

MUSTARD ROOT

Christmas Here and at Home – Josh Fandel

Hello and welcome back to Daini! I hope everyone had a great Winter Vacation. For the 3rd year students: I know you probably studied hard. I hope that the 共通テスト went well. Please relax a little now!

For my winter vacation, I studied a little too, but only Japanese. I also did some fun activities, though. On Christmas Eve, I ate Christmas cake and KFC chicken with friends! It was my first time eating Christmas cake. We had three cakes (chocolate, vanilla, and a cheese tart) and all were delicious.

It was my first “Japanese” Christmas, and it was a lot of fun! However, it was also my first Christmas



2019 Christmas with my Father's family.

without my family, so I was a little sad.

Usually for Christmas I would have dinner with both sides of my family—my mother’s family and my Father’s family. Christmas Eve we would visit one group, and Christmas Day we would visit the other. We would visit their houses, spend time talking, and open presents. Then we would eat dinner.

For Christmas we usually ate something like a ham or a turkey. My favorite treat, though, was a dessert (called Jell-O) that my great-uncle made.

There were three layers of jelly in a tray. The first layer was cherry-flavored, the second layer was milk-flavored, and the third layer was lime-flavored. It was very fun to eat because it was so bouncy.



This a piece of the Jell-O that my great-uncle made for Christmas every year. It was my favorite Christmas treat.

Does your family have any Christmas traditions?

A Typical New Year's Eve For Me – Valeria Magallan

I hope everyone enjoyed their winter vacation! It was a good time to rest and recharge for the last term of the school year. As you know, last year I was working at Toryo, but I have returned to Daini full-time. I am excited to be back!

I think the New Year’s Holiday is a very special around the world. It represents a fresh start and new beginnings. It is the time when people come together, forget the bad and hope for the good.

If I had been able to go home for the holidays, I would have eaten lots of traditional Mexican foods. I would have probably eaten *tamales* or had a cook-out (cook outside)..



Tamales

After eating dinner with family and friends. We would probably split into groups. The young people, the cool dads, and the children go outside to the front yard to pop fireworks. The moms and older women usually stay inside to chit-chat, and the older men and not-so-cool dads would probably go to the backyard to drink beer.

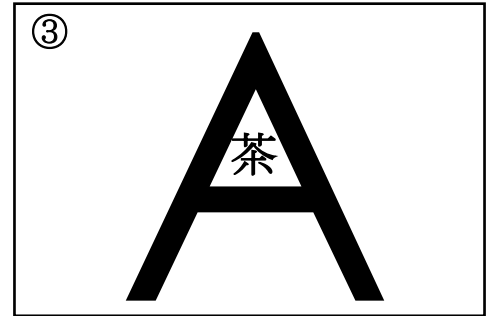
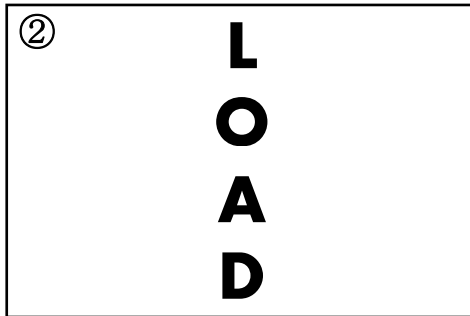
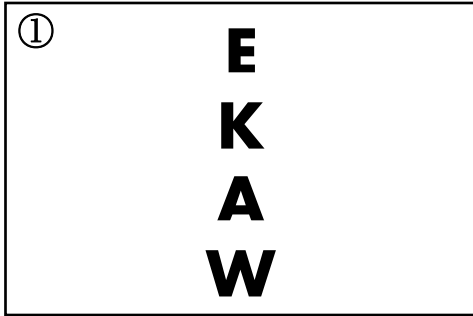
I would have joined the crowd in the front yard. Fireworks have always been a big part of the New Year celebrations for me, so I was very surprised to hear that it isn’t that case in Japan. As children, my brother and I looked forward to the fireworks so much that every weekend my dad would take us shopping to the firework stand starting in December. Each weekend we would buy some and save it for the New Year so we could light up fireworks all night long! We bought many different kinds, but we always saved the best for last.



This is a typical firework stand in Texas.

Rebus Puzzles #1

These puzzles are a lot of fun! The answers are a simple phrase or a few words. **For example,** ① says “WAKE”, but it is going UP, so the answer is “WAKE UP.” Please try the others! *The answers are at the bottom of the page.*



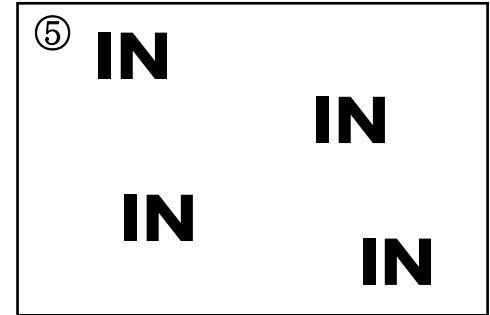
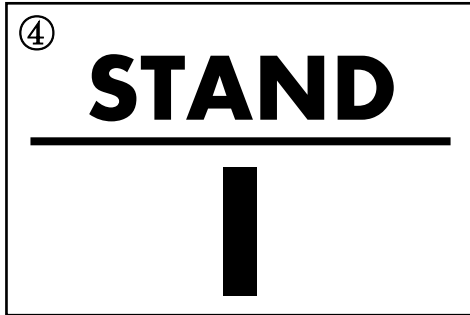
①'s answer is “Wake Up”

②'s answer is 1 word.

③'s answer is 1 word.

④'s answer is 2 words.

⑤'s answer is 1 word.



Word Search Puzzle #1

Find the words in the given words in the grid. The words can be found in a forward, downward and diagonal arrangement. This activity can help improve your spelling skills!



Word Bank:

Beginning	Calendar	College
Examination	Fortune	Future
Improve	Opportunity	Resolution
Sunrise	University	Unknown

Eikaiwa Pointers

今回は、「In case.」「念のために」や「まさかの時のために」などと訳します。理由を聞かれたときに、「Just in case.」というようにそのままでも使えます。

One day, at Kumi's place..., the clock shows it's almost 7:45pm.

Keiko (Kumi's mother) Kumi? Where are you going in such a hurry?

Kumi: I want to buy a new textbook at a bookstore, Mom. But the bookshop I want to go will close at 8:00pm, right?

Keiko: Well, I will call the shop right now, *in case*. If it's closed, you'll waste your time.

Kumi: Yes, thanks Mom!

結構使われる便利な表現です。是非、それぞれのセリフを発音して、英会話上手になろう！！

Justin Case – ANSWER

Justin said he couldn't see the bad guy's face because his glasses were broken. However, the man pulled him across the counter *before* his glasses were broken. Justin was close to the man, so he should have been able to see the man's face.

Rebus Puzzles – ANSWERS

- Foreign (4 in) ⑤
- I understand ④
- China (Cha-in-A) ③
- Download ②
- Wake up ①