

Hot Topics Japan

A Culturally Specific
Discussion Book

Answer Key

Unit 01 Personal Space

Vocabulary Preview

1. a 2. f 3. b 4. g 5. d

Vocabulary Practice

1. a 2. c 3. a 4. d 5. b

Listening

What are two reasons Samantha is upset?

Samantha is upset because Yoshi stands far away when they talk. He also does not look her in the eye(s).

How does Ai explain personal space in Japan?

People in Japan do not stand close together. Men and women also rarely touch in public.

What does Samantha think will help?

Samantha thinks that spending more time with Yoshi will make him more comfortable with her.

What does Ai suggest that Samantha do?

Ai suggests that Samantha ask him for coffee because he is not being rude.

Comprehension

Personal Space in Japan		
<p>Definition: Personal space is the space <u>between two people</u></p>	<p>Who seems to have smaller personal space?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People from <u>Middle Eastern</u> or <u>Latin American</u> countries - People from big cities like <u>Tokyo</u> - People on the <u>subway</u> - Two <u>women</u> or a <u>dating</u> couple 	<p>Who seems to have larger personal space?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People from <u>small towns</u> like Ojika - Two <u>men</u> or a man and a woman who are together - A person of <u>high status</u>

Unit 02 Japanese Restaurant Culture

Vocabulary Preview

1. f 2. g 3. e 4. b 5. c

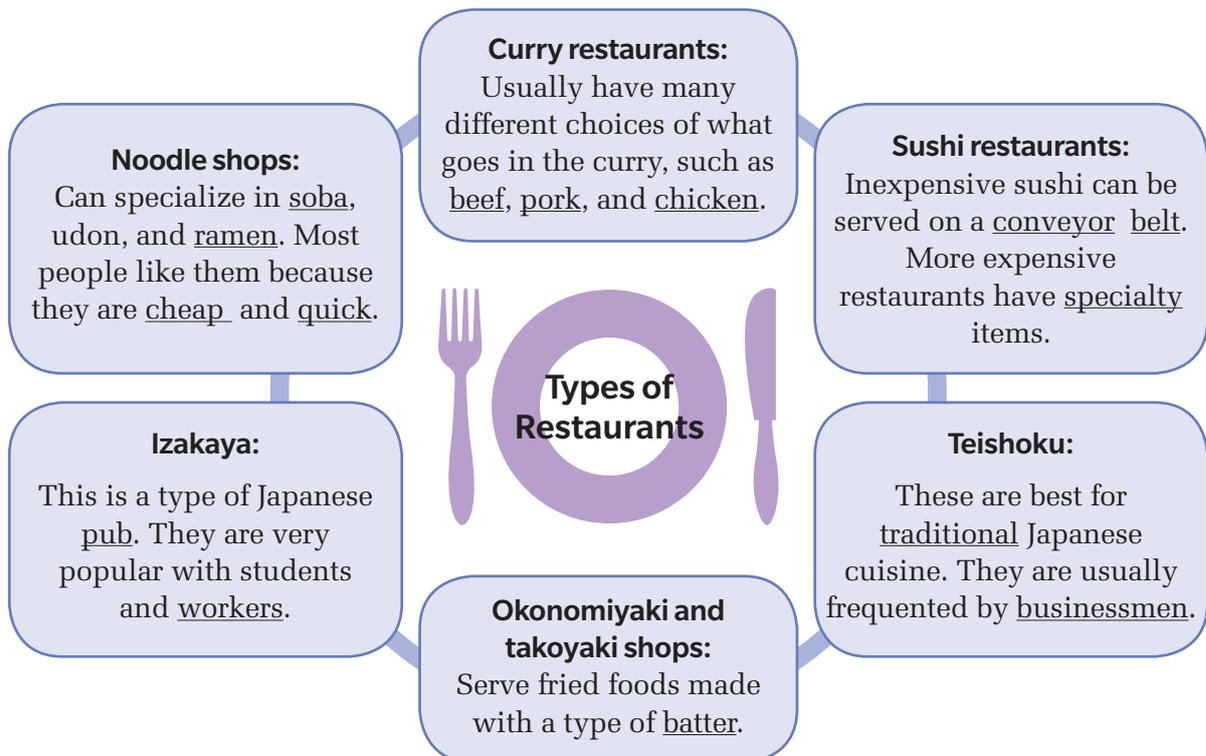
Vocabulary Practice

