

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

- October 16 ~ Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba
The Movie "Infinity Train" PG 12
Japanese
- March 19 ~ Tom and Jerry
English
- March 26 ~ Monster Hunter
English
- March 26 ~ Nomadland
English
- April 9 ~ Freaky R15+
English
- April 29 ~ Black Widow
English

Due to the new coronavirus infection, movies might be changed without notice. So please check the homepage for information.

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>
Tape (24 hrs) : 050-6868-5019 (in Japanese)



This newsletter is published by SGG, a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in Niihama. If you need any advice, information, or support, please contact SGG. SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions, or ideas for monthly articles.

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Online Information in English from Niihama City



☆ Garbage Rules in English:

How to sort and put out your trash and garbage"

☆ What's New? in English



☆ Multilingual Living Information from Clair:

<http://www.clair.or.jp.tagengorev/en/>

*The editor for this month is Taeko Oishi.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

「カタカナ語」の使い方

A : AKB って、まだ ^{うた}歌って いるよね。

AKB tte, mada utatte iruyo ne.
(AKB has been still singing, hasn't it?)

B : そうだね。人気の ある 子は みんな やめたのにね。

Sōda ne. Ninki no aru ko wa minna yameta noni ne.
(Yes, it has. Although all the popular singers among them quit.)

A : きっと コアな ファンが いるんじゃない？

Kitto koa na fan ga irun ja nai?
(Certainly there must be hardcore fans, right?)

B : そうか。かなり マニアックだよ。

Sōka. Kanari maniakku da yo ne.
(Oh, right. They are fairly maniac.)



A : きのう、ドタキャンして ごめんなさい。

Kinō, dotakyan shite gomennasai.
(I'm sorry I canceled on you just before our meeting time yesterday.)

B : しかたないよ。急に ^{きゆう}熱が ^{ねつ}でたんだもの。もう ^{げんき}元気に なった？

Shikatanai yo. Kyū ni netsu ga detan da mono. Mō genki ni natta?
(You had no choice. You suddenly got a fever. Are you better now?)

A : まだ、100パーセントじゃないけど、もう 大丈夫。

Mada, hyaku pāsento ja nai kedo, mō daijōbu.
(No, I'm not 100 per cent yet, but I'm alright.)

B : それは よかった。この ^いあいだ ^{えいが}言ってた ^い映画、いつ 行く？

Sore wa yokatta. Kono aida itteta ēga, itsu iku?
(That's good. When are we going to see the movie we were talking about the other day?)

A : ^{こんしゅう}今週は、スケジュールが タイトだから、^{らいしゅう}来週なら 行けるよ。

Konshū wa sukejūru ga taito dakara, raishū nara ikeru yo.
(My schedule is tight this week, but I can go next week.)

B : ^{らいしゅう}じゃ、来週 行こう。Ja, raishū ikō.

(Then, let's go next week.)



< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama. Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki). e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp

What's New?

Niihama City

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Bamboo shoots harvested in April are said to be the king of spring taste.

Bamboo Magic

Stuart Varnam Atkin

I didn't grow up surrounded by bamboo groves or bamboo items, so for a long time the opening of *Taketori Monogatari* struck me as very strange. Why did the tiny heavenly maiden appear inside a stalk of bamboo? The fact that bamboo is hollow was obviously one reason, but relying on an old woodcutter to chop open the bamboo with his axe seemed a rather dangerous way to reveal yourself! Then I learned about the ancient belief in bamboo's mystical properties and also the plant's spectacular grow rate, which explained the girl's rapid development.

Recently, on a beach in Chiba, I found a long piece of slightly curved bamboo with roots still attached. It was bleached white by the sunlight and polished smooth by the sea. It made a perfect walking staff, strong and pleasant to the touch, and reminded me of Prospero's magic staff in Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*. I decided it was too beautiful to leave on the beach and carried it home with me. Now I'm waiting for the day when it suddenly starts glowing and I can cut it open to reveal a heavenly maiden, or even a mermaid....On second thoughts, maybe no hope!

Bamboo

(from Trad Japan)

A stand of bamboo thrusts upwards towards the sky. The stems are slender and elegant, their surface a vibrant fresh green, the leaves rustling softly in the breeze.

For people in Japan, the beautiful colour and gentle whisper of bamboo have a special place in their hearts.

Because it is so light, strong and easy to work, bamboo makes a very versatile material. Since ancient times, it has played a central role in people's lives in Japan.

These baskets are for displaying flower arrangements. Bamboo's innate flexibility is put to superb use in weaving these elegant forms.



