

# Hot Topics

# Japan

A Culturally Specific Discussion Book

## Answer Key

# Unit 01 Holidays in Japan

## Vocabulary Preview

1. e   2. a   3. c   4. b   5. d

## Vocabulary Practice

1. b   2. c   3. d   4. d   5. b

## Listening

### Golden Week

Day of the Week	Holiday	Suggested Activity
• <u>Monday</u>	• <u>Constitution Day</u>	• Go to a <u>museum</u>
• <u>Tuesday</u>	• <u>Greenery Day</u>	• Visit a park
• <u>Wednesday</u>	• <u>Children's Day</u>	• Take pictures • Buy rice cakes
• <u>Thursday</u>	• None	• <u>Work</u>

## Comprehension

Season	Holiday	Day of the Holiday	Do people take time off from school or work?
Spring	- <u>Hanami</u>	- <u>March</u> to <u>May</u>	- No
	- <u>Children's Day</u>	- May 5	- <u>Yes</u>
Summer	- Marine Day	- <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday</u> of July	- <u>Yes</u>
	- <u>Obon</u>	- August 13-15	- <u>Yes</u> (but not a national <u>holiday</u> )
Fall	- Vernal Equinox	- In late September	- Yes
	- <u>Health and Sports Day</u>	- <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday</u> in October	- <u>Yes</u>
	- <u>Culture Day</u>	- <u>November 3</u>	- Yes
	- <u>Labor Thanksgiving Day</u>	- November 23	- <u>Yes</u>
Winter	- <u>Emperor's Birthday</u>	- December 23	- <u>Yes</u>
	- New Year's Day	- <u>January 1</u>	- <u>Yes</u>

## Unit 02 The Low Crime Rate of Japan

### Vocabulary Preview

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

### Vocabulary Practice

1. convicted 2. intellectual 3. sword 4. rifle 5. register

### Listening

What is the woman reading?

She is reading about crime rates in Japan.

What is the biggest category of crime?

Bicycle theft is the biggest.

What is another common crime?

Stealing wallets from pockets or purses is the second most common crime.

What are people doing differently in their homes?

People are increasing the security in their homes.

How are they accomplishing this?

They are installing stronger locks on doors and windows. They are also installing more security cameras, window alarms, and car alarms than before.

Are there many shootings?

No. There are more people being stabbed.

### Comprehension

#### Factors Affecting Japan's Crime Rate

 Police

- No court system; police and lawyers determine if a person is guilty or not
- Very strict; 99 % of those arrested are convicted

 Yakuza

- Saw themselves as the second police; made it their job to "keep the streets clean"
- Now they commit more white-collar crimes than violent crimes

 Social Factors

- Collective society; respect for authority and elders
- Shame works as a tool to keep people from breaking rules or laws

 Control of Weapons

- Owning guns is illegal
- Rifles and ceremonial swords must be registered

 Other Factors

- Not all victims of crimes will report them, especially women
- People are increasing personal security; installing stronger locks, alarms, and cameras

# Unit 03 Divorce in Japan

## Vocabulary Preview

1. d   2. f   3. a   4. b   5. e

## Vocabulary Practice

1. a   2. c   3. a   4. b   5. a

## Listening

<b>Problem :</b> Wife wants divorce 	<b>Solution :</b> Fix the relationship 
<b>Sign</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wife doesn't want to <u>spend time</u> with her husband at all</li></ul> <b>Not signs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wife <u>gets</u> her <u>hair</u> done</li><li>• Wife has <u>quiet</u> conversations with the <u>children</u></li></ul>	<b>Good ideas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buy <u>flowers</u> for wife</li><li>• Take wife <u>on trips</u></li></ul> <b>Bad idea</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take wife <u>outside</u> of Japan</li></ul>