1. octopus 2. pork 3. mayonnaise 4. starving 5. conveyor belt

Listening

 Suggestion	• Take a <u>break</u> and <u>grab</u> something to <u>eat</u>
 Kind of Restaurant	• Near the university • <u>Convenient</u> and <u>cheap</u>
 Bad Choices	• Teishoku → for old people and businessmen • Tonkatus → <u>fried</u>
 Problem	• The woman doesn't know what she's <u>in the mood</u> for.
 Decision	• Go to an <u>izakaya</u> where there are many choices

Comprehension



Unit 03 Collectivism

Vocabulary Preview

1. d 2. g 3. b 4. a 5. e

Vocabulary Practice

1. c 2. b 3. d 4. a 5. c

Listening

Saying: The nail that sticks up gets hammered down.

Meaning

- Something that is different than others needs to be changed.
- This change can hurt.
- When all things are the same, there is collective harmony.

Japanese Society

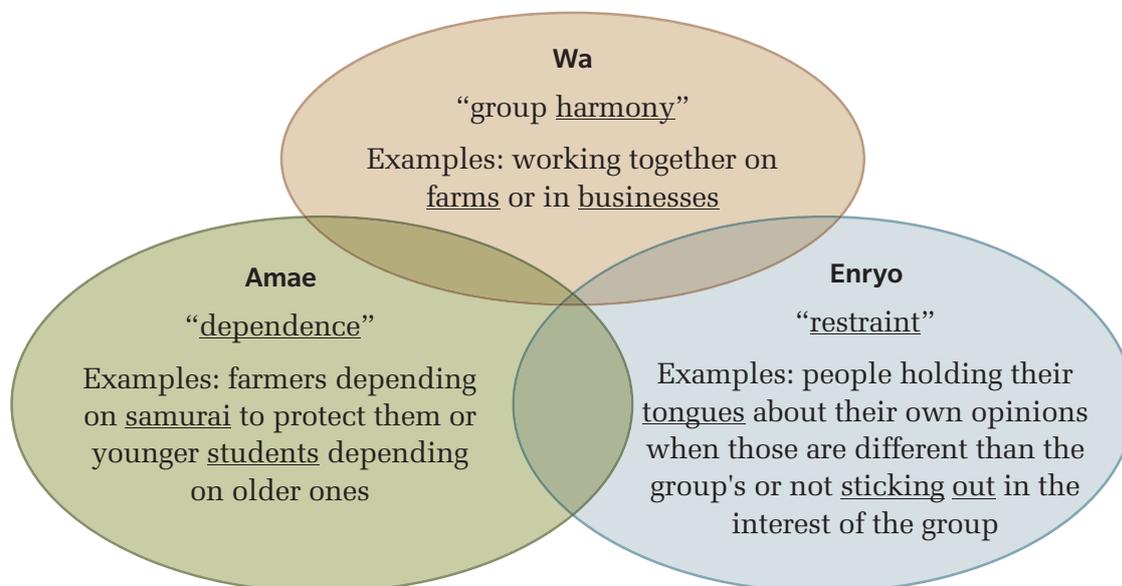
- Not all parts of Japan are the same.
- Differences may not be big like in countries such as China or the US.

Example

- Miwa Mori is different.
- She is a woman who designs buildings and is president of her company.
- “If a nail is sticking out enough, if you are different enough, nobody can hammer it down.”

Comprehension

Concepts at the Root of Collectivism



Unit 04 Natural vs. Artificial Ingredients in Snacks

Vocabulary Preview

1.f 2.c 3.e 4.d 5.b

Vocabulary Practice

1. spoiling 2. processed 3. nutrients 4. obesity 5. chemicals

Listening

Old Japanese Diet

- In the past, Japanese people used to eat fresh fruit and vegetables, rice and a bit of meat.

