

# What's New?

Niihama City

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Our worlds are shaped by the languages  
that we know

by Tricia Fawcett



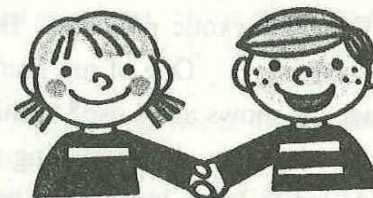
I've learned three languages in my life. English, French and Japanese. English, learned naturally was still a painful process full of grammar, parts of speech and my 'worst' favourite, (something I did very well which succeeded in lowering some decent grade) split infinitives. Oh, and the spelling, rule after rule, test after test, we were bogged down with memorization " these letters make these sounds unless you mix them with this letter then it sounds like this but don't forget these exceptions and this word which is an exception from the exceptions." I before E except after c (with exceptions), drop the y add an i, magic e.... there are still some words that are spelled out in my memory; meaning every time I think of the word, I spell it out. Those tricky ones with 4 vowels that make sounds unrelated to their own, b-e-c-a-u-s-e, how many times I must have drilled this word into my head to make it a word remembered spelled out. Exhausting!!!

French I loved studying, still do actually. We started in grade 6 where I went to school, and I used to practice at home, reading everything I had with French and pretending I was an exotic princess because we all know French = exotic princess. Better yet, I loved hearing native people speaking it. One of my French teachers used to play these educational TV shows and I used to think it was so cool when I could understand when they did something naturally. When I came to Japan and started to learn Japanese it was really difficult because every time I tried to think in Japanese all that would come to mind were French words. French words mind you, that I hadn't used since I gave up in second year at University after failing to understand the 3 past tenses I was trying to master in one semester. Impossible. Now for me, French has become something like an old friend; you're not willing to completely give it up because you know you will meet again.

Learning Japanese has been something much more than neither English nor French could ever be. It's a language I am learning and understanding while being both aware of the process and slowly becoming proficient at it. To learn a language I really think you need to love it. You need to want it to become a part of who you are or else how can you ever speak without thinking? I am nowhere near fluent; grammatically I am really quite bad. When asked from people back home about my ability, I tell them I can communicate; that there are few situations in which I wouldn't be able to be understood, but that's about it. And I'm ok with that. My Japanese teachers have been great, very patient because I am definitely not the best student, trying to turn every opportunity into a conversation so I don't have to study☺. But I think my best 'teachers' have been my students. It's impossible not to pick up the words constantly repeated, kore? Dekitta! Dou iu imi? Wakarani! Children speak without excess vocabulary or tricky grammatical tenses... perfect!

I think learning Japanese is like learning about Japan. If a person never studies the language, their idea of Japan would probably fall into one of 4 categories (as mine did); manga, technology, sushi and chopsticks or WWII. Now, my ideas about Japan change with every new expression I learn; every new cultural thing I try. My most recent loves, nomi-sugi, tashikani, yabu-hebi and my favourite, Ikebana. Sometimes I think I am a different person in Japanese than I am in English, but I suppose that makes sense. Aren't our worlds and therefore our realities shaped by the languages that we know?

Tricia Fawcett is from Canada. She's been living in Niihama and teaching English at Jade for 6 years. She has many hobbies and she loves writing and traveling.



**How about contributing an article for "What's New?"?**  
Any topic is fine, such as your self-introduction, your comments or your essay. Please feel free to make contact with :[kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp)

## MAY EVENTS

5/3・17 Flea Market (7:30~12:00)

at Chuo Koen, north to City Hall

### At Minetopis Besshi.

5/1~5/31 Peony Flowers are in full bloom.

5/16・17・24 (10:00~15:00) Taste tea ceremony ¥300

5/16・17. You can enjoy seeing cooking bonito and listening to Japanese drum.

