

# awa life

**2021 Tokushima  
Prefecture Japanese  
Speech Contest**

**Gairaigo Galore:  
ベッド、ベット**

September 2021

# 371



**Awa Shoku:  
KAKI, on Tree or in Sea**

**Differences Between  
Life in Japan and Life in  
France**





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

It's finally September! We hope you have all been staying cool and taking steps to avoid heat stroke during these hot months. Hopefully it should start cooling down soon and we can enjoy the nice autumn weather. Autumn is said to be a good time for reading, so we hope you will enjoy reading this month's Awa Life as always! You can find a translated version of the winner's speech for the speech contest that took place in July, so make sure to give it a read. Perhaps it will inspire you to work on your Japanese studies?

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:

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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## 2021 Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest

On July 18th, Tokushima Prefecture and the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association held the 32nd Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Residents at the Awagin Hall.

14 participants from 9 different countries spoke on topics such as understanding different cultures, differences between Japan and their country, and their life here in Japan.

The grand prize winner was Li

Yan Lin, a participant from China who is currently studying at Naruto University. The winner of the Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Federation

of International Exchange Assembly Member Chairman's Award was Alcander Imawan, a participant from Indonesia who is currently attending the National Institute of Technology,

Anan College.



Due to the current situation with COVID-19, we put in place many preventative measures and limited the number of people. However, you can watch the speech content

on YouTube. We hope that the situation with COVID-19 will settle down and the speech contest can be held as normal next year.

You can view a news article about the speech contest online for free on YouTube! Make sure to check it out. We'll send the link when the whole speech contest is available!

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQmsAI4SXRQ>

**Small Happiness in Japan**

By: Li Yan Lin (Grand Prize Winner)

Hello everyone. My name is Li Yan Lin, and I'm from Henan Province in China. I came to Japan in 2018. Before coming to Tokushima, I lived in Tokyo for half a year. When I was young, I watched Japanese anime, and in middle and high school I grew to enjoy Japanese dramas and variety shows. Then I was finally able to visit Japan.

Before coming to Japan, I did a lot of research on the internet and found a post saying, "Japanese people are very serious and a little cold, therefore it's hard to make Japanese friends. There are also many manners you need to keep in mind to fit into Japanese society." At that time I felt a little worried about the Japan which I had been looking forward to experiencing.

When I came to Japan I ran into many problems, but I was able to overcome each of them with the help of the people here in Japan. There was a time when I dropped my wallet and a Japanese person came running after me to return it. There was also a morning when I had to ride a bus to take an exam. However, I had no clue where the bus stop was. A person who was going to ride the train listened to where I needed to go and helped me find the bus stop. At my work the manager and my coworkers are all very kind and have taught me the basics of Japanese business manners, such as saying "おはようございます" in the morning and immediately responding with "はい" when someone calls out to you. During our time off we would eat together, go shopping together, and even go see the flowers together.

The more time I spent in Japan and the more time I spent with Japanese people, I began to realize the differences between Japan and China. Among these, the biggest difference that I noticed was that Japanese people tended to live quietly and do their own thing while doing their best not to cause trouble for other people. That environment, which had a bit of a distant feeling, was great for



a person like me who likes the quiet.

In Japan, you will hear words like "こんにちは", "ありがとう", and "すみません" wherever you go. People say "ごちそうさまでした" after a meal and "お疲れ様です" after work is over. From the outside, this may appear as cumbersome to some people, but these words, which show consideration for others, have given me small pieces of happiness.

After coming to Tokushima, the teachers at my university would always treat me warmly, and my Japanese friends who lived in the dorms would often bring me omiyage treats. I received cookies from Kobe, tea, sweets, and cakes that their families had made. Here's something that happened when I went to the Gyomu Super near my house. I want to buy some persimmons, but I wasn't sure which ones to buy. At that time, a nearby elderly woman helped me pick one.