Japanese Diet Today

- Fast food has become more popular.
- The biggest problem is with children.
- They eat unhealthy food that makes them fat.

Solution

- Dr. Smith tells people to eat more whole foods.
- We must teach our children to make the right choices about food.

Comprehension

Artificial Ingredients



- Artificial snacks are filled with chemicals.
- Chemicals in these snacks keep them from spoiling, change the color of the food, and improve the flavor.
- These snacks are also filled with chemicals and cheap ingredients.



Natural Ingredients



- Natural snacks are better for the whole body.
- Vitamins and nutrients help build a strong body.
- Three things that natural ingredients help with: learning process, concentration, and obesity.

Unit 05 Medical Masks Worn in Public

Vocabulary Preview

1.a 2.e 3.d 4.g 5.c

Vocabulary Practice

1.germs 2.population 3.outbreak 4.plague 5.paranoid

Listening

<h3>Details About the Bird Flu</h3> 	<h3>Ways to Protect Yourself</h3> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The <u>Chinese</u> government is trying to contain the disease.• <u>Coughing</u>, high <u>fever</u> and <u>stomach</u> pains are some of the signs of bird flu.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wash your hands with <u>soap</u> and <u>water</u> often.• Medical masks should be worn to protect against <u>airborne</u> germs.• Don't go to farms where <u>chickens</u> and other birds live.• <u>Older</u> people and <u>children</u> should be extra careful.

Comprehension

<h3>Germs and Diseases</h3> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germs and diseases spread very easily in countries with <u>large</u> populations.• Germs are spread every time a person <u>coughs</u> or <u>sneezes</u>.• <u>Children</u> can get illnesses easier than adults.
<h3>Japan and Masks</h3> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Japanese people love to keep their <u>toilets</u>, <u>streets</u>, and <u>bodies</u> clean.• Being sick is very <u>inconvenient</u>, and masks help protect others from missing work.• Masks keep germs away from <u>healthy</u> members of the school or office.
<h3>Outbreaks</h3> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Asia</u> has been at the center of some outbreaks.• Many outbreaks come from <u>China</u>.

Unit 06 Japanese Tea

Vocabulary Preview

1. g 2. e 3. b 4. a 5. d

Vocabulary Practice

1. shake 2. brew 3. hands down 4. fiber 5. crush

Listening



- They can get it at home.
- Tastes best when it is fresh.
- The woman makes it with sencha or matcha.
- Matcha powder is expensive.



- They can get it at the store.
- Tastes best when it is fresh.
- The man can make it with matcha.
- The bottled tea is expensive.

Comprehension



- Grown in full sun
- Made by putting leaves in water
- People don't drink the leaves
- Color: brownish-green to dark green

Both

- From the same plant
- High in Vitamin C and catechins
- Natural source of fluoride



- Grown in shade
- Made by putting powder in water
- People drink the powder
- Color: bright green

* The healthier of the two teas is matcha.

Unit 07 Youth Subcultures in Japan

Vocabulary Preview

1. b 2. a 3. e 4. d 5. c

Vocabulary Practice

1. norm 2. accessories 3. teenager 4. slang 5. pose

Listening

Harajuku	What are two things that you can do in Harajuku?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See <u>subcultures</u> 2. Go <u>shopping</u>
 Gyaru		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gyaru girls like to wear <u>Western fashions</u>. • They also like to buy <u>expensive bags</u>.
 Cosplay		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosplayers dress up like characters from <u>anime</u> and <u>manga</u>.
 Lolita		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The man thinks that the Lolitas look <u>cute</u>.
 Otaku		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The otaku is taking <u>pictures</u> of the different people.

