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from experienced teachers

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Ready, Set, NihonGO!

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Please let us know what you think of *Ready, Set, NihonGO!* What kinds of articles would you like to see? Is the Japanese text too hard? Too easy?

We would really love to publish your articles, too!

Short, long, or anything in between. Here are some ideas:

- ♦ Why do you study Japanese? How do you keep up your motivation?
- ♦ What do you like best about learning online?
- ♦ What surprised you most the first time you visited Japan?
- ♦ If you could change one thing about the Japanese language, what would you choose?
- ♦ Do you think Japanese is vague? Is it difficult?
- ♦ If you've taken the JLPT, which section was easiest? Which was hardest? Any advice for other JLPT students?

Please write us at support@nihongo-pro.com.

なかみ INSIDE



AN OSAKA-BEN CHALLENGE!

There's a whole world beyond "textbook Japanese." Test your Osaka-ben knowledge with Hitoshi Mukai-sensei. [Page 2](#)



SENSATIONAL SUMMER SPAGHETTI

Nothing beats cold pasta on a hot summer day. Chill down with this easy recipe from Yukiko Ishikawa-sensei. [Page 5](#)



THE CALM, COOL JAPANESE

A keyword for Japanese society might be *reisei*—keeping cool under fire. Steve Cooper shares his personal experience. [Page 8](#)



Nihongo-Pro Exclusives

- ✓ Earn free lessons with ProPoints
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これも日本語、地方の言葉【大阪編】

日本の公用語はご存知の通り日本語です。みなさんが勉強している日本語は
共通語と呼ばれるもので、日本のどこでも通じる言葉です。それとは別に日本の
各地方で違った言葉が使われています。これを方言(〇〇弁)といいます。

今日は私の故郷、大阪の代表的な方言を試験形式で紹介します。
題して、「大阪弁能力試験」、ODPT (Osaka Dialect Proficiency Test) !



MUKAI Hitoshi
Nihongo-Pro Teacher

これが出来ればあなたも大阪オタクの仲間入り！満点目指して挑戦してみてください。

【問題】 A～Dの共通語と同じ意味の大阪弁を(1)～(4)から選びなさい。

ex. 来ない → (0) けえへん

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| A. たいへんだ | (1) ほかす |
| B. とても | (2) えらいこっちゃ |
| C. すてる | (3) なんぼ |
| D. いくら | (4) めっちゃ |

【解答と解説】

A. たいへんだ ⇒ (2) えらいこっちゃ

「さいふを落として、えらいこっちゃ」(さいふを落として、たいへんだ)

※困った時、たいへんな時に使いましょう。

B. とても ⇒ (4) めっちゃ

「この花、めっちゃきれいやん」(この花、とてもきれいですね)

※大阪人はめっちゃを連呼します。めっちゃおいしい、めっちゃこわい etc.

ちなみに語尾には、「やん」をつけることが多いです。

(Continued from page 2)

C. **すてる** ⇒ (1) **ほかす**

「このゴミ**ほかし**といて」(このゴミ、おもすてておいて)

※多くの大阪人が「**ほかす**」は共通語だと思っていますが、他の地域では**ほ**ほか**す**ちいきは**ほ**つうじません。

D. **いくら** ⇒ (3) **なんぼ**

「このいちご、**なんぼ**なん？」(このいちご、ばあいいくらぎもんなの？)

※この場合の語尾「**なん**」は、疑問を表します。「**なんなん**？」＝(なんですか？)

じょうきゅうへん

上級編としては、「**なんでやねん**」があります。

「**どうしてなの**」「**なぜなの**」という意味の他に、つまらない(**しょーもない**)ギャグを言った時の合あの手として使われます。あなたの友達ともだちが、**しょーもない**ことを言ったら、「**なんでやねん**！」と突っ込つっこんであげましょう！

ここまで読んでくれて**おおきに**！**ほな**、**さいなら**。

(ここまで読んでくれてありがとう！では、さようなら。)

えいやく

英訳 ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Japan's official language is, as you know, Japanese. The Japanese that everyone studies —*kyootsuugo* ("shared language")—is understood anywhere in Japan. Each region in Japan uses different words and phrases as well, called *hoogen* (or such-and-such-*ben*) ("regional dialect").

Today I'd like to introduce you to the *hoogen* that represents my hometown Osaka (*Osaka-ben*), by way of a test. Let's call it the Osaka Dialect Proficiency Test (ODPT)! If you can pass it, count yourself in the Osaka fan club. Please give it a try and aim for a perfect score!

Question

Choose the *Osaka-ben* (1 through 4) that has the same meaning as the *kyoutsuugo* (A through D).

