

# What's New?

Niihama City

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# 5



## Learning Japanese From The Outside: My Experience

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7 months into my life in Japan and I'm still pinching myself. I'm living the dream: my dream for a long time of living in Japan and I couldn't have picked a better place to start than Niihama and the surrounding beauty and community that is Shikoku. Whether it be participating in Niihama's Taiko Festival or now just witnessing the beauty of Japanese spring for the first time, I am absolutely loving my time here.

Not to say that it hasn't come with some challenges. Being a second language learner in Japanese outside of Japan, part of my reason to travel to Japan is improve my language ability. I have already had a head start by studying Japanese for a long time back in Australia and because of that my expectations, and those of people back home especially, are quite high of my language abilities! And although I have a basic grasp of the language, I am constantly surprised every day by the challenges trying to adjust to using Japanese here.

The first challenge, naturally, is trying to adapt to the local dialects of Niihama and other areas too. Learning Japanese back home, I've learnt the 'standard Japanese. and therefore it is hard for me to adjust to a different dialect. The problem, also, for me is that recognizing the dialect isn't easy so I sometimes can't distinguish words from the specific dialect from words I may or may not already know that are more standard use. But, this is something that can't be helped learning a language overseas, so I will continue to learn as I go. Although now I know different words in many different dialects as I travel around so I'm going to confuse myself too!

On the other hand, where I have felt I've been put at a disadvantage learning Japanese the way I did (particularly at university) outside of Japan, is the gaping hole I have when trying to make conversation: there wasn't enough (barely any) opportunities to make creative and spontaneous conversation during my Japanese classes when speaking and listening are crucially important to interact on a day to day basis here in Japan.

I feel there needed to be more of a balance between reading/writing and verbal communication during my studies. This is not to say that there weren't ways to improve my conversational abilities but if I was aware of the challenge of keeping up

with the speed of native speakers' Japanese or the ability to make a timely and appropriate answer then I would've further strived to participate in Japanese conversation back in Australia. Especially when you have to explain to the train conductor why your friend had just tried to force her way through a train ticket gate without a ticket or explain to sceptical looking police that actually, no, I didn't steal the wallet; I found it on the street and I'm handing it in.

The third thing that also has troubled me a little is the actual language you learn from a university language course. It is slightly troubling when you're trying to make casual conversation with a lovely couple and you don't know how to say 'You have been so kind to me' but you're trying to find ways to slide 'Free Trade Agreement' into the conversation because you have remembered such a casually useless word from your university degree (however I think Australia may have just signed one with Japan so here's my chance!).

However, this isn't to say that I'm not loving my time here or even only had terrible communication experiences. I am always learning, whether it be from my kids at the English conversation school where I work or when someone asks the 'foreigner' where something is rather than the countless Japanese people around him! But if I were to have my time again, or ever looking to teach Japanese back home, then I would definitely place more emphasis on improving my creative conversation abilities. But my next goal: JLPT N2 with the help of the lovely people of Niihama Nihongo no Kai!

Bradley Nicholas is a 23 year old from Adelaide, Australia in his first year living abroad. Growing up learning the Japanese language, he has been inspired to come to Japan through his love of the Japanese language, culture and friendliness of the people. He is currently living in Niihama and teaching English to children at a private conversational school.

## May Events

**5/11(Sun) Health Check at Sumitomo Besshi Hospital** (10:00~15:00) You can have a free health check and ask questions.

**5/24 (Sat) Live Fish of Seto Inland Sea**

Science Museum Entrance Hall. You can touch live fish in a pool. Free admission for this event only. No reservation needed.

**Minetopia Besshi.**

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

**5/17・5/18** (10:00 – 16:00) You can enjoy seeing bonito cooked on the spot and stalls of many kinds with local products.

5/10, 5/11, 5/17, 5/18, 5/24, 5/25 Tea Ceremony ¥300

**Machu Picchu of the East-- Sightseeing Bus is available**

Bus leaves every day at 11:00 and 13:00 for approx. 2 hr. tour. ¥1200 for adults ¥600 for kids

Reservation is required; Tel 43-4020

**See Machuri, Niihama's Mascot Character**

5/3 (Sat) 13:00-16:00 AEON Mall

5/5(Mon) 9:45—12:45 Domu Niihama

5/25 (Sun) 9:00—11:30 Nobori-michi Shopping  
Street

12:20—12:50, 15:00—15:30 Bunka Center



### **Machu Picchu Curry and Rice Image of Tonaru**

(from Ehime Shimbun January, 2014)

“Machu Picchu Curry” (¥780) is the new menu item of the restaurant at Minetopia Besshi. The industrial heritage of Tonaru located on Besshi Mountain includes the former stone bricked storage area for copper ore and the base of a ropeway. The location has been called the “Machu Picchu of the Orient” because it looks like the ancient city of the Incas. Therefore Mr. Hidenori Matsuura, the manager of the restaurant, has named this spicy curry Machu Picchu Curry after the famous South American site. The rice is shaped like the mountain of Tonaru and fresh cream symbolizes the river.

**SGG** would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

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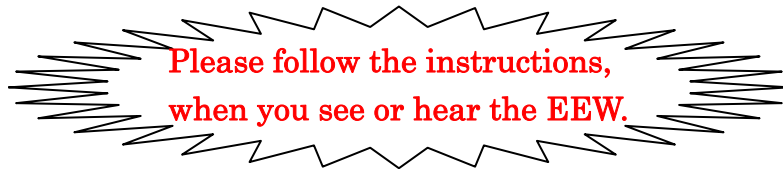
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\*The editors for this month are M. Shimamura & Y. Amano

# Earthquake Early Warning

(From Monthly City News February issue 2014)

The Earthquake Early Warning System is to warn people of a big earthquake anywhere from several to dozens of seconds before it hits them.