Comprehension

Subcultures in Japan

- Like to gather in Harajuku
- Are different from other Japanese people

Cosplay, Decora, and Lolita

- All like to wear special outfits

Otaku

- Love one subject
- Some examples are manga, idols, and video games

Gyaru

- Love Western fashions
- Have dark skin, colored hair, and lots of makeup

Cosplay

- Like to dress like characters from anime and manga

Decora

- Wear bright colors

Lolitas

- Wear lacy outfits

Unit 08 Juku Culture

Vocabulary Preview

1.g 2.d 3.a 4.e 5.b

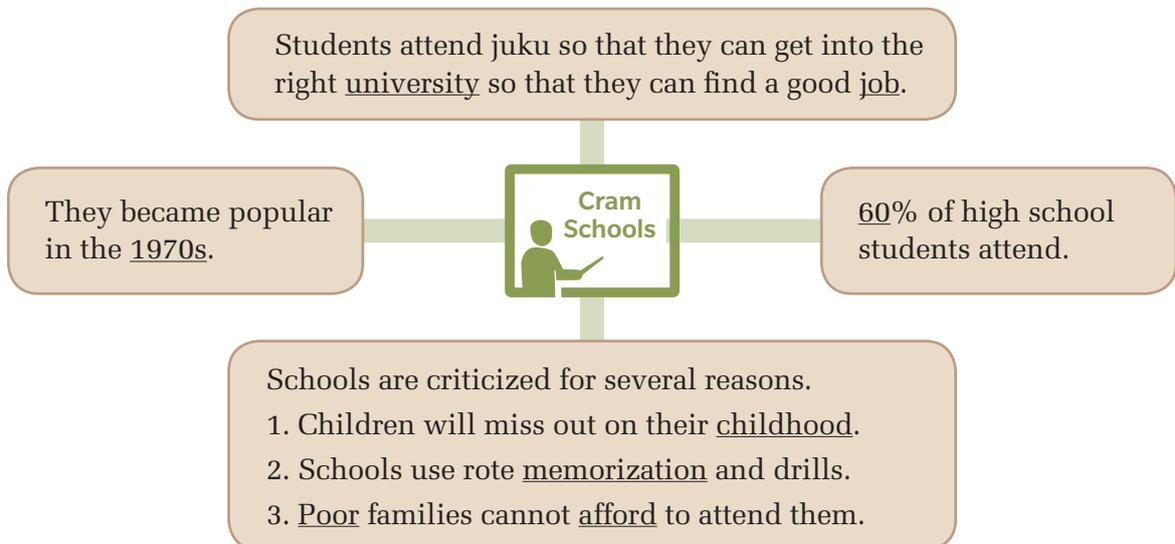
Vocabulary Practice

1.b 2.d 3.b 4.c 5.a

Listening

What is Hiro doing?	He is <u>studying</u> .
Why can't he be outside playing during his vacation?	He has begun attending a <u>cram school</u> .
Why does Satoshi believe Hiro needs to start early?	He wants Hiro to attend a good <u>university</u> .
When does Satoshi feel Hiro should have started attending juku?	He feels he should have started before <u>elementary school</u> .
How does Hiro feel about juku?	He likes his <u>teacher</u> because she is <u>fun</u> . He is also making new <u>friends</u> .
How long did Kate attend a cram school?	Kate attended for <u>four weeks</u> .
What was different about Kate's experience?	She attended the course a year before <u>graduating</u> from <u>high school</u> , not while in elementary school.
What will happen if Hiro gets into a good university?	He will be able to find a good <u>job</u> .

Comprehension



Unit 09 Studying Abroad

Vocabulary Preview

1. d 2. f 3. b 4. a 5. e

Vocabulary Practice

1. d 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. c

Listening

Where?

- Study abroad in Vancouver, Canada
- Program is with a sister school there

Who?

- Ten students from the school can go
- If more apply, the school will randomly select ten students to go

How much?

- Total cost for each student is ¥400,000
- Government awards of ¥100,000 are available for five students

When?

- Spring semester
- Leave Japan in mid January

Comprehension

Why Students Choose Not to Study Abroad



It costs too much.

- Tuition can be four times the cost in Japan.
- Government support is not enough.

It does not fit students' schedules.

- The semesters begin and end in different months.
- Students who study abroad may be too old to find jobs when companies are hiring.

It makes students uncomfortable.

- Life at home is easy and safe.
- In Japan, students face fewer challenges other than classes.