5/17(Sun) (10:30~16:00) Folding copper sheet

at 2F. Romanesuku, you can make a crane or animals. ¥200 a piece

### At City Gym

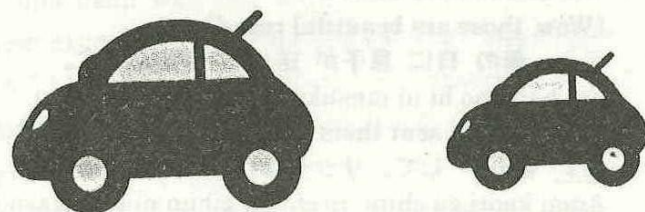
5/13・27 One day Shape up (10:00~11:00) ¥200/once

5/21・6/4 45 minutes aerobic exercise (10:00~10:45)

¥200/once. On a first come, first served basis

5/17 Wild Vegetables Fair (10:00~15:00) at Ikadazu-sanso,

You can taste various wild vegetables and mountain fish.



### Drastic Expressway Toll Cut for ETC-equipped Cars

(for a limited two year period)

A drastic reduction in expressway toll fees has been introduced nationwide exclusively for ETC-equipped cars since the beginning of April 2009.

\*On Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays, Expressway toll fees are a flat 1000 yen regardless of the distance except for metropolitan areas of Tokyo and Osaka. For the Seto-Ohashi Bridge, an additional 1000 yen is charged.

\*On weekdays (Monday to Friday, 9:00~17:00), there is a 30 percent toll discount for distances of up to 100 kilometers.

## Useful Information for shopping

One point 漢字[kanji]

Sugar (砂糖) & Salt (塩)

We hope the following information including relevant kanji (Chinese characters) on the sugar and salt which is sold on the Japanese market, will be of some help to you.

砂糖[sato](Sugar)

☆ グラニュー糖[guranyu-to](granular Sugar)

It is a sweetener made from the highest-purity Liquid sugar. Because of its high-purity sugar cane composition, it feels rather dry. 'Granular sugar' is what is simply called "sugar" all over the world. On account of its slow-scorching property, it is often used for making confectionary.

☆ 上白糖[jouhaku-to](High-Grade White Sugar)

This is a sugar which feels subtly moist. Besides the cane sugar which is its main ingredient, a small quantity of glucose and fructose is mixed in to prevent moisture and the sugar grains from sticking together. Therefore, it tastes sweeter than granular sugar and has good body. However, it is susceptible to easy scorching when used for making confectionary. High-grade white sugar is used almost exclusively in Japan, "only with minor exception limited to certain other areas in Asia."

食塩[syoku-en](Salt)

☆ 食卓塩[syokutaku-en](Table salt)

This is high-purity salt and rather dry.

☆ 味塩[aji-shio](Taste salt)

This is a salt with some extra flavor.

☆ 焼塩[yaki-shio](Decrepitated salt)

Decrepitation makes salt milder in taste and less likely to form lumps. It is often used for seasoning tempura and for sprinkling on broiled (or grilled) fish.

☆ 粗塩[ara-shio](Coarse salt)

This salt has coarse grains, is rich in minerals and is often used for pickling vegetables.

## MOVIES

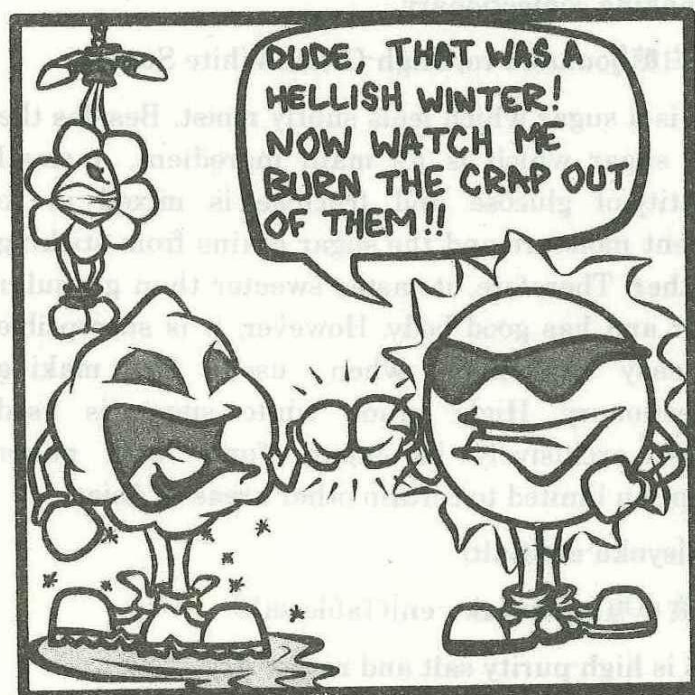
### TOHO PLEX (AEON Shopping Center)

