# Ready, Set, NihonGO!

じょうず はん た

# 上手にご飯が炊けますか?

くに ちいき おお にほん お米を食べる国や地域は多く、日本のように主食としてではなく、サラダに入 べいしょく にほん れたりプディングにしたりと食べ方もいろいろですね。米食は日本だけの物では はん わしょく きほん ありませんが、ご飯が和食の基本にあることは間違いないと思います。和食で こめ た かた きほん た はん た のお米の食べ方の基本は、炊いたご飯をそのまま食べること。「ご飯には味が い いけん き じょうず た なくておいしくない。」と言う意見も聞きますが、上手に炊けたご飯はそれだけで じゅうぶんあま がいこく にほん かえ とき なに 十分甘くおいしいものです。外国から日本に帰った時、何よりおいしいと感じる のはご飯かもしれません。

### ようい

### 用意するもの



Yukiko ISHIKAWA Nihongo-Pro Teacher

Yukiko Ishikawasensei teaches private lessons at all levels except advanced.

Ishikawa-sensei speaks Russian and English, and she is experienced in instruction for speech -giving and singing in Japanese.

Ishikawa-sensei is from Kanagawa prefecture, located just southwest of Tokyo. Rich in Japanese history, Kanagawa is a must-see on any Japan itinerary.

- ① 米を量る。

② 米を入れたボールに水をいれて、1回混ぜたらすぐ水を捨てる ていねい (米が流れないように丁寧に)。

- 4 もう一度水を入れてそのまま2~3回混ぜる。
- 5 白く濁った水を捨てる。

\*(3~⑤を2~3回繰り返す(水が完全に透明にならなくても大丈夫です)。

- ⑥ボールに米とたっぷりの水を入れて30分ほど置く。
- つ まな い あたら みず い なん す が から から かい まん す が 米を鍋に入れ、新しい水を360ml入れる(やわらかいご飯が好き ひと すこ ぉぉ な人は少し多めに)。
- 8 鍋を強火にかけ、湯気が出るまで待つ。

- 9 湯気が出てきたら、そのまま1分待つ。
- 10 弱火にして、10分ほど待つ。

- む ぉ はん なべ そこ ょぶん すいぶん と ① 蒸し終わったら、ご飯を鍋の底からまぜて余分な水分を飛ばす。

#200い よ むずか おも 説明を読むと難しいと思われるかもしれませんが、やってみると かんたん じかん とき ま じかん き 簡単ですよ。時間がない時は、待ち時間はあまり気にしなくても だいじょうぶ たいせつ まい つか はん た 大丈夫です。大切なのは、ジャポニカ米を使うことと、ご飯を炊いて あいだ ひ はな いる間に火のそばを離れないことです。

ぜひ、一度アツアツホカホカのご飯を食べてみてください!









## Japanese Cooking Anywhere #5: How's Your Rice Cooking?

In most places, rice isn't a dietary mainstay as it is in Japan, but rather a side dish added to salad, made into pudding, and so on. Eating rice is not unique to Japan, but it is undeniable that rice is a cornerstone of Japanese cuisine. Steamed rice, plain with nothing added, is the basic way to prepare rice in the Japanese style. Some people say rice is tasteless, but well-prepared rice has a savory sweetness all its own. Indeed, when returning to Japan after living abroad, there may be nothing more delicious than freshly steamed rice.

The Japanese passion for rice can be seen in many ways, from rice cookers to the selective breeding of rice varieties. Does that mean, then, that, in places where a high-efficiency rice cooker or specialized rice is hard to find, you can't eat good-tasting rice? Not at all. If you have a pot with a lid, you can make good rice.

#### **Ingredients and Preparation**

- 2 cups (360 ml) Japonica rice (substitute shortgrained rice if necessary)
- ◆ 2 cups (360 to 400 ml) water
- Saucepan (a tight-fitting lid is essential)
- ◆ Clean cloth
- Coffee mug or small pan (optional)

#### **Directions**

- 1. Measure out the rice into a large bowl.
- 2. Cover the rice with water, stir once, and then immediately drain.
- 3. Stir the rice gently with your hands.
- 4. Add water again, and stir two or three times.
- 5. Drain the water, which should be milky in color.

Repeat steps 3 through 5 two or three times. It's OK if the water doesn't get completely clear.

- 6. Cover the rice with plenty of water, and set aside for 30 minutes.
- 7. Transfer the rice to the saucepan, and add 2 cups (360 ml) of fresh water. (For softer rice, add a

little extra water.)

