

# Rakugo

## Rakugo

Born 400 years ago during the Edo Period, Rakugo is one of Japan's many performing arts. A storyteller tells comedic stories while playing the role of many characters by changing their voice. Actions and feelings are expressed by using a fan and a hand towel.

## Rakugo 1 Toki Udon

【Characters】 Udon shop, customer, a man



One night, a man stopped a vendor of a roadside udon noodle cart and ordered a bowl of udon. The customer was clearly impressed with the food. “Mm… This possesses such a pleasing aroma.” and “Oh, the soup tastes surprisingly deep and delicious.” He gave many smooth compliments. The vendor received great satisfaction from the pleasant words.

The price of the bowl of udon was 16-mon. When the man finished eating, he started to hand one-mon coins to the vendor in order, indicating rhythmically, “One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight…” He then asked what time it was. The vendor replied, “Nine.” “Ten, eleven, twelve…” the man continued and wangled successfully, paying only 15-mon.

Another man had been watching all of this. “All right. I’ll do that trick in likewise.” the man plotted. The next day, the shrewd watcher caught the cart and ordered a bowl of udon. However, the udon tasted horrible, so he failed in any way to have a flattering tongue.

Still, the udon’s price was 16-mon. Anyway, the man finished eating, and he started to count one by one. Piling one-mon coins, “One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight…” He then asked, “What time is it?” The vendor answered with, “Five”. “Six, seven, eight…” he proceeded and paid 19-mon.