To tell you the truth, before coming to Japan I was more fearful than excited or hopeful. However, all of that fear has disappeared, and instead I feel a warm feeling all the way to the bottom of my heart towards Japanese society. Whenever I experience the warmth of Japanese society, I am reminded of these song lyrics: 君と出会えた幸せ祈るように——（風になる）.

This is the end of my speech. Thank you for listening.



## Differences Between Life in France and Life in Japan

By: Mako Kobayashi

### Why France?

When I was a university student, I studied in France for approximately one year. In university I studied English, but in high school my school had had a French class, and I loved French even before entering university. When asked what it is that I love about French, it would have to first be the pronunciation. You can find the concept of “liaison” in many languages. It’s especially prevalent in French, where the usually unpronounced end of the word is pronounced in combination with the initial vowel. Thanks to this liaison, the words are fluid and flow beautifully. I had also thought it would be good to be able to speak a language other than English, so I made use of the study abroad exchange at my university and went to France.



### Differences in Greetings

When it comes to business greetings, Japan and France aren’t all that different. However, greetings between friends are quite different. What are they like in France? Well, in France they have something known as “bisous”. Bisous means “kiss”. It means kiss, but it’s more of a kiss on the cheek. In the northern part of France, they tend to do this twice as a greeting. However, I heard that in the southern part they do it more than three times. This kind of greeting is very close and allows for you to feel the person you are greeting. I really love this kind of greeting. Also, even when you don’t directly meet with someone, you can say “bisous” at the end of a phone call or write it at the end of a letter.

### Differences in Holidays

When I studied abroad in France, I really thought that their holidays are so long. You also hear this word in Japanese, but in France they use the word “vacances” for long holidays. In Japan, it’s difficult for adults to take long holidays unlike students. However, this is different in France. There is a 2~3 week vacation you can take from the end of June to August (les vacances d’été), a break around Christmas (les vacances de Noël), and an Easter break (les vacances de Pâques), something not very well known in Japan. There are also many other holidays that exist in France. Other than the holidays, the weekend (le weekend) is also a time for students and those who are working to rest. I often thought to take the time on the weekends to do things I couldn’t do during the week! I tried to go and buy ingredients, but the nearby stores would close their doors on Saturday and Sunday. It might also be a sort of religious reason not to work much on the weekends. In comparison, convenience stores in Japan are always open, and there are many stores where there is also someone there to work 24/7. There are so many differences between Japan’s holidays and those in France.



# Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: 敬老の日

By: Takako Harauchi

2020 年の 日本人の「平均寿命」は、男性 81.64 歳、女性 87.74 歳でした。女性は 世界 1 位、男性は スイスに次ぐ 世界 2 位と なりました。(2021. 7. 30 厚生労働省発表)

毎年 9 月の 第 3 月曜日 (2021 年は 9 月 20 日) を、「敬老の日」といいます。長生きしている お年寄りの お祝いをしたり、感謝の気持ちを伝える日で、「国民の祝日」になっています。長寿をお祝いすると まわりの人も 長寿に あやかるそうです。

この機会に、いつも 見守ってくれている お年寄りに、プレゼントを 贈ったり お手紙を 書くなど、「ありがとう」の 感謝の気持ちを 伝えてみてはどうでしょう。 また、長く生きている お年寄りに 社会の様子や 出来事など、昔の話を 聞いてみると おもしろい発見があるかもしれません。