## 1. At home:

- \*Cover your head and get under a stout desk or something similar.
- \*Don't dash out of your house.

## 2. In any facility accommodating many people:

- \* Follow the instruction of the staff.
- \* Be calm and never dash to the exit.

## 3. While driving:

- \* Don't step on the brake hurriedly.
- \*Turn on the hazard lights and stop your car slowly if you sense the quakes.

## 4. Outside buildings:

- \*Keep away from concrete block walls because they often collapse.
- \*Stay away from buildings because signboards or glass may fall down on you.

## Information in English & Chinese on the Web

\*What's New?

\*How to Sort Garbage and Trash

\*Information on living in Niihama

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

[Clair:\\*Multilingual Living Information](http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html)

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

## MOVIE

### TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

March 13 ~ FROZEN 2D Dubbed  
April 19 ~ Captain America The Winter Soldier  
2D English/Dubbed  
April 25 ~ The Amazing Spider-Man 2D English / 3D Dubbed  
May 2 ~ Enchanted Kingdom 2D / 3D Japanese  
May 16 ~ Thomas & friends : King of the Railway  
2D Dubbed  
May 24 ~ June 6 NY LIVE! 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.

### Duty-Free Shop in Dogo Mastuyama

(from Ehime Shimbun, January 17 2014)

Kowakuen, which operates hotels has a souvenir shop, called “Shikoku Bussankan 15 Man Goku”, inside one of their hotels. It has got authorization to sell duty-free goods to foreigners. The Japan Tourism Agency says that in April, 2013, there were 15 duty-free shops in Ehime Prefecture and that Kowakuen’s duty free shop is the first one in Ehime outside of the large-sized retail stores. “15 Man Goku” sells folk craft articles, accessories and Tobe ware. The duty-free system is designed to promote foreign tourism and get more tourists to come and see a lot more of Japan. Duty-free shopping is available to foreign visitors staying in Japan for less than 6 months, who buy more than 10,000 yen of goods at one store in one day. The goods are limited to durables such as home electrics and clothes. But from 1<sup>st</sup> October this year the Japan Tourism Agency will ease regulations and extend duty-free status to all items including food, drinks and cosmetics.

It says that the number of the foreigners visiting Japan grew to 10 million for the first time in 2013. The Japanese Government, taking the 2020 Olympic Games into consideration, is hurriedly making plans to increase the number of foreign visitors to Japan.

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

## “<sup>はい</sup>入る” No.2

A : <sup>れんきゅう</sup>連休は どうでしたか。Renkyū wa dō deshita ka.

(How were the holidays?)

B : 1週間 <sup>しゅうかん やす</sup>休む <sup>よてい</sup>予定だったんですが、<sup>きゅう</sup>急に <sup>しごと</sup>仕事が <sup>はい</sup>入ってしまっ  
て…。

Isshūkan yasumu yotē dattan desu ga, kyūni shigoto ga  
haitte shimatte . . .

(I planned to take a week off, but some urgent work suddenly  
came in..)

A : <sup>たいへん</sup>それは 大変でしたね。Sore wa taihen deshita ne.

(That's terrible.)

B : Aさんは? A-san wa? (How about you, A?)

A : <sup>ひと</sup>人ごみが <sup>にがて</sup>苦手なので、<sup>ちか</sup>近くの <sup>やま</sup>山に <sup>はい</sup>入って、<sup>さんまいと</sup>山菜探りを <sup>たの</sup>楽し  
みました。

Hitogomi ga nigate nanode, chikaku no yama ni haitte,  
sansaitori o  
tanoshimimashita.

(I don't like crowds, so I went to a nearby mountain and  
had fun gathering edible mountain plants.)

A : 5月11日は、<sup>はは ひ</sup>母の日ですね。

Gogatsu jūichinichi wa haha no hi desu ne.

(May 11<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day, right?)

B : <sup>なに</sup>そうですね。何か <sup>かんが</sup>考えて いますか。

Sō desu ne. Nanika kangaete imasu ka.

(That's right. Do you have anything in mind to give?)

A : ええ。Ee. (Yes.)

<sup>なん</sup>何でも <sup>はい</sup>入る <sup>おお</sup>大きめの <sup>おも</sup>バッグを <sup>おも</sup>プレゼントしようと <sup>おも</sup>思っ  
ています。

Nandemo hairu ōkime no baggu o purezento shiyō to  
omotteimasu.

(I'm thinking of giving her a big bag that can hold a lot of  
things.)

Bさんは? B-san wa? (How about you, B?)

B : <sup>わたし</sup>私の <sup>はは</sup>母は、<sup>おんせん</sup>温泉に <sup>はい</sup>入るのが <sup>だいす</sup>大好きなので、<sup>しまね</sup>島根の  
<sup>たまつくりおんせん</sup>玉造温泉に

<sup>い</sup>行く <sup>よてい</sup>予定です。Cさんは?

Watashi no haha wa, onsen ni hairu no ga daisuki nanode,  
Shimane no Tamatsukuri Onsen ni iku yotē desu. C-san  
wa?

(My mother likes taking hot spring baths, so I'm planning  
to take  
her to Tamatsukuri Onsen in Shimane.)

C: <sup>わたし</sup>私の<sup>ばあい</sup>場合、<sup>まいにち</sup>毎日が<sup>はは</sup>母の<sup>ひ</sup>日なので、<sup>とくべつ</sup>特別なことはしない  
んです。

Watashi no baai, mainichi ga haha no hi nanode,  
tokubetsu na

Koto wa shinain desu.

(In my case, every day is Mother's Day, so I don't do anything  
special.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in  
Niihama.

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