

KCP eZasshi 雑誌 November 2009 News

Greetings, Japan-lover! Here's the latest from KCP International Japanese Language School.

What is total immersion?

Total immersion means **speaking Japanese all the time**. We refer to it as the Direct Method—classes are in Japanese without a vehicular language such as English. We do this because:(

- (1) KCP teaches students from all over the world, and there is truly no common language other than Japanese; and
- (2) More important, we want to help you to think in Japanese by listening in Japanese. If we were to translate Japanese to your native language (with a totally different grammar structure), it would take a significant cognitive effort for you to convert what you hear into Japanese—and that's counter-productive to **learning to think in Japanese**.

To help you achieve a healthy mix of general Japanese knowledge of Japanese and practical ability, we emphasize a balance among all 4 communication skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



Free stuff in Tokyo (Part 1)

Tokyo is an expensive city! But there are plenty of things to do for free if you need a break from spending. Here are just some of them . . .

Free places to soak up atmosphere--

- For a good view of the city skyline go to the promenade that runs along the front of the Decks Shopping Mall in Odaiba.
- To see more people than you've ever seen in one place, try walking through Shinjuku Station at rush hour (just after 5 pm), standing at the Ginza SukiyaBASHI crossing, or crossing the road next to the Hachiko Exit of Shibuya Station.
- For the eccentric and bizarre side of life, go to Harajuku on a Sunday.
- To feel bang up-to-date with the latest technology, go to Akihabara.

Bird's-eye view of Tokyo—

The 45th floor of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building in Shinjuku has two free observation galleries with views of Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, and Yokohama.

Shrines, temples, pagodas, palaces—

- Meiji Jingu Shrine



- Yasukuni Shrine (pictured at right)

Look for more free stuff next month!



From the students—"best practices" for learning

"Take every chance you can get to practice speaking Japanese before you come to Japan. Conversation is the least stressed skill in American classrooms."
—Rebecca

"Master your Katakana and Hiragana before you come here. Get a head start on your Kanji as well because you'll be seeing a lot of it."
—Nathaniel

For traceable hiragana-katakana worksheets, [click here](#).

"I recommend two resources—Kodansha's Kanji Learner's Electronic Dictionary. And Kanji renshucho, which brought up idioms and colloquialisms that only the teachers could explain."
—Diane

"The English grammar booklet that you get with the course, your homework notebook, and Katou-sensei are essential for doing well in the course. I needed a way to look at the word in hiragana separately from the kanji so that I can test my own memorization."
—Kuan-Ting



Learn through proverbs

猿も木から落ちる

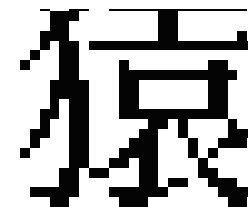


Romaji—**Saru** mo ki kara ochiru

Literally—Even monkeys fall from trees

Meaning—Even an expert can make mistakes; also sometimes used as a warning that “pride comes before a fall.”

Notes—A well known proverb, this one, with several variations



T-shirt contest!

KCP First-ever T-Shirt Design Contest! Deadline Nov. 28. Prizes for first, second, and third place. For more, see <http://kcp-japan.blogspot.com>



KCP calendar

Tokyo is calling you! If you want to join the Spring 2010 program, apply by December 5.

[KCP schedule](#)



Arigato (thanks), and keep learning!

—All of us at KCP



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