## Comprehension

### Timeline of Divorce in Japan

<b>Edo period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under the <i>ie</i> system, a man's family could <u>simply expel</u> his wife.</li></ul>
<b>Meiji period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This was a period of industrialization and <u>urbanization</u>.</li><li>• Social change caused a <u>spike</u> in the divorce rate.</li></ul>
<b>1940s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <i>ie</i> system was <u>abolished</u>.</li><li>• Child <u>custody</u> laws began to favor women.</li></ul>
<b>2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women could claim half of their husband's (<u>retirement</u>) <u>pension</u>.</li><li>• The public expected the divorce rate to <u>spike</u>.</li></ul>

# Unit 04 The Size of Japanese Women

## Vocabulary Preview

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

## Vocabulary Practice

1. intake 2. calories 3. app 4. require 5. elegantly

## Listening

 <b>His Lunch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 cup of <u>rice</u></li><li>• 1 fried <u>egg</u></li><li>• 1 cup of <u>milk</u></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 <u>hot dog</u> with a <u>bun</u></li><li>• 1 <u>banana</u></li></ul>
 <b>Calculate-Eater Results</b>	• <u>800</u> calories for lunch	
 <b>His Exercise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>walk</u> for one hour</li><li>• <u>studying</u> all day</li></ul>	
 <b>Calories Burned</b>	• <u>500</u> calories burned + <u>300</u> calories burned = 800 <u>calories</u> burned	

## Comprehension

### Causes and Effects of Consumption Patterns

**Fewer than one out of twenty-five Japanese women are obese.**

Consume more rice, vegetables, fish, and fruit → Intake less than 2,000 calories per day

Consume small(er) portions → Control daily caloric intake

Walk 2,000 more steps each day → Burn 100 more calories each day

**More than one out of four Western women are obese.**

Consume more meat, sweets, and products with fat → Intake about 2,100 calories per day

Consume large(r) portions → Boost daily caloric intake even more

Use personal cars → Walk less and burn fewer calories

# Unit 05 Otsukare

## Vocabulary Preview

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

## Vocabulary Practice

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

## Listening

What is wrong with the woman?

Why does she work overtime if she does not get paid?

What happened to one person at her company?

Why doesn't the government do something about it?

What is the problem with temporary employees?

She is exhausted because she worked a lot of overtime this month.

She is expected to work a lot.

He went to the hospital because he worked 114 hours of overtime.

They have a hard time setting limit.

They have no legal limits on working too much.

## Comprehension

### Inemuri



- means “sleeping while present”
- is not looked down on by employers
- follows certain rules:
  - The boss and lowest-level employees may engage in it.
  - One must sit up while napping.
  - It must look spontaneous.
  - Workers should seem easy to wake in order to contribute again.

### Karoshi



- means “death caused by overwork or job-related exhaustion”
- was first reported in the media in 1969 but did not get much notice until the 1980s
- led to bad press for the government, so action was taken to fight the amount of overtime put in by employees
- leaves families without financial support
- has resulted in some families filing lawsuits against companies

# Unit 06 Traditional Japanese Foods

## Vocabulary Preview

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

## Vocabulary Practice

1. simmer 2. noodles 3. broth 4. ingredients 5. patron

## Listening

### The Power of Five in Japanese Cuisine

#### Five Colors

- white rice
- black sesame seeds
- yellow eggs
- red meat
- green vegetables

#### Five Senses

- taste
- smell
- sight
- touch
- sound

#### Five Ways

- raw
- steamed
- simmered
- fried
- grilled

## Comprehension

What number is important in Japanese culture?

The number five is important in Japanese culture.

What are three things that are important in traditional Japanese cuisine?

Three things that can be found in traditional Japanese cuisine are color, sense, and ways of cooking.

What religion most influenced Japanese cuisine?

Buddhism most influenced how Japanese food is prepared.

What is the most important staple in Japanese food?

Rice is the most important staple in Japanese food.

Who brought foreign food into Japan?

The wealthy merchant class brought foreign food from Europe.

