外国人の疑問にこう答える!

江口裕之の「Illuminating JAPAN Vol.3 英語で伝えるニッポン

東京オリンピック&パラリンピックを2020年に控え、これから外国人と触れ合う 機会がますます増えるでしょう。 そんなときに自信をもって彼らの疑問に答えられるように、このコーナーで少しずつ日本紹介の英語をストックしておきましょう。



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CEL英語ソリューションズ最高教育責任 者。通訳案内士(英語)、日本文化研究 家。2009年から4年間、NHK モデレで、 日本を英語で紹介する「トラッドジャパン」 の講師を務め、好評を博する。

著書:「英語で伝えたい ふつうの日本」 『英語で伝えたい いつもの日本』(共著、 DHC)、『英語で語る 日本事情2020!(共 著、ジャパンタイムズ)、『日本まるごと英単 語帳』(NHK出版)、『英語で伝えたい日 本紹介きほんフレーズ(OHC)など多数。

今月のトビック1 梅雨

(m)

ここが疑問!

このところ雨がたくさん降るね。これって普通のこと? It's been raining a lot lately. Is that normal?

べこんなふうに説明しよう!

- ▶ ええ、今は雨期なので。日本の雨期は「梅雨」と 言います。
- ▶梅雨は通常、6月半ばから、ひと月ほど続きます。
- ▶毎年、この時期になると、日本列島に梅雨前線が 停滞するのです。
- ▶そして、北海道を除く日本のほとんどの地域が梅雨に入ります。
- —Yes, it's the rainy season now. Japan's rainy season is called *tsuyu*.
- —It usually begins in mid-June and lasts about a month.
- —Around this time of the year, a rain front settles over the Japanese archipelago.
- —And most parts of Japan except Hokkaido are affected by tsuyu.

* last: 続く/rain front: 前線/settle: (ある場所に) 落ち着く、とどまる/the Japanese archipelago: 日本列島

□ もっと知りたい!

Q. どうして日本人は少しの雨でも傘を差すの? 他の国では普通、ひどい雨にならないかぎり傘は使わないよ。

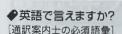
Why do many Japanese use an umbrella even in light rain? People in other countries tend to use umbrellas only when it's raining fairly hard.

- —Our dislike of getting wet might be due to the high humidity, which makes it hard to dry your clothes once they get wet.
- —According to some statistics, Japan has the highest number of umbrella sales in the world, with about 130 million sold a year. Most of them are plastic, many of which are discarded after just one use.
- *high humidity: 高い湿度/discard: ~を捨てる

Q. てるてる坊主って何?

What is a teruteru bozu?

- —A teruteru bozu is a simple, round-headed doll made of white paper or cloth. It's used as a kind of charm to bring fine weather.
- —They say farmers in the old days hung teruteru bozu from the eaves of their houses to get clear skies the following day.
 - Nowadays, the dolls are mainly made and hung by small children the day before a much-awaited outdoor event.
 - * charm: お守り/eaves of a house: 家の 軒、ひさし/much-awaited: 待望の



梅雨前線: a seasonal rain front 蒸し暑い: hot and humid/muggy 湿気: humidity/moisture/damp/ dampness かびが生える:go/get moldy 折り畳み傘:a collapsible umbrella/ a folding umbrella 紫陽花:hydrangea



日本人は、なぜ音を立てて麺をすするの?

Why do the Japanese make slurping noises when they eat noodles?

🌤 こんなふうに説明しよう!

- ▶ほかの多くの国と違って、音を立ててすするの は日本では悪い作法とはされていないのです。
- ▶そばは、空気と一緒にすすることで、香りをより 楽しめると言われています。
- ▶また、麺をすすることでスープや漬け汁も一緒に すすることができ、よりおいしく味わえるのです。
- ▶ラーメンのような熱い麺料理を食べるときに は、すすることで麺が冷めます。
- -Unlike in many other countries, slurping is not considered bad manners in Japan.
- —Some people say slurping helps you enjoy the aroma of soba noodles better, because it brings more air into your mouth.
- -Also, slurping helps you take in more soup or sauce with the noodles, which makes them tastier.
- -And when you're eating hot soup noodles like ramen, slurping helps cool them.
- *slurp: 音を立ててすする/aroma: 香り/take in: ~を摂取する/tasty: 味がよい、おいしい

□ もっと知りたい!

Q. そばとうどんは、どう違うの?

How are soba and udon different?

- Udon are noodles made from wheat flour.
- -Soba are noodles made from buckwheat flour. Buckwheat flour is gluten-free, but wheat flour and egg are often added to the buckwheat flour to make soba noodles silkier and tastier.
- -Generally speaking, udon is more commonly eaten in western Japan, and soba is more popular in eastern Japan.

* wheat flour: 小麦粉/buckwheat flour: そば粉/gluten-free: グ ルテンを含まない/silky: きめが細かく滑らかな

Q. うどんとそばは、どんなふうにして出されるの?

How are udon and soba served?

- -They are both served either cold with a dipping sauce or warm in a hot broth.
- —Both are also served in a cold broth in summer.
- -Warm udon and soba are served with various toppings, such as a raw egg, tempura, wild vegetables and cooked meat.
- *serve: (料理を) 出す、供する/dipping sauce: 漬け汁/broth: だ し汁、つゆ/raw egg: 生卵/wild vegetables: 山菜

そのほかの日本の麺についても説明しよう! Other noodle dishes unique to Japan

1-6-300 A

- —Somen is a type of very thin noodles made from wheat flour.
- -It's often served in iced water with a soy-saucebased dip. Somen is popular as a summer dish.

る治やし中観

-Hiyashi-chuka is a dish of cold Chinese noodles served with such toppings as shredded cucumber, ham, fried egg and tomato. It's popular in summer.



今ラーメン

- -Ramen, one of the most popular noodle dishes in Japan, is derived from Chinese noodles.
- —It has evolved into a Japanese original dish made with various combinations of noodles, soup stocks and toppings.
- -Popular ramen shops often have long queues of customers waiting outside.
- *soy-sauce-based dip: しょうゆベースの漬け汁/shredded: 細切 りの/fried egg: 卵焼き/be derived from: ~に由来する/evolve into: ~に進化する/soup stock: だし汁、スープストック/queue: (長 い) 行列