Unit 10 Cell Phone Etiquette in Public Places

Vocabulary Preview

1.f 2.a 3.g 4.b 5.e

Vocabulary Practice

1.headphones 2.commute 3.text 4.privacy 5.etiquette

Listening

What does the woman normally do on the train?

How long is her commute?

Why is the woman upset?

What feature does she have on her cell phone?

Why did she not use this feature on this commute?

She usually studies.

It's 45 minutes.

There was a rude guy talking loudly on his cell phone, so she could not study for her test.

She can listen to music.

She forgot her headphones at home.

Comprehension

Cell phones:

- Called keitai denwa in Japanese
- Developed in 1979



Japan's collective culture, in which the needs of the group come first

Phone Etiquette in Japan

- Passengers on trains should put phones on silent or manner mode.
- People should ask before taking photos to respect others' privacy.
- Don't talk on phones or text while driving, riding a bike, or walking to avoid accidents.
- Phones should be turned off around the elderly to avoid affecting medical devices.

Unit 11 Vending Machines

Vocabulary Preview

1. b 2. e 3. c 4. g 5. f

Vocabulary Practice

1. a 2. a 3. c 4. a 5. d

Listening

Report on New Vending Machines

Where?

- They are in the north of Japan.
- They are in a region hit by an earthquake.

Features?

- They keep drinks cold even with power off.
- They work during power loss.
- They show emergency information on screens.

How did they work?

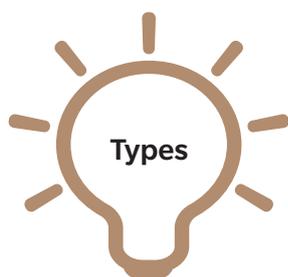
- Power loss did not interrupt vending services.
- Screens were able to show information and latest news even when power was off.

Results?

- The company received a lot of good reports related to the new machines.

Comprehension

Vending Machines in Japan



Drink machines:

- More than 2,000,000 soft drink machines
- Close to 200,000 coffee machines
- Around 100,000 beer and sake machines

Other machines:

- More than 300,000 tobacco machines
- Around 75,000 food machines



More energy efficient machines:

- Shut off by themselves
- Use energy efficient parts like LED lighting

Other innovations:

- Use the Internet to track problems and products
- Show products, ads, and information on screens

Unit 12 Robotics Research

Vocabulary Preview

1.c 2.a 3.g 4.b 5.f

Vocabulary Practice

1. great leap 2. puppet 3. trunk 4. facial 5. humanoid

Listening

How long have robots been around?

Robots have been around for hundreds of years.

When were the first Japanese robots made? Why?

They were made in the 1600s for a puppet theater.

How are robots used the most?

They are used in factories.

What else can robots help with?

They can help in hospitals, assist the elderly, be pets for children, act as teachers, and clean homes.

When do people think robots will work with humans?

They think that robots will be working with humans by 2020.

Comprehension

1600s

- Puppet-like robots were made in Japan.

1920s

- The word “robot” was first used in Europe.

1970s

- The first humanoid robot was made.
- The Soft Gripper robot was developed based on an elephant’s trunk and snake movements.

1980s

- Robots that could walk on different terrains and take steps every 0.64 seconds were made.

1990s

- The first self-regulating two-legged humanoid robot was created.
- Sony’s Dream Robot could recognize faces and express itself emotionally and through body language.

2000s

- Robots were developed to work as personal assistants.