# Unit 07 Martial Arts in Schools

## Vocabulary Preview

1. c   2. b   3. a   4. g   5. f

## Vocabulary Practice

1. d   2. a   3. b   4. d   5. b

## Listening

### The Law

All public school kids in Japan need to learn martial arts

### What these classes can do:

- Introduce kids to some martial arts
- Teach kids basic moves

### What these classes can't do:

- Teach kids much about Japanese culture
- Turn every kid into a black belt

## Comprehension

Who	Problem	Solution
Schools/ Teachers	Schools don't have <u>facilities</u> .	The schools can choose <u>judo</u> because it doesn't need <u>special equipment</u> .
	Teachers don't have the <u>training</u> .	The government provides <u>training books</u> , DVDs, and <u>training classes</u> .
Parents	Kids might get <u>hurt</u> .	Have classes focus on <u>basic skills</u> , sports <u>manners</u> , and <u>respect</u> for others.

# Unit 08 Whole Person Education

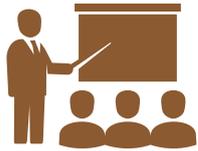
## Vocabulary Preview

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

## Vocabulary Practice

1. emotions 2. tenet 3. classmates 4. lecture 5. absorb

## Listening



### Schooling in the Past

- Methods focus on memorizing facts and skills like reading, writing, and math.
- Teachers provide information through lectures.
- Students sit and listen.



### Whole Person Education

- The method helps the child think creatively and develop problem-solving skills.
- It teaches students how to think and to explore their beliefs.
- It prepares students for figuring out answers to real-world questions in their future lives.
- Teachers are more like friends who help but don't give answers.
- Students work together.

## Comprehension

### The Four Basic Tenets of Whole Person Education

The best way to learn is by doing. Teachers will help guide students toward a possible solution, but they should never give them the answer.

It is important for classmates to work together. Students put their heads together and work with their teachers to answer questions.

Teachers aim to help students understand themselves better. Students have to try to understand their own ideas and emotions.

Students should understand how they interact with the rest of the world and how the world interacts with itself. Instead of learning about facts, students must think about the “big picture.”

# Unit 09 The Suzuki Method

## Vocabulary Preview

1. b   2. f   3. e   4. c   5. d

## Vocabulary Practice

1. d   2. a   3. d   4. b   5. c

## Listening

- The man is going to a piano lesson.
- He has been playing since he was four years old.
- The man's parents thought it was important to begin early.
- They took him to a Suzuki music school, and he has been playing ever since.
- The woman wants to know the secret of the Suzuki Method.
- It's easier for children to learn music than adults.
- Language(s) and music are learned the same way.

## Comprehension

### The Suzuki Method

Children need to listen to good music.

- By listening to good music, they naturally start to pick it up.

The method must be naturally at a young age.

- Young people absorb information much easier than older people.
- The younger a person begins, the easier the process is because the minds of children are like sponges.

Learning music by ear is much better than reading notes on a piece of paper.

- Music should be more about sound and emotion.

Students must practice in groups.

- When playing an instrument, musicians rarely play alone.
- Students can learn from each other.
- Collaboration is more important than competition.

Students must always review the songs they have already learned.

- Since they do not learn how to read music, the children must keep all of the songs in their heads.
- Reviewing simple songs also makes students realize how much they have improved.
- New ways to play previously learned songs can be discovered, which develops musical skill.

# Unit 10 Internet Café Kids

## Vocabulary Preview

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

## Vocabulary Practice

1. counsel 2. tons of 3. exceptional 4. casual 5. gadget

## Listening

Why did the man move out of his parents' house?

Why is it hard for him to find a job?

Where does he work?

Why can't he find an apartment?

Where does the man want to live?

What else does he want?

They told him he was addicted to the Internet.

He just graduated from college.

He works at a convenience store part time.

He does not have a full-time job.

He wants to live in Tokyo.

He wants to look for a job and have freedom to do what he wants.

## Comprehension

### Living in an Internet café

What services do Internet cafés offer?

They offer comfortable chairs that can lay flat, food, showers, drinks, books, movies, microwaves, lockers, and of course, the Internet.

