

# KCP eZasshi 雜誌 April 2010

April 2010

## In this eZasshi

[Life at KCP, Part 3](#)

[Travel links](#)

[Japanese behavior--some tips](#)

[April in Tokyo](#)

[Learn Japanese through proverbs](#)

Here's news from KCP International Japanese Language School.

## Life at KCP photo-reportage

Here's a glimpse at some of the things students do while at KCP.

### Part 3--Fun at KCP



Purging the bad spirit (Jyaki/Oni) during a classroom Setsubun (節分) ceremony. As the demon Oni comes to us, we chase him away by scattering Mamemaki (parched soybeans) and shouting "Oni Wa Soto! Fuku Wa Ichi!" (inside) "Oni is out! Luck stays inside!" Setsubun happens on the day before each season, especially spring.



The Japanese Doll Festival (雛祭り, Hina-matsuri), is held on March 3.[1] Platforms covered with a red carpet display a set of ornamental dolls (雛人形, Hina-ningyō) representing the Emperor, Empress, attendants, and musicians in traditional court dress of the Heian period. It stems from the belief that the dolls could take bad spirits with them. The dolls have their work cut out for them!



Cooking class: yummy norimaki (sushi rice and seafood).



School barbecue, complete with chopsticks.



Tsuna-hiki ((くにとり綱引き, tug of war) at the barbecue. For the longest tsuna-hiki in the world, in Okinawa, see this [YouTube clip!](#)

## Okinawa Tug-of-War (Tsunahiki) Festival @ GlobalCAFE

unclebuckshot 44 videos

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## Travel links

Thinking of doing some travel while in Japan? These links will help!

### Official websites

[U.S. State Dept. travel info](#)

[Passport services](#)

[Travel advisories](#)

[U.S. Customs](#)

## Other travel resources

[Japan Railway Pass](#)

[Japan National Tourist Organization](#)

[Tokyo Tourism Information](#)

[Tokyo Convention Visitors Bureau](#)

[Japan Youth Hostels](#)

[Hostelling International USA](#)

## Japanese behavior--some tips

It's never too early to start practicing for life in Japan. For the most part, Japanese society is more formal and conservative than U.S. society. The Japanese people are more likely to accept you if you show respect and humility.

### Expressing appreciation

Remembering to thank people is one of the most important keys to success abroad, even for small favors. One common mistake people make in groups is that they expect someone else to say thanks. Do your part.

Write thank-you notes to express appreciation for a special invitation and so on. This is important. Of course, you don't actually need a formal thank-you note; a picture postcard is fine, for example.

### Tipping

Tipping is unnecessary and unfamiliar in Japan.

### Shoes

Take off your shoes when entering a Japanese home or temple. Slippers are often provided; however, only bare feet or socks are allowed on tatami

(straw mats).

When changing shoes, don't touch the floor with your feet. When you take off your shoes, place them neatly together.



### **Bowing**

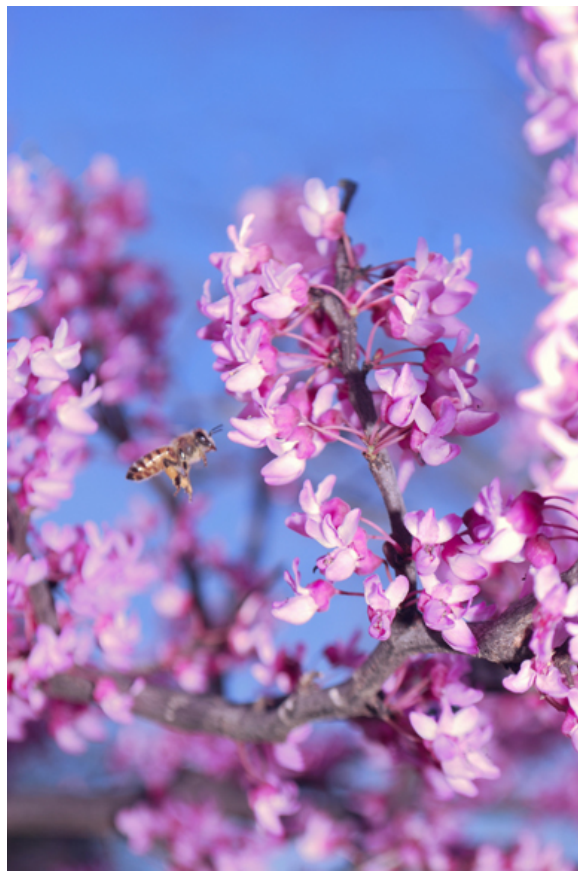
Bowing is a traditional greeting in Japan. A handshake is also acceptable.

### **Using chopsticks**



Never place your chopsticks so that they stick up directly out of your rice. (This is the traditional way of offering rice to the dead.) Also, never pass food between your chopsticks and another's chopsticks. (This resembles the traditional funeral ritual of placing the bones of the dead in a mortuary urn!)

**April in Tokyo--cherry blossoms!**



Cherry trees usually bloom for only about a week. The small, round flowers flutter to the ground gracefully and the blossoms are said to be the most beautiful at their final stage.

For many Japanese people, the blooming of the cherry trees symbolize human life, transience and nobleness. They celebrate and cherish their beauty while it lasts.

In Tokyo, you can enjoy the cherry blossoms at Ueno-Onshi-Koen Park and on the grounds of the Imperial Palace.





虎穴に入らずんば虎子を得ず

Romaji--Koketsu ni irazunba koji wo ezu.

Literally--If you do not enter the tiger's cave, you will not catch its cub.

Meaning--Nothing ventured, nothing gained. / You can't do anything without risking something.

## Academic year deadline

Are you game for a full year in Tokyo with KCP? The deadline for the academic year program is April 7.

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Happy April, and may spring come soon to you,  
**Mike and the KCP International team**

***KCP Japanese Language School . . .  
full immersion for the motivated student.***

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