## Vocabulary List

敬老 respect for the aged

長寿 longevity

お年寄り elderly

平均寿命 average life span

あやかる share somebody's good luck

見守る guard

厚生労働省 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

機会 opportunity

発見 discovery

## Gairaigo Galore

ベッド or ベット？

By: Nico Bohnsack

Many people in Japan prefer to sleep on a futon, but beds are actually quite popular, too. Have you ever realized that there are two gairaigo you can use to refer to a bed: ベッド and ベット？ Japanese learners might wonder what the right one actually is. Even many Japanese don't really know. However, the answer is that both words are totally fine and neither is wrong. ベッド stems from the English word "bed" and ベット has its roots in the German word "Bett" which also means "bed". While ベッド is probably used more often nowadays, both versions can still be found in everyday life language. It is said that first the German word became part of the Japanese language when Western styles of living were adopted in the Meiji Era (1868–1912). The exchange of medical knowledge between Japan and Germany was very intensive at that time which resulted in the use of many German words in the medical field. It is believed that the German word "Bett" came into use to refer to hospital beds and later also beds for everyday life. However, when English words were adopted on a large scale the word ベッド slowly became more popular and dominant. So in case you were wondering which version to use: don't worry and just use the version which fits you more!



## Awa Shoku: KAKI, on Tree or in Sea

By: Lance Kita

One of my favorite things about Japanese cuisine is how it embraces the seasonality of ingredients. Using what is available at a certain time of year is not only practical, but also makes the most culinary sense because an ingredient in season will taste the best.

As we move from summer to autumn, there is a fruit and shellfish that are coming into season with the EXACT SAME NAME. Kaki かき is both persimmon 柿 and oyster 牡蠣 in Japanese, and both are fall delicacies.



*A fruit or a shellfish, "kaki" is truly a fall flavor.*

Actually, the words have different accents in their pronunciation. In west Japan, there is no change in accent for persimmon (ka-ki), and oyster is accented on the second syllable (ka-KI). In the Kanto region (around Tokyo), persimmon is ka-KI and oyster is KA-ki.

### KAKI on the Tree

Although Nara and Wakayama across the Kii Strait are major harvesting areas for persimmons, these trees are ubiquitous throughout Japan and can be found in many yards. Come autumn, the leaves fall and the trees burst into orange fruits. You'll see neighbors trying to pass off bags of persimmons to friends, family, and coworkers.

If you do get a bag, it's important to ask if they are ama-gaki 甘柿 or shibu-gaki 渋柿. Ama-gaki are, true to its name, sweet and can be eaten raw. Just slice up and eat fresh, or try dicing them into potato salad, tossed salad, or on yogurt.. Japanese cooking uses them in a lightly marinated salad (namasu 膾) or as a dressed salad (aemono 和え物, see May 2018 Awa Life). You can also make jam or sauce with it.

Shibu-gaki, on the other hand, are highly astringent and cannot be eaten raw, but are usually peeled, and hung out under roof eaves to dry. Often, they will acquire a white crust of edible

mold. Dried persimmons (hoshi-gaki 干し柿) are enjoyed from early winter until stocks run out in late spring or early summer. They have an intense and rich sweetness similar to dried dates. Most are eaten as a snack, but they can be chopped up and added to cakes, scones, or cookies.

### KAKI in the Sea

In English, any month with the letter "R" is a safe month for oysters, so the season generally runs from September to April. The calm waters of the Seto Inland Sea is prime oyster bed habitat, which is why Hiroshima is the top oyster producer in the country. Here on Shikoku, Tokushima's

Naruto City and Kagawa's Higashi-Kagawa City are also famous for their oysters. One great way to enjoy them is at an oyster shack (kaki-goya 牡蠣小屋) where you can eat buckets of oysters grilled on large skillets. (See February 2017 Awa Life)

Most people will order breaded deep-fried oysters (kaki-furai カキフライ) as part of a set meal (teishoku 定食) at a neighborhood restaurant. Another great dish is takikomi-gohan 炊き込みご飯, where oysters are added with a splash of soy sauce when cooking rice in a rice cooker, where they plump up nicely and add their briny umami to the rice. I like to sauté oysters in butter and add ponzu (citrus soy) to glaze them in amber goodness. As the weather gets colder, an oyster hotpot (kaki-nabe 牡蠣鍋) is definitely the way to go.

