

Nihongo (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

begin

始

訓読み: はじめる/まる  
音読み: シ

8 strokes

Associated Common Words

年始 (ねんし) - beginning of the year, new year  
始発 (しはつ) - first departure, first train/bus  
習い始める (ならいはじめる) - to start learning

History of Kanji 始



Noriko K. Williams ©2017

四字熟語 - よじじゅくご (4 Character Idiom)

しゅうしいっかん  
終始一貫

Attitude and behavior remaining the same from beginning to end; consistently; unchangingly

Example

他の人の意見に惑わされず、彼の意見は終始一貫している。

Hoka no hito no iken ni madowasarezu, kare no iken wa **shuushiikkan** shiteiru.

He is not swayed by others' opinions and remains consistent in his views.

ことわざ (proverb)

ま かい はじ  
先ずは隗より始めよ

When embarking on a great project, start with immediate steps; the one who first suggests it should be the first to do it

Example

課長は大変なプロジェクトを立ち上げたが「先ずは隗より始めよ」と、率先してプロジェクトに携わってくれたので、私も他の社員も最後まで頑張っ

てやり遂げることができた。  
Kachou wa taihen na purojekuto wo tachiageta ga "mazu wa kai yori hajime yo" to, sossen shite purojekuto ni tazusawatte kureta node, watashi mo shain mo saigo made ganbatte yari togeru koto ga dekita.

Although our section manager started a difficult project, because the manager took the initiative with [a] "the one who first suggests it should be the first to do it" [attitude], the other employees and I were able to do our best and see it through until the end.

日本を旅しよう! -Exploring Japan-  
大阪府 (おおさかふ) - Osaka Prefecture

Fast facts!

-Osaka Prefecture lies at the center of the Kansai region and is Japan's third-most populated prefecture after Tokyo & Kanagawa  
-Osaka Prefecture is one of Japan's two "urban prefectures" which, along with Kyoto Prefecture, uses the fu (府) designation rather than the standard ken (県)-Osaka is known for its food, shopping, & entertainment, especially nightlife, with bar-hopping being particularly trendy lately  
-Universal Studios Japan, already a hot spot in Osaka for tourists as well as locals, has become more popular than ever after opening their Super Nintendo World area in 2021

-For more information about Osaka, check out our June 2022 and December 2023 issues!



# Dialect Discovery

## 大阪弁 - おおさかべん

- ええで (eede; it's good/that's ok/sure) いいよ
- すんまへん (sunmahen; excuse me) すみません
- なんぼ (nanbo; how much) いくら
- ほな (hona; well then/bye!) じゃね



JSB Meets JET Alumni  
Rachel Eio!



国立文楽劇場 (こくりつぶんらくげきじょう)  
National Bunraku Theatre

The National Bunraku Theatre is one of the best places to see Japan's traditional puppet theater! Known as *jōruri* outside of the city, bunraku developed as one of the most popular art forms in Osaka during the Edo period, and heavily influenced the development of Kabuki. It is known as a rich piece of Osaka's diverse creative culture!

To read about JET Alum Rachel's experience living and teaching in Osaka Prefecture, [click here!](#)

## クイズタイム!

1. お正月に家族と初詣 ( ) 行きました。

*At New Year's, I go with my family for the first shrine visit of the year.*

a) に b) で c) を

2. 予定通りに試合が ( ) 。

*The game started according to plan.*

a) 始めた b) 始まった c) 始みた

3. 明日はパーティーをするので、飲み物を冷蔵庫で冷やして ( ) 。

a) みます b) おきます c) しまいます



ゆき  
☆雪

As Japan is home to many different biomes, and because of this, there are several areas that receive record numbers of snow. For example, the famous novel *Snow Country* by Nobel Laureate Kawabata Yasunari takes place in a region known as the Japanese Alps, which often gets as high as 15~20 feet! Snow has always been a mysterious and beautiful part of Japanese culture, inspiring incredible creative feats such as the Noh play *Yuki* (snow) of the Kongō school, and nearly 100 snow-related words in the Japanese language.

## Snow Vocab! - 雪の単語!

雪 (ゆき) - Snow

吹雪 (ふぶき) - Blizzard

大雪 (おおゆき) - Heavy snow

霜 (しも) - Frost

霰 (みぞれ) - Sleet

雹 (ひょう) - Hail

氷雨 (ひさめ) - Freezing rain

新雪 (しんせつ) - Fresh snow

牡丹雪 (ぼたんゆき) - Large snowflake

粉雪 (こなゆき) - Powdery snow

積雪 (せきせつ) - Accumulated snow

餅雪 (もちゆき) - Fluffy snow

名残雪 (なごりゆき) - Lingering snow

白銀の世界 (はくぎんのせかい) - Winter

wonderland

JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON  
Celebrity Series of Boston



**LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION  
WITH THE TAIKO DRUMMERS  
FROM KODŌ**

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2025 | 7PM  
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL, 78 AVENUE LOUIS PASTEUR, BOSTON, MA



Sign up for a free, exciting lecture and demonstration by Kodo, the award-winning Japanese Taiko Ensemble on Saturday, March 8 at 7pm ET!

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

Can't get enough taiko? Then be sure to check out [Kodo's Symphony Hall Concert](#) the following afternoon at 5pm!



寒中お見舞い申し上げます。  
今年もどうぞよろしくお願ひします!



Answer key: 1. a 2. b 3. b