



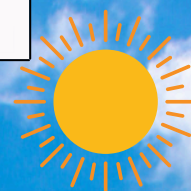
Nihongo

Perapera

Newsletter

日本語ぺらぺらニュースレター

For the Language Lovers!

月刊 Monthly
Vol. 55 May 2025Nihongo (Japanese), Perapera (fluent), Newsletter.

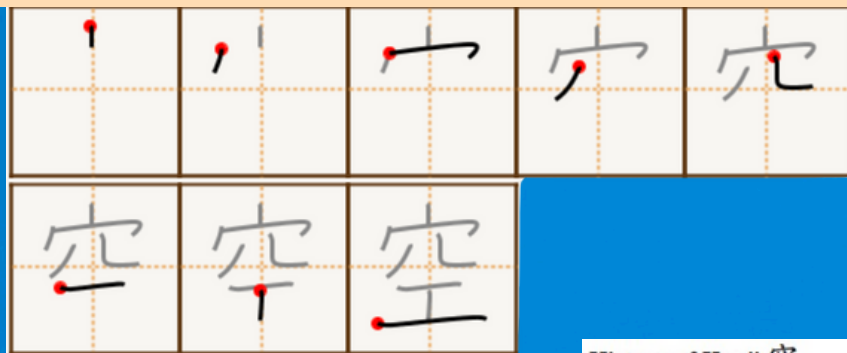
Once a month language-focused newsletter designed for both new and seasoned Japanese learners to use as a resource for study.

Let's study! 勉強(べんきょう)しましょう!

今月の漢字

sky

空

訓読み: そら, から, あ(く)
音読み: クウ

8 strokes

Associated Common Words

青空 (あおぞら) - blue sky

空港 (くうこう) - airport

空手 (からて) - karate

History of Kanji 空



Noriko K. Williams ©2015

四字熟語 - よじじゅくご (4 Character Idiom)

くうぜんぜつご

空前絶後

(So marvelous or horrible that it may be) the first and probably the last; unprecedented

Example

この曲はSNSで拡散して「空前絶後」
の大ヒットとなった。Kono kyoku wa SNS de kakusan shite "kuuzenzetsugo"
no dai hitto to natta.This song went viral on social media and became an
unprecedentedly huge hit.

ことわざ (proverb)

て あ くち あ
手が空けば口が開くWhen your hands are free, your mouth is open; when people
lose their jobs, they can't make a living; when people have too
much free time, they start talking nonsense

Example

「手が空けば口が開く」と言うけど、
そっちの仕事が終わって、しゃべってる
だけなら、こっちも手伝ってよ。"Te ga akeba kuchi ga aku" to iu kedo,
socchi no shigoto ga owatte, shabetteru
dake nara, kocchi mo tetsudatte yo.They say "when your hands are free, your mouth is open," but
if you've finished your work and are just here to chat, please
help me out too.

日本を旅しよう! -Exploring Japan-

沖縄県 (おきなわけん) - Okinawa Prefecture

Fast facts!

- Okinawa is the southernmost and westernmost Japanese prefecture and is made up of over 150 islands
- Of the prefecture's 160 islands, 49 are inhabited and the largest and most populated is Okinawa Island, where the capital city Naha is
- As Japan's only subtropical region, Okinawa is home to diverse ecosystems and is an ideal environment for many types of aquatic flora and fauna. 415 **coral species** live around the islands of Okinawa and provide a home to a wide variety of marine life
- Historically the center of the Ryukyu Kingdom, Okinawa has long been a key trading hub for trade due to its location
- For more information about Okinawa, check out our [Oct. 2022](#) issue!



Dialect Discovery

沖縄語 - うちなーぐち

- うちなー (uchinaa; Okinawa) おきなわ
- わん (wan; I, me) わたし
- うちや (ucha; tea) おちゃ
- かりー (karii; cheers) かんぱい

To read about JET Alum Jessica's experience living and teaching in Okinawa Prefecture,

[click here!](#)



JSB Meets JET Alumni
Jessica Smith!

波上宮 (なみのうへぐう) Naminoue Shrine

The Naminoue, or "Above the Waves" Shrine, overlooks a beach from atop a limestone cliff in Naha, Okinawa. Originally a religious site for the indigenous Ryukyu Islands natives, the shrine became associated with Shintoism during the Meiji Era in 1890. Naminoue Shrine continues to be a famously sacred site in Okinawa, representing both Shinto and traditional Okinawan beliefs.

クイズタイム!

くこう

1. 空港までタクシー () 行きます。

I'll take a taxi to the airport.

a. と b. で c. に

せき

2. この席は () いますか。

Is this seat open?

a. 開いて b. 合いて c. 空いて

けいたい こわ

けいたい み

さら

3. 携帯が壊れてしまいました。携帯を見ながら皿を () よかったです。

あら

あら

あら

a. 洗わなくて b. 洗わなければ c. 洗わないで



な は
☆那覇ハーリー

The Dragon Boat Race in Naha, Okinawa (*Naha Hari*) takes place early May during Golden Week. The Naha Hari is the largest of the Hari festivals in Okinawa. It is an island festival held by fishermen to pray for safe sailing conditions and promising catches and to show gratitude to the sea. The boats shaped and painted to look like dragons (*sabani*) are not just festive. They celebrate the historical voyages of Okinawans whose way of life was tied to the sea.

May Vocab! - 5月の単語!

立夏 (りっか) - First Day of Summer

藤 (ふじ) - Wisteria

瑠璃唐草 (るりからくさ)/ネモフィラ - Nemophila

大型連休 (おおがたれんきゅう) - Long Holiday

五月晴れ (さつきばれ) - Beautiful Weather in May

五月病 (ごがつびょう) - The May Blues

祝日 (しゅくじつ) - National Holiday

憲法記念日 (けんぽうきねんび) - Constitution Memorial Day

緑の日 (みどりのひ) - Greenery Day

子供の日 (こどものひ) - Children's Day

鯉のぼり (こいのぼり) - Carp Streamer

母の日 (ははのひ) - Mother's Day



The Three-Thousandfold Universe

130 Masterpieces
from the Nara National Museum

三千世界 奈良国立博物館 名宝百三十撰

Thursday, June 12 | 6PM Online



In celebration of the 130th Anniversary of the Narahaku (Nara National Museum) which is highly renowned for its Buddhist art, join us on Thursday, June 12 to learn about some of the collection's masterpieces which have recently been published in the art book [The Three-Thousandfold Universe: 130 Masterpieces from the Nara National Museum](#).

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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Answer 1. b 2. c 3. b