Dried persimmons or grilled oysters? Persimmon salad or oyster stew? How about a fusion of both... make a salsa of finely diced persimmon, minced onion, sliced fresh chiles, squeeze of sudachi, salt/pepper, and a drizzle of olive oil. Spoon that over a raw or lightly grilled oyster and slurp it from the shell. Which KAKI will you choose to savor for fall's flavor?



## Keigo

「敬語」という日本文化は、皆さんにとって複雑で、めんどなものかもしれませんが、日本語では「敬語」は人間関係をスムーズにし、相手を大切に思う気持ちを表現するのに大切な働きをしています。「敬語」は社会的立場や関係が親しいか親しくないかによって使い分けられます。今回から 5 回にわたって、このコーナーで勉強したいと思います。

□敬語は大きく分けて 3 つあります。

- ①丁寧語…「～です」「～でございます」「～ます」をつけて言う言い方(目の前の人に丁寧に話す)
- ②尊敬語…相手(部長)を持ち上げる言い方(相手がすることを言う) → 相手(部長)が…**なさいます**
- ③謙譲語…自分(わたし)を下げる言い方 → わたしが…**いたします**(わたしがすることを言う)

## 丁寧語

わたし・あなたがする

**ます**

→わたし・あなたが **します**



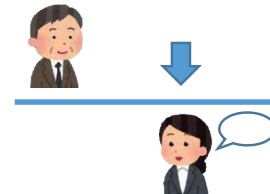
## 尊敬語

部長がする → **部長が** **なさいます**



## 謙譲語

わたしがする → **わたしが** **いたします**



□これらの敬語は、どのように使うのでしょうか。

「敬語」を使わない場合(家族・親しい人など)

例1: 明日の会議**だけど**、わたしも出席**するよ**。

同僚(友だち)



「丁寧語」を使って、丁寧に言う場合(丁寧に話したい相手)

例2: 明日の会議**です**が(丁寧語)、わたしも出席**します**。(丁寧語)

丁寧に話したい相手



「尊敬語」を使って話し相手を持ち上げて、敬意を表す場合(相手がすることを言う)

例3: 明日の会議**ですが**(丁寧語)、部長は出席**なさいますか**。(尊敬語)



「謙譲語」を使って自分を下げて、敬意を表す場合(自分がすることを言う)

例4: 明日の会議**ですが**(丁寧語)、わたしが出席**いたします**。(謙譲語)

## 【問題】

次の文の下線部は、①～④のどれに変えたらいいでしょうか。番号を( )に入れてください。

- ①「丁寧語」を使う ②「尊敬語」を使う ③「謙譲語」を使う ④変えなくて良い

A: 「先生、お昼ご飯を**食べた**？」( ) <食べたのは先生ですか、わたしですか。>

B: 「お兄さん、日曜日、車で**出かける**？」( ) <「お兄さん」との関係は親しいですか、親しくないですか。>

>

C: 「部長、この資料は3枚**コピーした**けど、あの資料は…」( ) <コピーしたのは部長ですか、わたしですか。>

D: 知らない人に尋ねる。「あのう、図書館はあの**高い**ビル？」( ) <話し相手との関係は親しいですか、親しくないですか。>

か。>



# Events & Memoranda

## Japanese Classes 2021 Term 2 TOPIA Japanese Classes Schedule

Time: 10:30-12:00 Location: Meeting rooms at TOPIA

Textbook: We will be using the "Minna no Nihongo I" (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) textbooks (2,750 yen for the book and audio CD). Please prepare the textbooks on your own. Additionally, there will be themed lessons on various topics such as seasons and life in Tokushima.

Fee: Free \*There may be changes due to the COVID-19 situation. Please check TOPIA's website for the latest information.

