

What's New?

Niihama City

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Learning Japanese

Ken Ellis

At school I spent 5 years learning French. My teacher gave up on me and told me I will never be good at French, but fortunately, with much good luck I did manage to pass my final examination. But I have had trouble with languages ever since that time.

Since I first began travelling in foreign countries, I have always been interested and tried to learn a few words, both as a way of filling in time between sight-seeing and also as a way of getting friendly with the natives and familiar with the culture of the country.

My first exciting country was Germany and I spent two years in my spare time learning elementary German, alas my next holiday was in Spain so I then spent hours at home learning Spanish. I have also tried learning Arabic, Greek among others and more recently Chinese, Vietmanese, Korean and finally Japanese, Needless to say I am hopeless at speaking any of these languages -- apart from "Hello" and "Thank you".

With Japanese I struck a real challenge !!!!! Here was a language with four ways of writing and as many different words for the same thing as English. I have now been to Japan many times and have been learning on and off for 5 years !! yet I can barely get past "Hello, Thank you & Goodbye". The Challenge is still there!!!!

Some Kanji are like English vowels eg [下] has at least 9 ways of saying-depending on it's neighbours (Ka,Ge,shita,shimo,moto,kuda,sa,o,he) eg as in TEIKA GESHA, kawashimo, kudasaru, sagaru, oriru, heta !!!!!etc. -----

---A lot worse pronunciation problem than any English vowel eg 'a' -- as in 'cat' or as in 'father' !!!! or maybe pronounced in a diphthong in 'coarse', 'earth' etc.

By learning Kanji one appreciates the significance of words and a lot of the cultural background of Japan ---

For instance the kanji of 'standing-on-top-of-a-tree-looking' [親] obviously implies parent watching children maybe!!! So its use in 親切 makes a bit of sense to mebut why the cutting bit.....切る !!!!

Also 好き-- hopefully the woman likes the child so we have [好き -like]. Many I am still trying to work out eg BENTOU[弁当 -lunchbox]. According to my kanji book BEN [弁] means "speech, know, valve" and TOU [当] means "apply, hit mark". You need a lot of imagination to get to lunch box from any combination of these meanings.-----Maybe I should get a better dictionary ???????

[A friend proof-reading my draft gave me a clue ---BEN is an abbreviation of BENRI[便利] - convenient, Hit-the- mark may be OK -- In English if you really need food we sometimes say "that hit the spot" ie it was just what I needed !!! I suppose the change of Kanji was a way of making writing easier ??? This explanation is interesting but maybe not true.

That leads to another interesting facet of Japanese ---- the tendency to shorten words like depaato, apaato, setto, I only recognize a few of these in Katakana, some readings are a whole mystery working out what the katakana words mean even though most are derived from English words !!

A classic I learnt today.....スマホ

Learning Kanji is the real challenge -- I am up to 3rd grade 小学校 but I find them difficult to remember. I am always gratified when I ask a Japanese person how to write a particular Kanji and they have to look it up in their 電子辞書!!!! It makes me realize that even Japanese people have difficulties with at least one aspect of the language !!!!

Maybe there is hope for me yet ???????

Ken Ellis lives in Australia, but visit Niihama very often. He likes travelling and having new experiences. He likes learning especially difficult Kanji!!

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

| | | |
|--------------|--|----------------|
| September 1 | ~ SAFE HOUSE | English |
| September 14 | ~ RESIDENT EVIL : RETRIBUTION 2D,3D | English/Dubbed |
| September 15 | ~ FINDING NEMO 3D | Dubbed |
| September 28 | ~ THE BOURNE LEGACY | English/Dubbed |
| September 28 | ~ HUNGER GAMES | English/Dubbed |
| October 6 | ~ DR.SEUSS THE LORAX 2D, 3D | Dubbed |
| October 12 | ~ THE RAVEN | English |
| October 20 | ~ THE EXPENDABLES 2 | English/Dubbed |

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice, so please check beforehand.



<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.
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*The editors for this month are K. Kawabata & Y. Miki.

Workshop for Supporting Foreign Residents in times of Disaster

Held by EPIC (Ehime Prefecture International Association)

EPIC is supporting foreign residents in many ways, aiming to promote a multi-cultural society where both foreign residents and Japanese can lead safe and stable lives.

When a disaster hits, foreign residents may have difficulty getting accurate information.

This workshop is being held to study how best to support foreign residents.

Please join this workshop.

3.11 Our Disaster

Why not study the problems, which face foreign residents and learn how we can cope with these problems and resolve them.