Answers and Explanations

A. **たいへんだ** ⇒ (2) **えらいこっちゃ**

「おさいいふを落として、**えらいこっちゃ**」(さいふを落として、**たいへんだ**) *Darn it, I lost my wallet.*

※ Use **えらいこっちゃ** when you have problems or difficulty.

B. **とても** ⇒ (4) **めっちゃ**

「この花はな、**めっちゃ**きれいやん」(この花、とてもきれいですね) *What a pretty flower.*

※ People in Osaka use **めっちゃ** all the time. **めっちゃ**おいしい (yummy), **めっちゃ**こわい (really scary), etc. **やん** is often added to the end.

(Continued on page 4)

C. **すてる** ⇒ (1) **ほかす**

「このゴミ**ほかし**といて」(このゴミ、**すてて**おいて) *Throw this trash out.*

※ Most people in Osaka think **ほかす** is *kyootsuugo* (standard Japanese), but in fact it is hardly understood in other regions.

D. **いくら** ⇒ (3) **なんぼ**

「このいちご、**なんぼ**なん？」(このいちご、**いくら**なの?)

How much for these strawberries?

※ Here, the **なん** at the end represents a question. 「**なんなん**？」= (なんですか?) (What is it?)

For the test's advanced edition, there's 「**なんでやねん**」. In addition to the meaning of 「**どうしてなの**」 or 「**なぜなの**」, this is also used as a reply to a lame joke (つまらない(しょーもない)ギャグ). If your friend makes a dumb joke, send it right back with 「**なんでやねん**！」

ここまで読んでくれて**おおきに**！ **ほな**、**さいなら**。

(ここまで読んでくれてありがとう！ **では**、**さようなら**) *Thanks for reading! See you later.*

漢字 Tips for Learning Kanji

- **Write, write, write!** You may never need to write kanji by hand, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't practice writing. Writing kanji is a fast way to learn kanji—and remember them!
- **Read, read, read!** Even if you don't know many kanji, there are free tools to help you read Japanese. [Pop jisyo](#) and [Rikai](#) will pop up the pronunciation and meaning of the word under your mouse. Or, paste Japanese text into [Reading Tutor](#), and it will make a nicely formatted vocabulary list.
- **Don't get bogged down with too many readings.** Some characters have 3 or 4, even 5 or more readings (pronunciations) in Japanese. For example, consider 生:

せんせい
先生 teacher

いっしょう
一生 one's whole life

い
生きる to live

う
生まれる to be born

は
生える to grow

なま
生(の) raw (food, etc.)

Don't get bogged down trying to remember all these readings. Just learn one kun reading and one on reading to start; add the others as you read Japanese.



- **Don't forget [KanjiPal](#)!** Free kanji (and kana) games, plus easy searching for kanji. Animated stroke orders, too! Click any kanji to try it out:

日本語を学ぶのは楽しい！

に ほ ん な つ り ょ う り だ い ひ ょ う ひ ち ゅ う か 日本の夏の料理を代表する「冷やし中華」



みな くに なつ た とくべつ りょうり
皆さんの国では、夏に食べる特別な料理があります
にほん ひ ちゅうか
か？ 日本では夏になるとあちこちで「冷やし中華はじ
めました」というお知らせを見ることができます。冷やし
む あつ
中華とは、蒸し暑い日本の夏にぴったりな、冷たくて
あまず た もの
甘酸っぱい食べ物です。



ISHIKAWA Yukiko
Nihongo-Pro Teacher

す わたし ときどき
ロシアに住んでいる私も時々食べたくなる冷やし中
よう めん か むずか
華ですが、ここで冷やし中華用の麺を買うことは 難し
かんたん て はい しょくざい つく
いです。でも、簡単に手に入る食材でこの冷やし中華の麺を作ることができるんですよ！

ざいりょう ふたりぶん 材料(2人分)

スパゲッティー: 200g

ベーキングパウダー: 大さじ2
す やさい にんじん あか

好きな野菜(人参・きゅうり・赤ピーマン・コーンなど)
この か

ハム(好みでツナも可)

★しょうゆ: 大さじ2

★酢(米酢がなければ、白ワインビネガーやリンゴ酢): 大さじ2.5
す こめず しろ す
さとう

★砂糖: 大さじ2
あぶら

★ごま油: 大さじ1/2

(Continued on page 6)



材料 Ingredients

(Continued from page 5)

つく かた
作り方

1. 1リットルの水に大さじ1の割合でベーキングパウダーを入れて、お湯を沸かします。
2. 沸騰したらスパゲッティを入れて、指定の時間より長めにゆでます。
- * 麺を入れたあと泡がたくさん出るので、必ず大きな鍋を使ってください。
3. 野菜を細く切ります。
4. ★の調味料をよくまぜて、砂糖を溶かします。
5. 茹であがった麺を流水でよく洗います。
6. 麺の水をしっかりと切って、お皿に盛って、その上に野菜とハムを乗せます。
7. 最後に4.でつくったタレをかけたらできあがり！



できあがり！ Dig in!

