

Let's Visit: Japan

Intermediate (B1-B2)



WARM UP

Part 1. Discuss the following questions.

1. Have you ever been to Japan?
2. What's the first thing you think of when you hear "Japan"?
3. Do you prefer exploring big cities or peaceful countryside?
4. Would you like to experience a culture very different from your own? Why or why not?

Part 2. How much do you know about Japan? Test your knowledge!

1. What is the capital of Japan?
2. What currency is used?
3. What is Japan's famous high-speed train called?
4. Name one of Japan's most famous mountains.
5. What does 'hanami' mean?



VIDEO ACTIVITY & PICTURE MATCHING

Part 1. Watch a short video showing different places and things in Japan. After watching, answer the questions.

1. Name three things that stood out to you.
2. Which scene looked most inviting?
3. Would you prefer to visit Japan in spring, summer, autumn, or winter? Why?

Part 2. Look at some of Japan's famous places and landmarks below. Match the name to the picture.

Mount Fuji

Fushimi Inari Shrine

Tokyo Tower

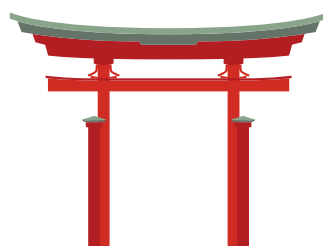
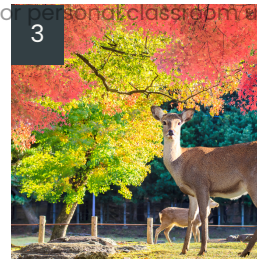
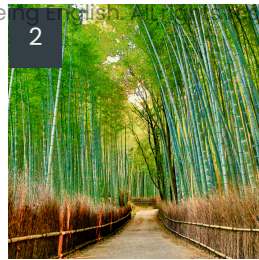
Arashiyama Bamboo Grove

Itsukushima Shrine

Shibuya Crossing

Nara Deer Park

Himeji Castle



Part 3. Match each place or landmark to the correct description.

Mount Fuji

Fushimi Inari Shrine

Tokyo Tower

Arashiyama Bamboo Grove

Itsukushima Shrine

Shibuya Crossing

Nara Deer Park

Himeji Castle

1. _____ A shrine in Kyoto, famous for thousands of bright red gates leading up a forested hill.
2. _____ Japan's tallest mountain with a snow-capped peak, loved by hikers and photographers.
3. _____ A "floating" red gate standing in the sea near Hiroshima.
4. _____ A beautiful white castle from Japan's samurai era, perfectly preserved.
5. _____ A tall red and white tower with great views over Tokyo's skyline.
6. _____ A peaceful bamboo grove walkway in Kyoto.
7. _____ A park where friendly deer wander freely and sometimes bow to visitors.
8. _____ The world's busiest pedestrian crossing in the heart of Tokyo.

Part 4. Discuss the following questions.

1. Which place would you most like to see?
2. What activities would you do there?
3. Would you focus more on cities, nature, or culture?



Part 5. Look at some of Japan's famous food below. Match the name to the picture.

Sushi

Ramen

Tempura

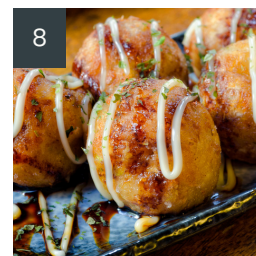
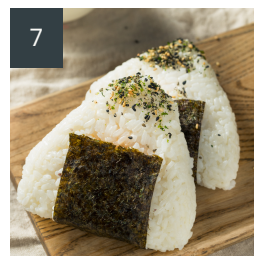
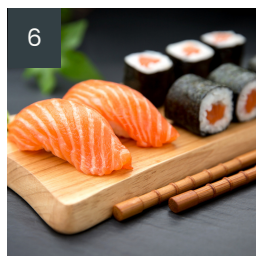
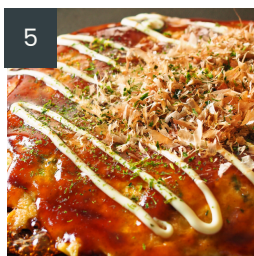
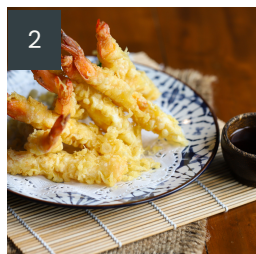
Okonomiyaki

Takoyaki

Onigiri

Miso Soup

Mochi



Part 6. Match each dish to the correct description.