|          |                         |                |
|----------|-------------------------|----------------|
| ~ May 16 | Red Cliff Part 2        | Chinese/Dubbed |
| ~ May 23 | BURN AFTER READING      | English        |
| ~ May 30 | SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE     | English        |
| May 1 ~  | BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA | Dubbed         |
| May 15 ~ | ANGELS & DEMONS         | English/Dubbed |
| May 22 ~ | STATE OF PLAY           | English        |
| May 29 ~ | BLOOD THE LAST VAMPIRE  | English        |
| May 29 ~ | STAR TREK               | English        |

#### Information Service

Tape (24hours) : 0897-35-3322

Internet: <http://toho.co.jp>



## SEASONS' MEETINGS

<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

email: [yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp](mailto:yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp)

[kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp)

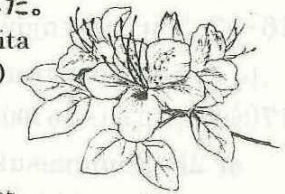
[sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp)

The editors for this month are M. Takahashi & Y. Amano.

## ONE POINT JAPANESE

### いろいろな「あまい」(2)

- A: <sup>れんきゅう</sup> 連休、どこか <sup>で</sup> 出かけましたか。  
Renkyū, dokoka de kakemashita ka.  
(Did you go anywhere during the holiday?)
- B: ええ。友だちと九州へ行ってきました。  
Ee. Tomodachi to Kyūshū e itte kimashita  
(Yes. I went to Kyūshū with my friends.)
- A: <sup>くるま</sup> 車で行ったんですか。  
Kuruma de ittan desu ka.  
(Did you go by car?)
- B: ええ。どこもひどい渋滞で、とても疲れました。  
Ee. Dokomo hidoi jūtai de, totemo tsukaremashita.  
(Yes. There was a terrible traffic jam everywhere and we got very exhausted.)
- A: <sup>こうそくりょうきん</sup> 高速料金が安くなりましたからね。  
Kosoku ryōkin ga yasuku narimashita kara ne.  
(Because expressway tolls have gotten less expensive, right?)
- B: ええ、考えがちょっと甘かったですね。  
Ee, kangae ga chotto amakatta desu ne.  
(Right. I was a little optimistic.)
- A: わあ、きれいなバラですね。  
Wa, kirena bara desu ne.  
(Wow, those are beautiful roses!)
- B: ええ、母の日に息子が送ってきました。  
Ee, haha no hi ni musuko ga okutte kitan desu.  
(Yes. My son sent them to me for Mother's Day.)
- A: <sup>あまい</sup> 甘い香りがして、リッチな気分になりますね。  
Amai kaori ga shite, ricchi na kibun ni narimasu ne.  
(They smell sweet and make you feel very rich, don't they?)



### 新居浜弁で話してみよう!(1)

- A: <sup>なに</sup> 何しよん?  
Nanishiyon. (What are you doing?)
- B: <sup>じてんしゃ</sup> 自転車の <sup>あまい</sup> ブレーキが甘いけん、<sup>ちやうせい</sup> 調整しよんよ。  
Jitensha no bureki ga amai ken, chose shiyon yo.  
(The bicycle brake is loose, so I'm adjusting it.)
- A: <sup>ほんじゃ</sup> ほんじゃ、ついでにこのイスも頼むわ。  
Honja, tsuideni kono isu mo tanomu wa.  
(Then, I might as well ask you to fix this chair too when you have time.)
- ネジが <sup>あもう</sup> あもうなっとるけん、<sup>なほ</sup> 締め直してくれん?  
Neji ga omonattoru ken, shimenaoshite kuren?  
(This screw is loose, so will you tighten it up again?)
- B: ええよ。Ee yo. (No problem.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama. Feel free to contact us at ~Tel : 080-3920-0529 (Takako Hattori). e-mail : [pxyfy438@ybb.ne.jp](mailto:pxyfy438@ybb.ne.jp)