Why do some young people become "Freeters?"

Kids rebel when their parents tried to enroll them in "Internet fasting camps."

Due to economic decline, some job seekers find themselves unemployed and without a place to live.

College graduates may sleep in such cafés because it is so cheap, and they move from café to café each night after working some sort of casual job.

# Unit 11 E-wallets

## Vocabulary Preview

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

## Vocabulary Practice

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

## Listening

How did the man pay for his meal?

Why does he like it?

Is it safe to use? Why?

What does his friend need to do to use an e-wallet?

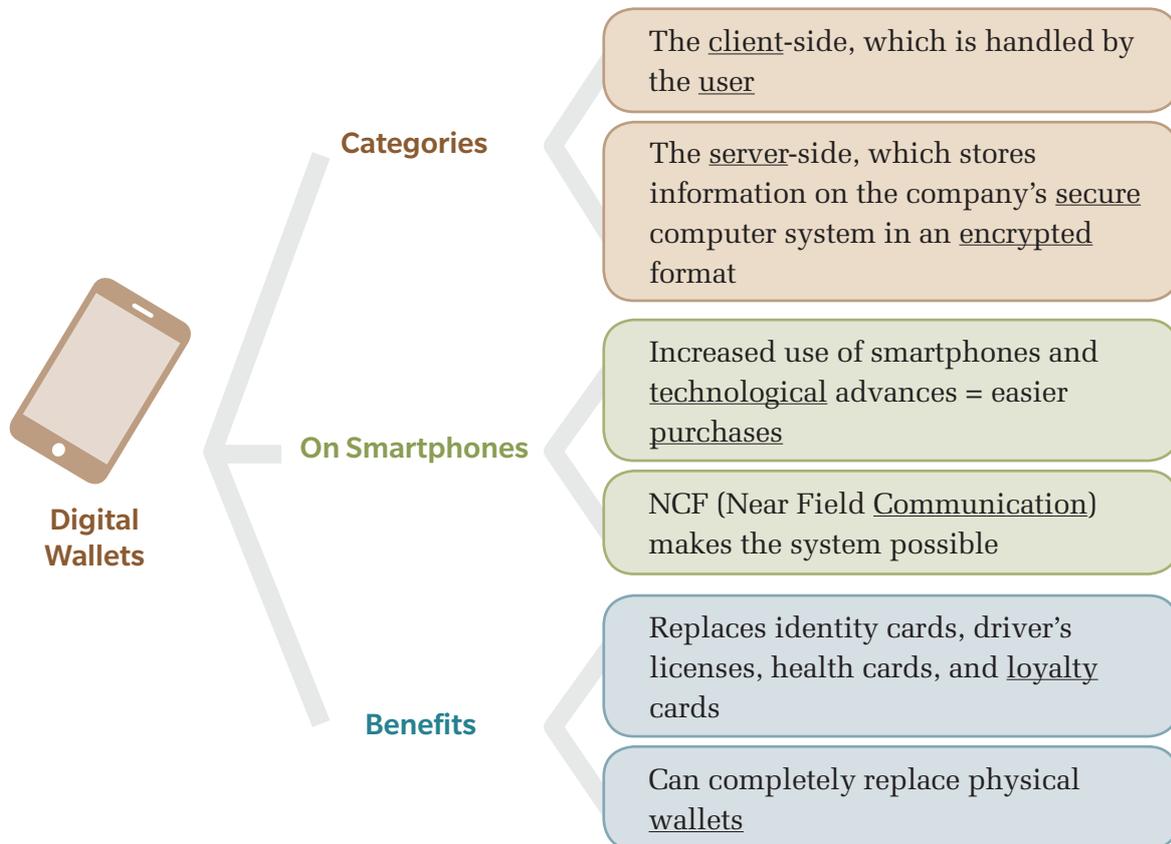
He paid with his e-wallet.

He can make an online purchase or buy something at a store.

Yes. There is technology to encrypt the information.