Hiyashi-chuuka (Chilled Chinese Noodles): A Perfect Match for Summer in Japan

Are there special foods you eat during the summer in your country? In Japan, when summer comes around, signs that read “*Hiyashi-chuuka* now available” pop up around the country. *Hiyashi-chuuka* is a chilled, sweet-and-sour dish, perfect for Japan’s hot and humid summer.

Living in Russia, I, too, sometimes want to have *hiyashi-chuuka*, but it’s hard to find the right noodles in stores. But as it turns out, you can make this dish with ingredients that are simple to get!

Ingredients (makes 2 servings)

200 g (7 oz.) spaghetti

2 tablespoons baking powder

Your favorite vegetables, such as carrots, cucumbers, red peppers, or corn

Ham (or tuna, if you prefer)

★ 2 tablespoons soy sauce

★ 2 1/2 tablespoons rice vinegar (substitute white wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar, if necessary)

★ 2 tablespoons sugar

★ 1/2 tablespoon sesame oil

Directions

1. In a large pot or saucepan, combine 2 liters (2 quarts) of water and baking powder. Bring to boil.
2. Add spaghetti, and boil for a little longer than indicated on the package. (Be sure to use a large pot because of the foam that forms.)
3. Dice vegetables.
4. Mix the starred ingredients, making a sauce.
5. After boiling, rinse the spaghetti under cold water.
6. Drain the spaghetti well, and transfer to a plate. Top with vegetables and ham.
7. Pour the sauce from step 4 on top, and you’re done!

The Calm, Cool Japanese

れいせい

GO 冷静 OR GO HOME



Steve Cooper

Nihongo-Pro Support

れいせい

冷静 means calm, cool, composed. It's a な adjective, so you can say 冷静な行動 (calm actions), for example. 「冷静に行動することだ」 means “you gotta keep your cool.”

こうどう

Japan is all about being 冷静, especially in emergency situations. I experienced that for myself on March 11, 2011. You might remember that was the day of the huge earthquake that hit eastern

ひがしにほんだいしんさい

Japan (東日本大震災) and caused the mess at the Fukushima nuclear power plants. I was in Tokyo at the time, receiving acupuncture treatment when the earthquake struck. Earthquakes are almost an everyday occurrence in Japan, so what might seem scary to the unaccustomed hardly merit concern by the seasoned Japanese.

But this time was different: the shaking started out pretty mild, but quickly increased to some serious jolts. My first instinct was to *get outta this building*, thinking it would collapse, but the nurse explained calmly that inside was the safest place to be. The staff gathered me and another patient in the center of the floor, where we linked hands to avoid falling.

Trains and subways were stopped immediately (most trains in Japan stop automatically when an earthquake is detected), and didn't resume service for hours, while the tracks were safety-checked. The clinic made plans for patients to stay overnight—they prepared beds, brought us tea, and gave us updates on the earthquake.

おおえど

Then, around 11 o'clock that night, the Oo-edo (大江戸) subway line unexpectedly reopened. With directions provided by the clinic staff, I made my way to the nearest station and then on to the condo where I was staying.

As I left the clinic, I thought about how cool and calm everything had been. Even at the height of the shaking, there was no terrified screaming or crying in the clinic, nothing but what seemed like an instinctual, cool and collected response. As I walked toward the station, other than people in the street moving a little more quickly than usual, it was hard to tell a magnitude 9.0 earthquake had hit just hours earlier. At the station, hundreds of people waited in huge queues to board the next train. There was no pushing, no butting in line, no jockeying for position—just quiet, patient waiting. “Only in Japan,” I thought, as I took my turn in line.

Half an hour later, I approached a subway car packed—I mean *packed*—with other passengers. This was no ordinary “crowded” train; people were literally forced against one another as the passengers trying to board pushed in. A man next to me grimaced at the sheer pressure of other bodies pushing against him. I got pushed back in front of a woman seated, with my back toward her face. I grabbed the hand rail on one side and the overhead luggage rack on the other, struggling to hold myself upright to avoid planting my rear end smack in her face. She pressed her head to the side, steeling herself in case my arms gave out.

The train lurched forward. At each stop the few passengers squeezed through the crowd to get off the train were quickly replaced by even more people pushing in to board the car.

It was a grueling ride to Shinjuku. But what struck me again was how calm, respectful, and unruffled these Japanese were. No angry words, no fights, no friction between the strangers pressed together like sardines.

It was another perfect example of Japanese 冷静—a calm, collected approach to life, no matter what life throws at you—and, I think, a moment the Japanese should be proud of.