DAY	TEACHER	LEVEL	CLASS DESCRIPTION	STATE DATE
TUE	Ms.Tamaki	Elementary 1	We will study verb conjugations, te form, nai form, dictionary form, etc., as well as sentence patterns that utilize these. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 14~25	Sep.28 (20 times)
WED	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up into 3 different groups. (Beginners included.) *For parents of young children, a childcare worker will be on hand to look after your child during the lesson. (Please inquire in advance. Depending on the current COVID-19 situation, this service may not be offered.)	Sep.29 (20 times)
THU	Ms. Yamada	Conversations & Cultural Activities	We will practice Japanese conversations relating to a variety of topics. Additionally, while studying Japanese we will experience Japanese culture and seasonal events firsthand. *For those who have finished up to Chapter 13 of Minna no Nihongo I. (Schedule is subject to change.)	Oct.7 (20 times)
FRI	Ms. Aoki	Beginner	We will take the first step towards learning basic expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 1~13	Oct. 8 (20 times)
SUN	JTM	Conversations & Cultural Activities	We will practice Japanese conversations relating to a variety of topics. Additionally, while studying Japanese we will experience Japanese culture and seasonal events firsthand. *For those who have finished up to Chapter 25 of Minna no Nihongo I. (Schedule is subject to change.)	Oct. 3 (20 times)
	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up into 3 different groups.	

\* Please register for Group Lessons at least a day before the class. (If you do not sign up in advance and show up on the day of the class, we may not be able to find a group for you to study with.) Additionally, as the number of groups are limited, we may not be able to find a group that suits your level.

\* If you are unable to attend class, please call and let us know. (088-656-3303)

\* The Volunteer Classes on Wednesday and Sunday will be cancelled if no students show up within the first 30 minutes.

TUE	Ms. Kimura Ms.Yoshimoto	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.
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\*Classes may be cancelled if there is a typhoon, heavy rain, heavy snow, etc. Please call and confirm if classes will still be held.

Japanese classes are also available at the Anan International Association, Aizumi Town International Exchange Association, Yoshinogawa International Exchange Association, Mima no Sato, Minami Multicultural Coexistence Network "Harmony", the Club for Thinking about Multicultural Coexistence "Tomoni" in Tsurugi Town, Awa International Exchange Association, and the NPO "Attakaiyou" in Kaiyo Town.

# Events & Memoranda

## Tokushima Prefectural Disaster Prevention Center Study Tour

The chance of the Great Nankai Trough Earthquake occurring increases every year. If the earthquake occurs, what will you do?

Tokushima Prefecture Government, in conjunction with the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA) is proud to announce a study tour for foreign residents at the Tokushima Prefecture Disaster Center to provide information on what to do in case of a natural disaster.

During this study tour you will be able to experience simulated earthquakes, strong winds, and learn how to extinguish a fire. Let's learn about the importance of disaster prevention.

Date: September 26th, Sunday 13:00 - 16:00

Location: Tokushima Prefecture Disaster Center (Kitajima-town, Tainohama Aza Onishi 165)

Details: Disaster prevention lecture, disaster prevention guidance via video, simulation of strong winds / earthquakes, fire fighting, etc

(English interpretation is provided. Chinese/Vietnamese interpretations may be provided.)

Applications: Please send in the following information by fax to the address below. You can also apply by sending the same information by email or postcard.

1. Name 2. Gender 3. Address 4. Nationality 5. Phone number 6. E-mail address 7. Occupation

Send Applications To:

FAX: (088) 652-0616

E-mail: [coordinator1@topia.ne.jp](mailto:coordinator1@topia.ne.jp)

Postcard: Koekizaidan Hojin Tokushima-ken Kokusai Koryukyokai (TOPIA)

Clement Plaza 6F, 1-61 Terashima

Deadline: September 16th (Thu.)

\*\* For more information, please contact Ms. Kimura at (088) 656-3303

\*\* The event may be cancelled due to the current COVID-19 situation.



## 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: 088-656-3312 or 088-656-3313 (allows for three-way conversations with an interpreter)