He needs to have a smartphone. Then he can download the software. Next, he must enter his information.

## Comprehension



# Unit 12 The Space Program

## Vocabulary Preview

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

## Vocabulary Practice

1. device 2. establish 3. mission 4. aboard 5. coordinate

## Listening



- Name: Naoko Yamazaki
- Job: a female astronaut in Japan's space program



- Visited the International Space Station
- Has retired in order to continue her studies (in engineering)



- 1996: began working for the National Space Development Agency
- 1999: was selected as a candidate to visit the ISS

## Comprehension

1950s

- 1955: The NAL is established along with the Akita Rocket Testing Center.

1960s

- 1964: The ISAS is founded in the University of Tokyo.
- 1969: NASDA is established with centers in Tanegashima, Kodaira, Mitaka; a satellite tracking station is built in Okinawa.

1980s

- 1985: NASDA begins the process for selecting Japanese astronauts.
- 1988: Japan signs an international agreement with four other countries to make and operate the International Space Station.

1990s

- 1997: The first Japanese astronaut walks in space.
- 1999: Three astronauts, including one female astronaut, are selected by NASDA as candidates to visit the ISS.

2000s

- 2003: The ISAS, NAL, and NASDA merge to form JAXA (Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency.)
- 2009: Japan sends its first astronaut on a long-stay mission on the ISS.

2010s

- 2012: The fourth Japanese astronaut to complete a long-stay mission aboard the ISS returns to Earth.