- 8. Cover and bring the rice to a boil. Place a coffee mug or other weight on the lid for even better flavor.
- 9. After rice starts boiling, wait one minute.
- 10. Reduce heat to simmer for 10 minutes.
- 11. Turn to high heat for 20 seconds, or until the rice makes a crackling sound, and then remove from heat.
- 12. Immediately remove the lid, wrap it in a towel or cloth, and place it back on the saucepan. Wait 20 minutes for the rice to steam.
- 13. Fluff the rice from the bottom of the pan to distribute any extra water.

This recipe might look difficult, but give it a try and you'll see it's quite easy. If pressed for time, shorten the wait times a bit. The important points are to use Japonica rice and to keep a close watch on the heat while the rice is cooking.

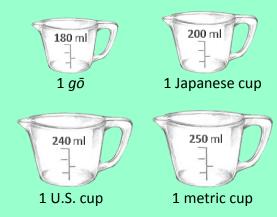
Please give it try and have some steamingly delicious rice!

# Cups and カップ

The cup measure used in Japan (called *kappu*) is not the same size as used elsewhere.

A standard Japanese cup is 200 ml; in most other places a cup is 250 ml (in the U.S., 240 ml).

Rice is usually measured in  $g\bar{o}$ , such as *ichi-gō* (1  $g\bar{o}$ ), ni - $g\bar{o}$  (2  $g\bar{o}s$ ), etc. 1  $g\bar{o}$  is 180 ml, which is the measurement used in Ishikawa-sensei's recipe.



# レッスンで知った文化や習慣の違い <4>

じてんしゃ

# 自転車



じてんしゃ の

の

みなさんは自転車に乗ることができますか。よく乗りますか。みなさんにとって にてんしゃ 自転車はどんな存在でしょうか。



Nagatomi-sensei's bicycle, in matte blue

ちゅうごく はたら じてんしゃ か まいにちかたみち ぷん つうきん つか 中国で働いていたときも、自転車を買い、毎日片道30分の通勤に使っていまし ちゅうごく しゃかい と こ じぶん ちゅうごくじん きぶん じてんしゃ た。そのころは中国の社会に溶け込んで、自分も中国人になった気分でした。自転車 こわ みちばた しゅうりゃ なんど なお なつ おも で は壊れやすく、道端の修理屋さんに何度も直してもらったことも、懐かしい思い出に なりました。

Fusayo NAGATOMI Nihongo-Pro Teacher

Nagatomi-sensei teaches private lessons at all levels, including JLPT preparation.

In addition to her lesson schedule at Nihongo-Pro and a full-time teaching job at a Japanese language school, Nagatomi-sensei is active with her daughters' girl scout troops.

She lives in Japan's Chiba prefecture, just east of Tokyo, and previously lived in China and the U.S. Her English is excellent, and you'll never find Nagatomi-sensei without a smile on her face.



こども の じてんしゃ 子供乗せ自転車 Bike with front and rear child carriers

にほんじん じてんしゃ あそ どうぐ 日本人にとって、自転車は遊びの道具というより、

じんせい きまざま ばめん ょ そ そんざい おも だい こんど でんどう じてんしゃ か 人生の様々な場面に寄り添う存在だと思います。50代になったら、今度は電動アシスト自転車を買うつもり ったし じてんしゃ っ ぁ っづ です。私と自転車の付き合いはまだまだ続きます。

くに じてんしゃじじょう き みなさんの国の自転車事情、ぜひお聞かせください。

えいゃく 英訳

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION** 

## Cultural Differences I Learned from My Lessons #4: The Bicycle

Can you ride a bicycle? Do you ride often? What does a bicycle mean to you?

The bicycle is a widely used means of transportation in Japan. For me, it's an everyday partner I can't live without (photo on previous page). When I was five, I practiced like mad and learned how to ride. With newfound vistas, I felt like my bicycle and I could go anywhere.

When I worked in China, too, I bought a bicycle and commuted 30 minutes each way by bike. Blending right into my Chinese company, I felt as if I had become Chinese. My many stops at the roadside repair shop—my bike broke down a lot—are fond memories of that time.

After getting married and having kids, we bought a bike with child carriers attached. I rode my little girls to and from kindergarten, and have been using the bike for shopping trips. Now 10 years later, we recently retired that bike and bought a new one. It was my first new bike in quite a while, so it was really exciting.

These days, my students from the U.S. and Saudi Arabia tell me that, in those countries, the bicycle is considered more a means of recreation rather than a means of transportation.

Japanese people think of a bicycle not so much for recreation as for accommodating life's many and varied situations. Once I reach my 50s, I plan to try an electric-assist bicycle. Bicycles and I still have a long, long way to go together.

I'd love to hear about bicycles where you live, too!