

KCP eZasshi 雜誌 May 2010

May 2010

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Here's news from KCP International Japanese Language School.

KCP's total immersion, revisited

What makes the KCP program so intense? It starts with **total immersion**--being immersed constantly in the Japanese language.



Students learn Japanese directly, without ever translating it into or out of English. This happens for a few reasons:

- (1) students of several nationalities learn at KCP, and there really is no common language other than Japanese; and
- (2) translating into English isn't useful--the grammar structures of the two languages are completely different. Staying with Japanese induces students to **think in Japanese**.

That said, the KCP teachers and staff are **squarely on the side of the student**. With a formidable study schedule--2 to 4 hours daily, plus some weekend time--it's easy to imagine being intimidated. But these teachers, who continually win strong praise from students, work with any students who come forward to ask for it. Working one-on-one, they are happy to speak English if needed and are very good at intuiting exactly what a student's confusion is.



Teachers integrate learning of all four language skills--hearing, speaking, reading, and writing--using methods suitable to each skill. Class, small-group, and individual work are all supported. KCP teachers are great in **making learning fun** whenever possible--sometimes in unexpected ways.



Imagine--a challenging passion in front of you . . . dedicated teachers to help you along whenever you need it . . . the excitement of a very different culture . . . your energy rising to meet the challenge. The KCP experience is a **marvelous opportunity for you to grow**--in your knowledge of Japanese and in your confidence at surpassing challenging goals. The benefits last a lifetime.

[The KCP Program](#)

Celebrate this!--Takoage-Gassen



The Takoage-Gassen (風揚げ合戦), or Kite-Fighting Contest, is a spectacular festival of some 100 large kites (tako) flying in the sky over the Nakatajima Dunes, Hamamatsu, City, Shizuoka Prefecture. It happens May 3-4.. The Nakatajima Dunes are one of the three largest sand dunes in Japan, which overlooks the Enshunada Sea.



Here you can see many large kites measuring 3.5 meters by 3.5 meters (roughly 11 ft. x 11 ft.). Then to the sound of the trumpet, the fighting starts. Making the 5-mm thick hemp strings intertwine, the kite-fliers try to cut their opponents' strings by friction, which is very exciting to watch.

The strings burn, giving off a scorched smell. You can try flying a kite yourself in the grounds adjoining the shuttle bus terminal.



This festival dates back to the 16th Century when large kites were flown in celebration of the birth of a baby son to the Lord of Hamamatsu Castle. Even today, kites are flown at Hamamatsu when a baby boy is born.



A festive day to pray for boys' good health and a bright future, it is the custom in Japan to fly decorations called koinobori, which are carp-shaped streamers.



Carp are known to swim up waterfalls and this powerful image of the carp overlaps with the image of advancing in one's career.



Japanese behavior tips, part 2

Here are more tips for interacting with Japanese, continued from the April eZasshi. They give some intriguing clues to the Japanese national psyche.

Responses

After food has been placed on the table and you sit down for dinner, it is very common to say **itadakimasu**, literally translated, "I will receive." At the end of a meal, it is common to say **gochisosama deshita** (Thank you for the great meal), a polite and respectful way to offer thanks. If you feel uncomfortable at first saying these phrases before and after dinner, try listening to your host family and you may gradually feel more comfortable.



Attitudes toward women

Women in Japanese society are still viewed as people who need more protection and care. Although this is gradually changing, it may be different from what you are used to at home. We suggest respecting this aspect of Japanese culture. Female students especially may find their freedom more restricted than at home.

For example, a member of the host family may wait up until a female student returns home from an evening out, or a curfew for a female student may be earlier than for a male student.

Gaijin

Words you will hear frequently while in Japan are gaikokujin or gaijin. Literally translated, this means "outsider" and is commonly used to refer to foreigners.

Names

Japanese people rarely use first names when addressing colleagues or acquaintances. Last names are used more often, with the polite attachment san (Mr./Ms.) or sensei (for physicians, teachers, politicians) after the name.

Always use "sensei" when addressing your instructors.

Visiting

If you are invited to another family's home, it is polite to bring an omiyage (a small gift such as cakes, fruit, or snacks) and to greet the whole

family.



What students say

As always, students are the experts on the KCP program. Here are comments from a few of them.

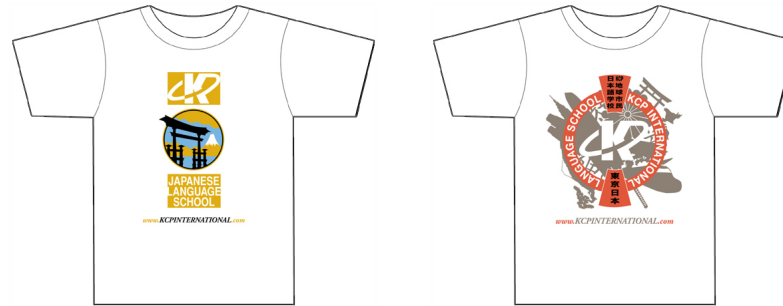
The ultimate experience in learning Japanese, at KCP, is living in Tokyo. Being in another country means everything is new and exciting, even riding the subways. One great thing about Japan during the summer is baseball. Going to a game in Japan is a little different than in America, and in some ways even more enjoyable. --David Bracewell

If you're unsure about the program, don't be. It's great.
----Artyom Ankin

This program is extremely intensive, but those who apply themselves accordingly will reap benefits beyond their wildest expectations. When I first studied at KCP I could not speak Japanese, although I had a rudimentary understanding of the grammar. Now I can carry on complex conversations with a variety of people. The difference is amazing. --Sarah Sumpter

Your views--upping the ante

Have you taken part in the KCP program? If so, we want to know your "view" of it. Send us 10 photos of events or good looks at KCP life, along with informative captions to the photos. If we use your material, you'll receive a KCP T-shirt *plus* a \$25 iTunes gift card!



Just send the images and captions to kcpjapanese@gmail.com. Thanks for spreading the word!

KCP International USA
PO Box 28028
Bellingham, Washington 98228-0028

Learn Japanese through proverbs



الندم لا ياتي اولاً

Romaji--Kokai saki ni tatazu.

Meaning--Repentance never comes first.

Fall program deadline

Always think ahead! Now that spring is here, it's time to think about fall. The application deadline for the Fall 2010 semester is **June 7**.

Happy May, and enjoy spring while it's here,
Mike and the KCP International team

***KCP Japanese Language School . . .
full immersion for the motivated student.***

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