# Unit 13 Idol Groups

## Vocabulary Preview

1. a    2. c    3. f    4. e    5. d

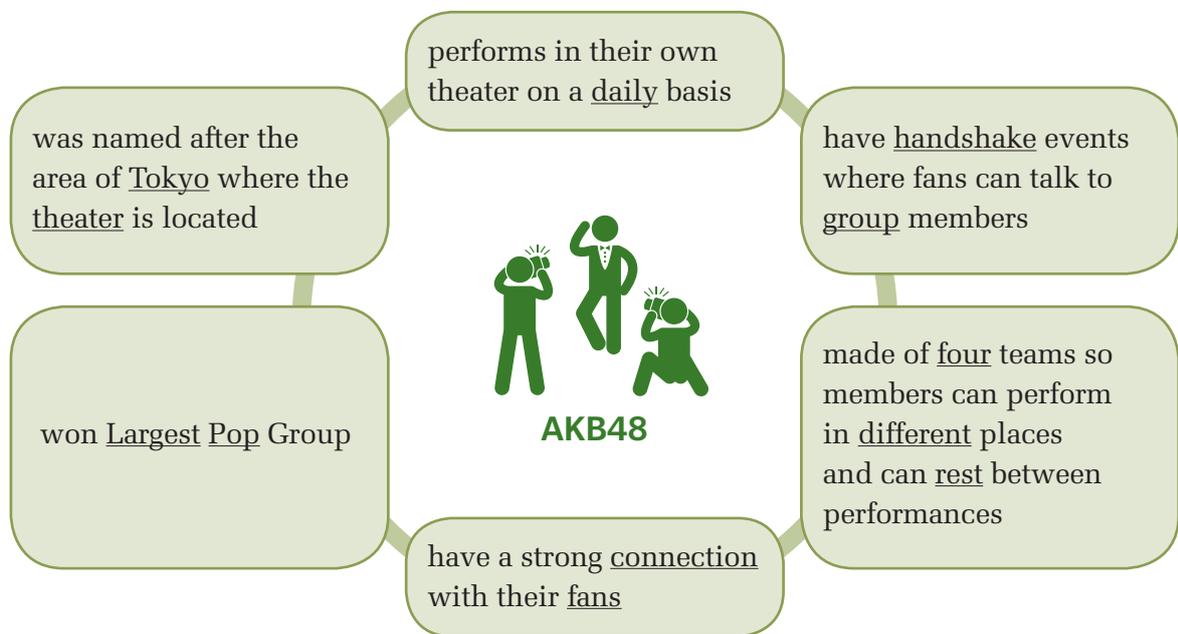
## Vocabulary Practice

1. b    2. c    3. b    4. c    5. a

## Listening

What is the woman listening to?	She is listening to a new <u>single</u> from the J-pop <u>phenomenon</u> AKB48.
How many teams are there?	There are <u>four</u> teams, and they each have their own <u>theme</u> .
What did the woman wish she could do?	She wanted to <u>audition</u> for the group.
Why does she like them?	Their music is <u>catchy</u> and fun. They are <u>entertaining</u> to watch. They really <u>connect</u> with their fans.
When will she see them in concert?	She will go <u>next week</u> .
Why are they so popular?	They are <u>approachable</u> .
What can fans learn about them?	Fans can learn about their measurements, blood types, favorite <u>foods</u> , and <u>hobbies</u> .

## Comprehension



# Unit 14 Taboo Tattoos

## Vocabulary Preview

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

## Vocabulary Practice

1.resort 2.tattoo 3.elaborate 4.insert 5.gang

## Listening

What is the man doing?	He is looking at <u>tattoos</u> online.
Where will he not be allowed to go if he gets a tattoo?	He will not be allowed to go to <u>hot springs, resorts, or fitness gyms</u> .
Who are tattoos associated with?	They are associated with the <u>yakuza</u> , or Japanese <u>gangs</u> .
What myth about tattoos does the woman believe?	She believes that an MRI makes tattoos <u>explode</u> .
Why does the man want a tattoo?	He wants a tattoo so that he can <u>express</u> himself.
What kind of tattoo does he want?	He wants a tattoo with <u>cherry blossoms</u> .
Will the man get a tattoo this week?	<u>No</u> .

## Comprehension

 <p>The word "<u>tattoo</u>"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The word in Japanese is "irezumi"</li><li>• The word means to "<u>insert</u> ink."</li></ul>
 <p>The history of tattoos</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People in Japan may have begun tattooing <u>12,000</u> years ago during the Jomon period.</li><li>• They tattooed their bodies for <u>spiritual</u> reasons or to show social status.</li><li>• Around 1,500 years ago, tattoos were used to mark <u>criminals</u>.</li><li>• During the Edo period, criminals tried covering their tattoos with <u>elaborate</u> designs, so the government <u>outlawed</u> tattoos completely.</li><li>• In the <u>1940s</u>, the ban against tattoos was lifted, but they still weren't popular.</li></ul>
 <p>Tattoos today</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tattoos are associated with members of the yakuza or <u>mafia</u>.</li><li>• People with visible tattoos are not allowed in some places like public baths, gyms, restaurants, or <u>resorts</u>.</li><li>• Business may refuse to hire people with tattoos or <u>terminate</u> employees who get tattoos.</li></ul>

# Unit 15 The Business of Cosplay

## Vocabulary Preview

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

## Vocabulary Practice

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

## Listening



### Special Studio Rental

- When: every Wednesday in the month of July
- How much: 25% off the regular price
- What: - one hour use of the studio  
- use of fantasy backgrounds  
- use of props as well



### Business Card Printing

- When: any time (regular price)
- How much: ¥3,000 for 100 cards
- What: - up to five different designs  
- advice from staff to design cards

## Comprehension

### The Cosplay Industry

#### Events:

- Cosplayers buy tickets to events across Japan and in other countries.
- Fans can buy tickets to shows with singing Cosplay idols in them.

#### Cosplay photos:

- Cosplayers make their own videos and photobooks to sell.
- Studios have special backgrounds so that Cosplayers can set up photos of themselves.
- Photos can be used on business cards, and studios offer special deals for Cosplayers who want to make cards for all of the characters that they play.

#### Cosplay costumes:

- mass-produced outfits and accessories = ¥5,000 for an average costume.
- custom-made outfit = over ¥20,000 for a costume
- Cosplay costumes for characters like schoolgirls, maids, nurses, police, and firemen are more popular than superhero costumes.