or katakana. We will study the basics such as, the Japanese alphabet, greetings, numbers, and items. We will also be learning about Tokushima.	You may join at anytime

For more information see TOPIA's homepage: <http://www.topia.ne.jp>

## Tokushima Jazz Week 2019 とくしま JAZZ WEEK 2019

Come enjoy a variety of different jazz performances! ♪

For more information please check out the official home page.

When: October 26th (Sat) – November 4th (Mon)  
Where: Shinmachi gawamizugiwakouen  
Info: Tokushima Environment and Citizens Affairs Department & Citizens and Culture Department  
TEL: 088-621-2249  
URL: <https://www.pref.tokushima.lg.jp/ippannokata/kyoiku/bunka/5020479>

多彩なジャズライブです♪

詳細情報につきましては、公式ホームページをご覧ください。

日時: 10月26日(土曜日) ~ 11月4日(月曜日)  
場所: 新町川水際公園  
お問い合わせ: 徳島県民環境部県民文化課  
TEL: 088-621-2249  
URL: <https://www.pref.tokushima.lg.jp/ippannokata/kyoiku/bunka/5020479>

# Events & Memoranda

## Machi ★ Asobi Volume 23 マチ★アソビ vol. 23

Ever since the first event in the Fall of 2009, the Machi ★ Asobi has gathered anime fans from all over the country to Tokushima. From talk shows with famous voice actors to impressive cosplay shows with colorful costumes, Tokushima truly gets into the anime spirit! For more information, please check out the link to the Machi ★ Asobi homepage.

When: September 28th (Sat) – October 14th (Mon)  
Climax Run: October 12th (Sat) – October 14th (Mon)  
Where: Central Tokushima City & Aibahama Park  
Info: Anime Festival Executive Committee  
TEL: 088-621-2309  
URL: <http://www.machiasobi.com>

2009 年秋の第 1 回開催以来、徳島市の中心市街地周遊型アニメイベントとして全国から多くのアニメファンを呼び込んでいる「マチ★アソビ」。有名声優によるトークショーや、色とりどりの衣装が印象的なコスプレショーなど、徳島の街がアニメ色に彩られます！詳しいイベントの情報は「マチ★アソビ」HP にて随時発表されますのでご覧ください

日時：9 月 28 日（土）～ 10 月 14 日（月・祝）  
クライマックスラン：10 月 12 日（土）～ 14 日（月・祝）  
場所：徳島市内中心部および藍場浜公園  
お問い合わせ：アニメまつり実行委員会事務局  
TEL：088-621-2309  
URL：<http://www.machiasobi.com>

## Evacuation Shelter Drill for Foreign Residents

In the event of a sudden earthquake, are you ready? Do you know where to evacuate and how to prepare? Prepare yourself now so that you're ready when the time comes.

Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA) will be holding an evacuation shelter drill in order to be able to support overseas residents in the case of a natural disaster. This drill will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Tokushima Station Clement Plaza where TOPIA is located, and on the rooftop. A mock evacuation shelter will be created, and we will practice providing and collecting information for overseas resident victims.

We invite everyone from the overseas resident community to participate in this drill and learn about evacuation shelters, rules of the shelter, try emergency food rations, receive advice from professionals, and much more.

- Date: Saturday, November 9th (Sat) 9:45-13:00 (Tentative)
- Place: Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association  
(6<sup>th</sup> floor of Tokushima Station Clement Plaza)  
1-61 Terashimahonchonishi, Tokushima-shi, 770-0381, JAPAN  
\* Apply at TOPIA (TEL: 088-656-3303) (Email: [coordinator4@topia.ne.jp](mailto:coordinator4@topia.ne.jp))

## Counselling Service at TOPIA・トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA provides consultation on everyday life, education, labor, medical institutions, and disaster prevention; and information on sightseeing spots to overseas residents and visitors. When necessary, we will refer you to the appropriate organization that can assist with your needs. Counselling is available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

Everyday, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)  
Tel: 088-656-3303 or 088-656-3320 (allows three-way conversations with an interpreter)