

Habitual Practice of Frequent "Fill'er up"

There were lots of cars lining up in front of gas stations after of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Kumamoto earthquake. Gasoline, along with food and water, is one of life's necessities, but it is likely to become scarce during times of crisis. Therefore, we should make it a habit to "fill'er up" frequently. It may become a crucial life saving measure, enabling you to move quickly if a disaster strikes. However, gasoline can easily catch fire, and the storage method is legally regulated. We must not store gasoline at home other than in the tank of a car.



June Events

☆ Kikouji Saturday Night Market open 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. every Saturday from June 2nd to July 14th.

☆ Iris Festival will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ikeda no Ike on June 10th.



☆ "Marine Village" summer festival by Niihama Chamber of Commerce youth group will be held at Marine Park, Niihama, on July 1st.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

<p>(TVを見ながら) (terebi o minagara) (Watching TV)</p> <p>A: わあ、きれい! Wā, kire! (Wow, beautiful!)</p> <p>B: 香川県の まんのう公園 だって。Kagawaken no manno-koen datte. (It's Manno Park in Kagawa Prefecture, they say.)</p> <p>A: いろいろな あじさいが あるんだね。Iroiro na ajisai ga arun da ne. (There are various kinds of hydrangeas there!)</p> <p>B: うん、40種類、2万株も あるみたい。 Un, yonjishshurui, niman kabu mo aru mitai. (Yeah, there seem to be 40 kinds, 20,000 plants.)</p> <p>A: インスタ映え しそう。Insutabae shiso. (They look "Insta-genic.")</p> <p>B: 週末 行って 見ない? ちょうど 見頃らしいから。 Shumatsu itte minai? Chōdo migoro rashi kara. (How about going there this weekend? They should just be in full bloom.)</p> <p>A: うん、行こう行こう。Un, iko iko. (Yeah. Let's go.)</p>
<p>A: カエルが ゲロゲロ にぎやかですね。 Kaeru ga gerogero nigiyaka desu ne. (The frogs are croaking loudly.)</p> <p>B: 田んぼに 水が 入ったとたん、鳴き始める のが 不思議です。 Tanbo ni mizu ga haitta totan, nakihajimeru no ga fushigi desu. (It's funny that just when the rice paddies are flooded, the frogs begin to croak.)</p> <p>C: 毎晩うるさくて、なかなか 寝られません。 Maiban urusakute, nakanaka neraremasen. (They are so loud every night, it's hard to sleep.)</p> <p>B: カエルの 合唱は 初夏の 風物詩、そのうち 慣れますよ。 Kaeru no gassho wa shoka no fubutsushi, sono uchi naremasu yo. (The frog chorus is poetry of early summer; you'll get used to it soon.)</p>
<p>(にいばまべん) (in Niihama dialect)</p> <p>A: 毎日 よう 降るね。Mainichi yō furu ne. (It sure rains a lot every day!)</p> <p>B: 梅雨入り したって、テレビで 言よったよ。 Tsuyuri shitatte, terebi de iyotta yo. (They said on TV the rainy season has started.)</p> <p>A: 洗濯物が 乾かんね。Sentakumono ga kawakan ne. (The laundry won't dry.)</p> <p>B: 明日 コインランドリーに 行ってこうわい。 Ashita koin randori ni itte kōwai. (I'll go to the Laundromat tomorrow.)</p>

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama. Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki). e-mail: manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp

What's New?

Niihama City

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Being Unknown and yet Standing Out
Megan Hammersley

A month or two ago, I was at a nomikai, jumping out from behind sliding screen doors to scare my fellow teachers, when I was told something that I've thought about since. "You're the only ALT I've ever met who hasn't become more Japanese while living here." I stopped immediately. "Is that good or bad?" "I don't know." Neither did I - but that didn't stop me from thinking about it even weeks later. What did that mean, I would wonder, biting my nails too hard and eating too many snacks at my work desk. I have an (overly) apologetic nature, which I thought fitted quite well into Japanese mannered society. When I was a child, I used to get in trouble from my parents for apologising to my toys when I dropped them. It sounds cute, but it was probably a coming sign of my terrible need to inappropriately place other people's needs above my own. I am, in contrast, far too loud, even when I'm trying my hardest to shut up. Some people might find my deafening presence endearing; but I'm sure others find it unbearable. I had a feeling, though, that it was something else that made me stick out. I thought, perhaps, it was part of being from a minority culture that has an intense and undulating sense of national identity. This idea was reinforced to me recently, when my Japanese boyfriend informed me that, quite apart from what my colleague opined, he thinks my spirit "is Japanese. Skin and race don't matter." I got that; in Scotland, we'd say the same about being Scottish. And it was so thoroughly kind of him to accept me like that. Yet, I also felt a swell of discomfort. The idea of viewing myself as somehow equivalent to a Japanese person after living here for only nine months, particularly as a white western woman, felt too horribly colonial. I'm Scottish. That's my heritage, but more pressingly, my choice. In Scotland, we have a complicated relationship to our nationality, despite our willingness to accept others into our definition of it. People argue whether we are Scottish, British, both, or any number of varieties therein. It took me a while to get to where I am with my identity. When I was younger, I was, in truth, somewhat ashamed of and resentful towards my