<In Matsuyama>

Time: 2012 November 16 Fri. 14:00-16:30

Place: COMS 5F big meeting room

Matsuyama-shi 3-bancho 6-4-20 TEL 089-943-5776

To apply: EPIC

TEL 089-917-5678 FAX 089-917-5670

E-mail ito@epic.or.jp

<In Niihama>

Time: 2012 November 17 Sat. 10:00-12:30

Place: Fureai Plaza 2F study room 1

Niihama-shi Takagi-cho 2-60 TEL 0897-35-2940

To apply: shimin-katsudo-suisin-ka of Niihama (Citizen's Dept.)

TEL 0897-65-1218 FAX 0897-65-1255

E-mail siminkatsudo@city.niihama.ehime.jp

How to apply

Provide your name, address and phone number.

Please come by public transportation as both venues have limited parking capacity.

You can read on the Web.

***What's New?**

***Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

***Information living in Niihama**

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

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

OCTOBER EVENTS

< Niihama Taiko Festival Oct.16-18 > Ojoin area Oct.15-17

Main performance

16(Tue) 18:00-20:00 *10 taikos at M2 Ojoin

Jobu area Oct.16-18

Main performance

17(Wed) 12:00-15:30 *15 taikos at Yamane

Kawahigashi and Kawanishi area Oct.16-18

Main performance

17(Wed) 10:00-12:00 *9 taikos at Ikku Shrine

17(Wed) 16:00-19:00 *15 taikos in front of Takihama Station

18(Thu) 8:00-9:30 *9 taikos at Oe hama

18(Thu) 14:00-19:00 *15 taikos at Hachiman Shrine

Exploring Restaurants: Surprising

Niihama No.10

Awata Udon.

by Michael Newlin

Many people say that you have to go to Kagawa for good udon. However, there is a very good udon option right here in Niihama: **Awata Udon**. They create a very special broth using local small fish (Iriko) and carefully measure and control the salt level to ensure a truly tasty broth. The noodles are very special too: They are made from 100% Hokkaido flour and have an amazing texture. I recommend starting with the Awata udon special which comes with six toppings for an amazing taste. Directions: Leaving Marunaka on Showa-dori, turn left, turn right at the first light and it is 3 blocks down on the right side. Phone: 0897-32-4800.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“おススメ”

(レストランで At a restaurant)

店員：ご注文は お決まりですか。Gochūmon wa okimari desuka.

(Have you decided on your order?)

客：えーと、今日の おススメは 何ですか。

Eeto, kyō no osusume wa nan desu ka.

(Umm, what's today's special?)

店員：和風ハンバーグで ございます。Wafū hambāgu de gozaimasu.

(It's a Japanese style hamburger steak.)

客：じゃ、それをお願いします。Ja, sore o onegaishimasu.

(OK, I'll take that.)

A：もうすぐ お祭りですね。

Mōsugu omatsuri desu ne.

(The festival is soon, isn't it?)

B：ええ。どこか おススメの 場所は ありませんか。

Ee. Dokoka osusume no basho wa arimasen ka.

(Yes. Do you have a place to recommend?)

A：うーん、やっぱり 山根グランドの かきくらべかなあ。

Uun, yappari Yamane gurando no kakikurabe ka nā.

(Let's see... Well, the competition at Yamane ground, I suppose.)

C：一宮神社の 桟敷席で ゆっくり見物するのも いいですよ。

Ikkujinja no sajikiseki de yukkuri kenbutsu suru no mo i desu yo.

(The reserved grandstand seats at Ikku Shrine are also good.)

A：来月、20人くらいで パーティーを するんですが、どこか
おススメの 店を 教えてください。

Raigetsu, nijū nin kurai de pāti o surun desu ga, doko ka
osusume no mise o oshiete kudasai.

(Next month we are going to have a party for about 20 people;
could you tell me a restaurant you would recommend?)

B：そうですねえ、メンバーは？ Sō desu nē, menbā wa?

(Let's see... Who's going?)

A：若い人ばかりです。Wakai hito bakari desu.

(It's all young people.)

B：それじゃあ、安くて 美味しい “ABC” なんか どうですか？

Sore jā, yasukute oishi “ABC” nan ka dō desu ka.

(Then, how about “ABC” – it's inexpensive and tasty?)

和・洋・中・イタリアン、何でも あるし。

Wa · Yō · Chū · Itarian, nan demo aru shi.

(They have everything: Japanese, Western, Chinese, and
Italian dishes...)

< 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