Unit 13 Manga

Vocabulary Preview

1.f 2.b 3.c 4.a 5.e

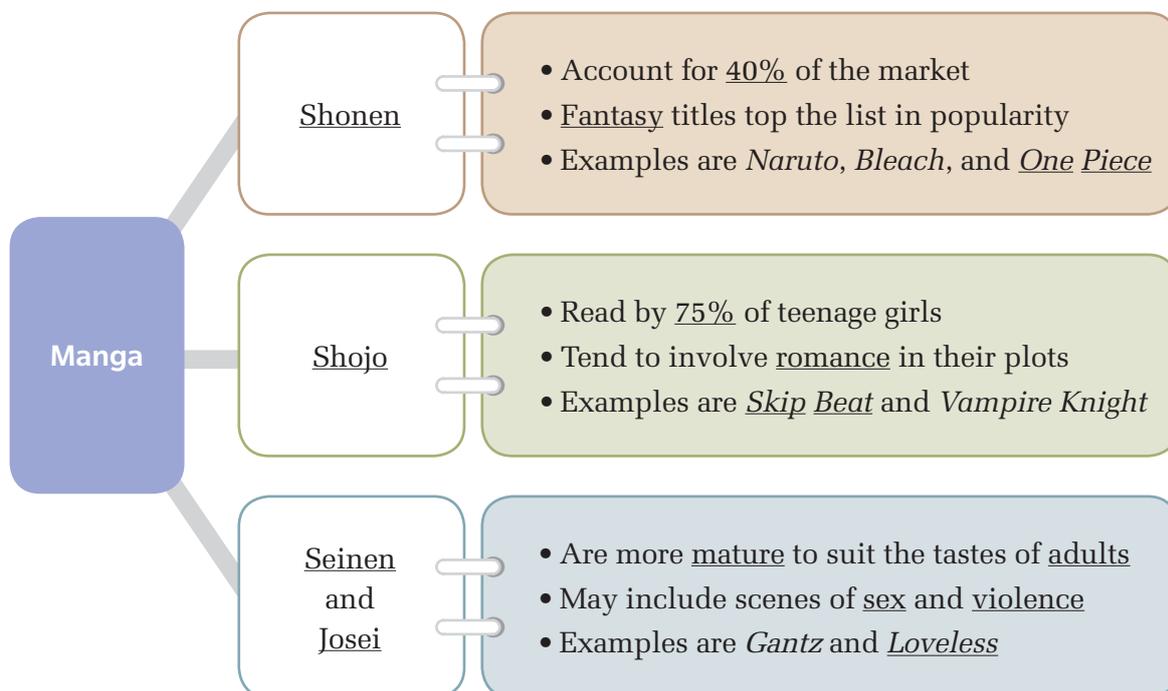
Vocabulary Practice

1. supernatural 2. comic 3. romance 4. teenage 5. category

Listening

Girl 	Boy 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a <u>book bag</u> full of <u>comics</u>• Limits herself to <u>ten</u> at one time• Prefers <u>shonen</u> to <u>shojo</u> manga	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a <u>sister</u> that <u>loves</u> manga• Does not get <u>hooked</u> like his <u>sister</u>• Has a hard time <u>putting down</u> the series <u>One Piece</u>

Comprehension



Unit 14 Karaoke

Vocabulary Preview

Vocabulary Practice

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. e 1. pastime 2. sophisticated 3. chords 4. orchestra 5. catch on

Listening

What are John and Ryosuke going to do tonight?

Does John want to go? Why?

In Japan, how do most people sing karaoke?

What can people order?

How does John feel?

What does Ryosuke suggest?

Does John agree?

They will sing karaoke.

No. He cannot sing.

They rent a private room.

They can order drinks and snacks.

He is embarrassed.

He suggests that they go get his guitar.

Yes. He will play the guitar while Ryosuke sings.

Comprehension

Karaoke = “empty orchestra”



- First created in Kobe in the 1970s
- Karaoke became popular in the 1980s



- Japan: Most people rent private karaoke boxes/rooms with their friends
- America: Most people sing in bars in front of strangers



- Was used in hotels and bars
- Now possible to bring your own instruments and play along with chords shown on the screen

Unit 15 Japanese Gardens

Vocabulary Preview

1. d 2. c 3. e 4. a 5. g

Vocabulary Practice

1. texture 2. nobility 3. inspire 4. aesthetics 5. solitude

Listening

What do the gardens at Kenrokuen symbolize?

They symbolize open space, age, water, large views, and solitude.

What were these gardens once a part of?

They were the gardens of Kanazawa Castle.

What water elements are at the garden?

There are bridges and water.

What kind of garden is Ryoanji?

It is a famous rock garden.

What is important about the fifteen rocks in the garden?

One cannot see all of the rocks at one time.

Where do people go to reflect on the garden?

People go to the teahouse.

Comprehension