1. _____ Sweet rice cake made from glutinous rice.
2. _____ Vinegared rice with raw fish or seafood.
3. _____ Rice ball with filling, wrapped in seaweed.
4. _____ Soup made with fermented soybean paste.
5. _____ Savoury pancake with cabbage and toppings.
6. _____ Battered and deep-fried seafood or vegetables.
7. _____ Noodle soup with broth, meat, and vegetables.
8. _____ Fried octopus balls with sauce and bonito flakes.

Part 7. Discuss the following questions.

1. Which dishes would you like to try?
2. Are any familiar to you already?
3. How does Japanese food compare to food in your country?

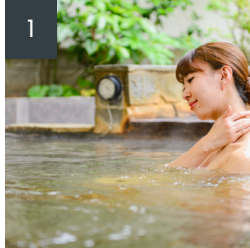
Part 8. Look at the pictures of Japan's culture. Match each cultural aspect to the correct picture.

Omotenashi

Bowing & Shoes Off

Seasons Matter

Onsen Etiquette



Part 9. Match each cultural aspect to its correct description.

1. _____ Thoughtful, anticipatory hospitality.
2. _____ Bathing rules, tattoos sometimes restricted.
3. _____ Hanami (cherry blossom), autumn leaves, seasonal food.
4. _____ Everyday respect and cleanliness.

Part 10. Discuss the following questions.

1. What's the best service you've had?
2. Where do you remove shoes in your culture?
3. Which season is best for travel?
4. Would you try an onsen?

READING ACTIVITY

Part 1. Read this dialogue between two travellers who recently visited Japan.

Daniel: So... Japan. Did it live up to the hype?

Sophie: Absolutely. It was like stepping into another world. The mix of neon-lit cities and serene temples was just picture-perfect.

Daniel: I felt the same. Tokyo was a whirlwind, but Kyoto was a moment to savour. Remember the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove? I could've stayed there all afternoon.

Sophie: And Nara Deer Park! Those deer were so friendly. I wasn't expecting them to bow back at me – that caught me completely off guard.

Daniel: My highlight was Mount Fuji. We got such a clear view – worth every penny of the train ride out there.

Sophie: I think mine was Fushimi Inari Shrine. Walking through all those red gates felt almost magical.

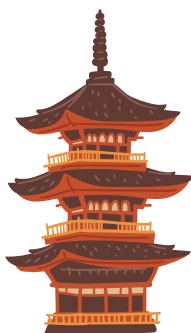
Daniel: The food didn't disappoint either. Sushi, okonomiyaki, even takoyaki in Osaka – every bite was spot-on.

Sophie: And the people... so polite. I felt like every little interaction mattered. It made me slow down and appreciate things more.

Daniel: Same here. Japan has this way of making you notice the details. Definitely one for the memory bank

Part 2. Answer the questions below based on the dialogue.

1. What contrast did Sophie notice between Japan's cities and temples?
2. Which place in Kyoto did Daniel describe as "a moment to savour"?
3. What surprised Sophie in Nara Deer Park?
4. Which landmark was Daniel's highlight, and why?
5. How did visiting Japan affect Sophie's pace of life?



Part 3. Match the expression to its meaning.

Live up to the hype

Picture-perfect

A moment to savour

Caught off guard

Worth every penny

One for the memory bank

1. _____ Completely worth the cost.
2. _____ An experience to enjoy slowly.
3. _____ To surprise someone
4. _____ Something to remember fondly.
5. _____ As good as people say.
6. _____ Visually beautiful.

Part 4. Discuss the following questions.

1. Has a trip you've taken ever **lived up to the hype**?
2. Describe somewhere **picture-perfect** you've been.
3. What's **a moment to savour** from your travels?
4. Have you done something that was **worth every penny**?
5. What's **one for the memory bank** from your life?

FINAL THOUGHTS...

Part 1. Discuss the questions below to reflect on what you've learnt during this lesson.

1. Would you prefer to explore modern or traditional Japan?
2. How important is food in your travel plans?
3. Would you enjoy travelling somewhere with a very different culture?