country. I felt beaten down and angry about our lack of political power or change. Nowadays, things are different - people are engaged and passionate, so I'm more strong-minded about who I am. I wonder if I've grown hardened as a result, and instinctively defensive against fully integrating into Japanese society.

In a lot of ways, though, I feel like my culture and that of Japan aren't too different. People from Scotland are also, generally, well-mannered and thoughtful of others. We'll go out of our way to welcome foreigners and help strangers out; we just do so very boisterously. We have a strong socialist want to look after the whole of society and place importance on education and healthcare, similarly to Japan. So in some ways, I do connect to Japanese society and people a lot. I enjoy the culture here, and try hard to learn the language so that I can interact with as many people as possible. But that isn't really the same as absorbing the Japanese identity into yourself.

After all, being foreign looking in Japan means you stand out and are immediately perceived in a different way than someone who 'looks Japanese'. What 'kind' of foreign you are affects this too - what colour you are, where you look like you're from, and so on. I'm used to feeling foreign: meeting English speakers who aren't Scottish usually means I'm going to hear my accent be imitated within five minutes of speaking. Moreover, since Scotland is a small and relatively unknown country, I have to define it and its people every time someone meets me for the first time. And conflicting identities mean I can feel as alien from another Scot as I do from an American.

The experience of being foreign is starker in Japan, though. Writing this, some high schoolers took a video of me, without asking, to put on Instagram. People sometimes shout random English words at me when I bike by them, or yell rude Japanese words and laugh when I don't understand. I've had men grab and move me bodily to take photos of me, separately from my Japanese friends. I still like it here, of course - in fact, I love it. And I haven't had the worst experience with this kind of alienation by far, even within my friend group. But I'm a foreigner on sight here, and in English speaking countries as soon as I open my mouth.

I don't know what it means to be Japanese, ultimately. Even Japanese might not know, in the same way I don't really understand Scottishness. All I can say, in a belated response to my colleague's initial comment, is that living in Japan is going to change me. No matter what, I'm never going to be the same person I was before I came here, and I'm okay with that - happy, really. But I don't have any desire to abdicate my Scottish identity in favour of "becoming Japanese". Maybe I will meld into life here more with time, and see myself much differently; maybe I won't. Cultural identities will always shift with time, and for all I know, I could be part of that change one day. For now, though, I'll just say I'm glad to be here.

Megan Hammersley is from the city of Glasgow, in Scotland. She now lives in Saijo City, and works as an ALT in Saijo middle schools.

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

April 27 ~	Marvel Avengers : Infinity War	2D English / Dubbed
May 18 ~	RAMPAGE	2D English / Dubbed
May 18 ~	Peter Rabbit	2D Dubbed
June 1 ~	DEADPOOL 2	2D English
June 15 ~	Maze Runner : The Death Cure	2D English
June 29 ~	SOLO A STAR WARS STORY	2D English

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019(in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.



Information in English & Chinese on the Web

*What's New?

*How to sort garbage and trash

Visit ➡ <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

This newsletter is published by SGG. SGG is a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in Niihama. SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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*The editors for this month are K.Kaida & T.Masuda.

A.I. Robot at the Stall

(from Ehime Shimbun March 8, 2018)

Hearing someone say, "Look at me, handsome gentleman", a tourist looked around to see who it was and found something small. New A.I. robots have appeared in several tourist spots in Matsuyama. Their main task is to tend to foreign tourists by translating preset dialogues. But his playful sales talk highly impressed me and he did his job so well that I almost forgot he was a robot. Even if he repeated the same sentences, he would not annoy tourists. In fact, he can attract them just by being there. The person in charge of Dogo-onsen inn evaluated his work highly. Seeing the robot guiding in a friendly, cute manner, tourists got close to him and listened to him carefully with a smile. At a shop, he said, "When you want to buy something, press this button." He can work as a shop keeper if the owner cannot afford one clerk to stay at the shop corner. He can show more hospitality than just a signboard. These days, we worry that A.I. might take over our jobs in the near future. But these A.I. robots showed us a future world where robots and human beings can coexist by working together while sharing each other's fields of expertise.