The walls of many houses in Kyoto have low curving fences known as *inu-yarai*, which protect the walls and stop them from getting splattered with mud. They make a graceful addition to these traditional street scenes.

Shishi-odoshi are lengths of bamboo that slowly fill with water and then empty out, making a knocking sound. In the past, they were used to scare away animals and birds, but now people just like the rhythmic sound.

Bamboo grows very rapidly, with some species gaining a meter or more per day. Because of its remarkable vitality and strength, the people of ancient Japan revered bamboo as having mysterious powers.

The *Tanabata Festival* is celebrated on July the seventh. On this day, people write their wishes for the future on slips of paper and tie them to bamboo branches. It's believed that ancestral spirits which dwell inside the bamboo leaves will make these wishes come true.

In November, shrine across Japan hold festivals called *Tori-no-Ichi*. Many people come to buy bamboo rakes adorned with models of objects of great value. Rakes are tools used for gathering things together, whether in cleaning up the yard or working in the fields. Eventually, they came to symbolize the wish to rake in good fortune as well. These decorative rakes are considered important amulets that bring success in business.

To this day, bamboo is still considered a symbol of good fortune and it features in many celebrations and rituals.





Japanese Calligraphy Scripts


Noella Monteiro


Like the alphabet has BLOCK, *cursive* and *italic* styles, Kanji also has several styles. Here I want to introduce the 2 ancient styles and then the 5 main styles we see today (using the kanji for 'heart' 'こころ' '心').




 **甲骨文字 Kokotsu Moji (Oracle Bone Script)** - is the earliest form of Kanji known. It was used on animal bones or turtle shells used in divination in the late 2nd millennium BC. It was made up of simple thin lines being carved into bone or shell with a sharp tool.


 **金文 Kinbun (Bronze Inscription script)** - was found on ancient Chinese gong bells and cauldrons from the 2nd millennium BC to the 11th-3rd century BC. These early bronze inscriptions were usually cast, from a clay mold, or later engraved after the bronze was cast. As the script was written with brush and ink before engraving the mold or bronze, in contrast to earlier bone script, this script was curvy and had more visual impact.


 **篆書 Tensho (Seal script)** - was the style that then evolved though it was the short-lived standard before the use of paper. It was written (engraved) on wood or stone and literally translates as 'decorative engraving' script. The demerit of its beauty was that it was a time-consuming, painstaking way to write. Nowadays it is used only on seals.


 **隸書 Reisho (Clerical script)** - evolving from Tensho as a less time-consuming, more practical style, the structure and uniformity of its horizontal rectangular wide style meant it was more reader-friendly and so it was adopted for official documentation and stone monument inscriptions. The eventual development of paper led to its decline in fields other than calligraphy, though it may still be used in headlines or signboards. It is used in Sumo and Kabuki even now, as its 'filled-in' 'lack-of-void-space' style was seen to be symbolic of a packed audience with no empty seats.

 **楷書 Kaisho (Regular script)** - this style evolved in the 5th century and is used to this day in all official documents and educational facilities. Because of its clarity it is the

most foreigner-friendly script. It consists of accurately written tall or square kanji. Variations in how to write are also few and easy to remember and master for Japanese, foreigners and calligraphers alike.

 **行書 Gyosho (Semi-cursive script)** - This style developed from Reisho and like *alphabet cursive*, was an abbreviated writing style with disconnections or connections between lines, and variation in the ink consistency. This disordered style is hard to read if you don't know your kanji well, but it is common in everyday handwritten Japanese and being able to master it makes you a 'skilled writer'.

 **草書 Soso (Cursive script)** - This is an even more disordered style than Gyosho, and parts may even be omitted in this style making it the fastest to write and hardest to read even for Japanese people. It is similar to western alphabet shorthand. It is now used only in calligraphy, where it is revered for its flowing beauty.

 You can see the above mentioned script styles at temples and shrines across Japan, as well as on gravestones. They are also used on product labels, storefront signs, flags, posters, nameplates, crockery, in anime and of course on touristy T-shirts.



Noella came to Toyo as an ALT and has experience teaching at nursery schools, elementary schools and junior high schools. She is a car, boat and private plane license holder. When she's not taking pictures of, or climbing Mt. Ishizuchi, she runs marathons, does aerial yoga, does Japanese calligraphy, learns and teaches figure skating.

April Events

- ☆ 4 / 3 (Sat) 4 (Sun) Niihama Sakura Festival
11:30~20:00 Kokuryō River (riverside area)
- ☆ 4 / 25 (Sun) Sansan Market
9:00~13:00 Noborimichi Arcade

Many kinds of local foods: fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, and processed foods for sale.