



Essential Japan

A Mini Guide for Travelers and
Language Enthusiasts

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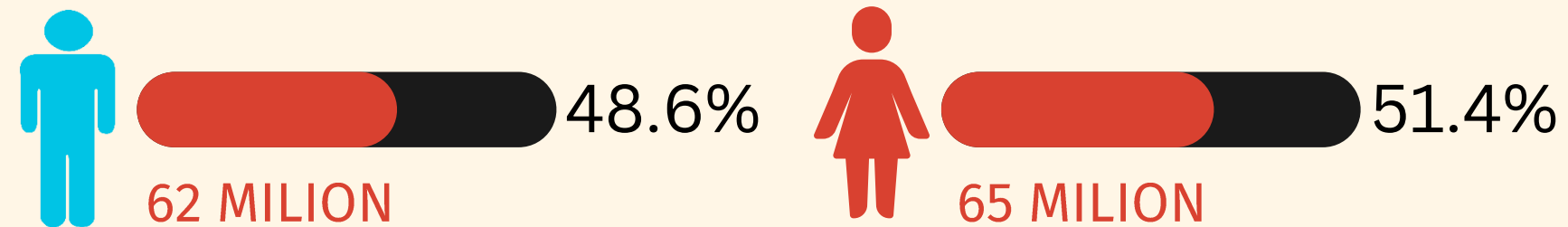
Welcome to Japan!

Whether you're a seasoned traveller or a language learner, this mini guide is designed to help you make the most of your experience.

From **essential travel tips** to **useful phrases & free video blogs**, let's dive into the rich culture, breath-taking sights, and fascinating traditions that await you.

THIS IS THE START OF AN ADVENTURE!

POPULATION





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1 Comparison of Japanese cities

2 Mini-travel guide with video blogs

3 Survival Japanese - useful phrases

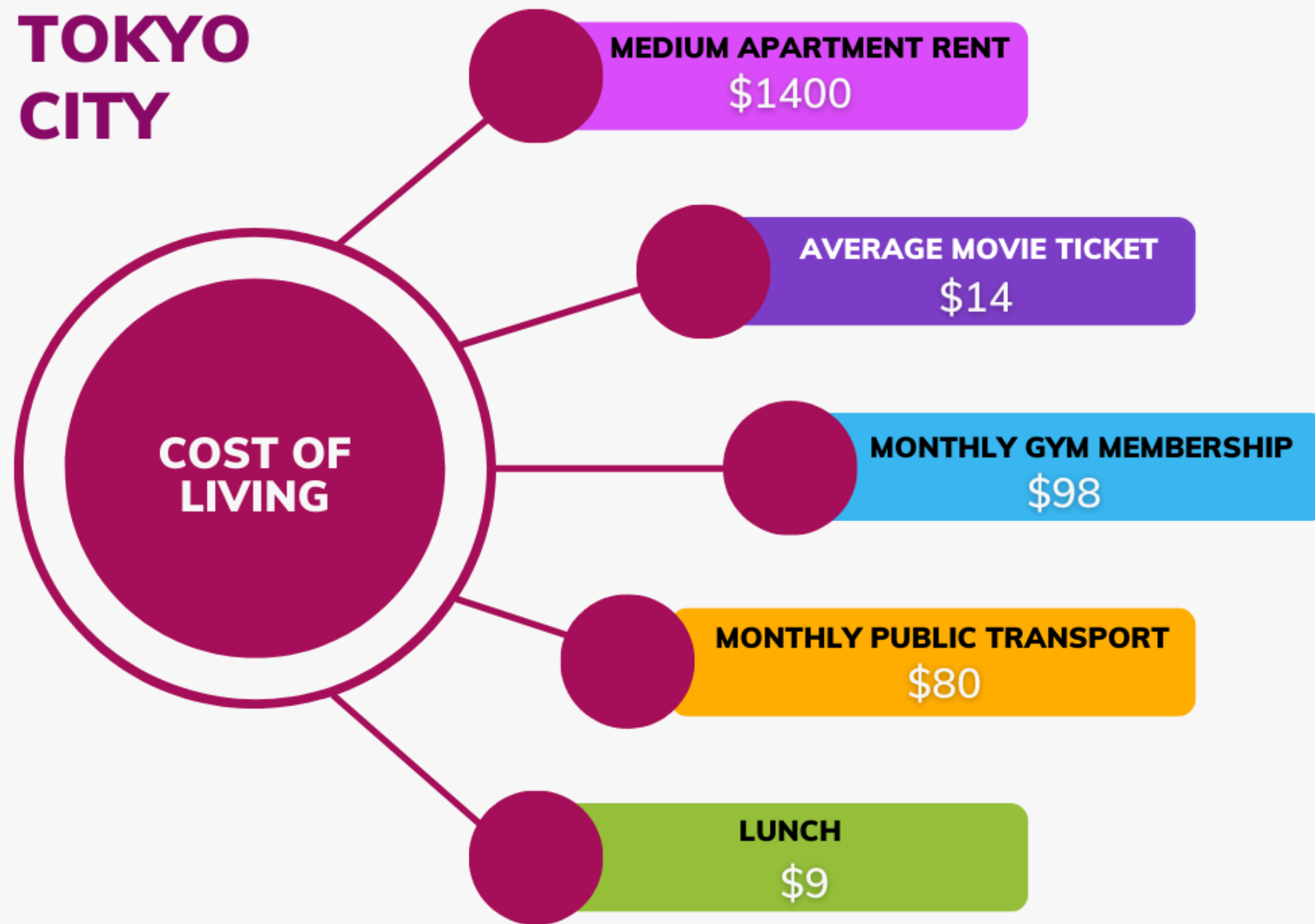
4 Business Japanese introduction

5 Free lesson ticket special offer

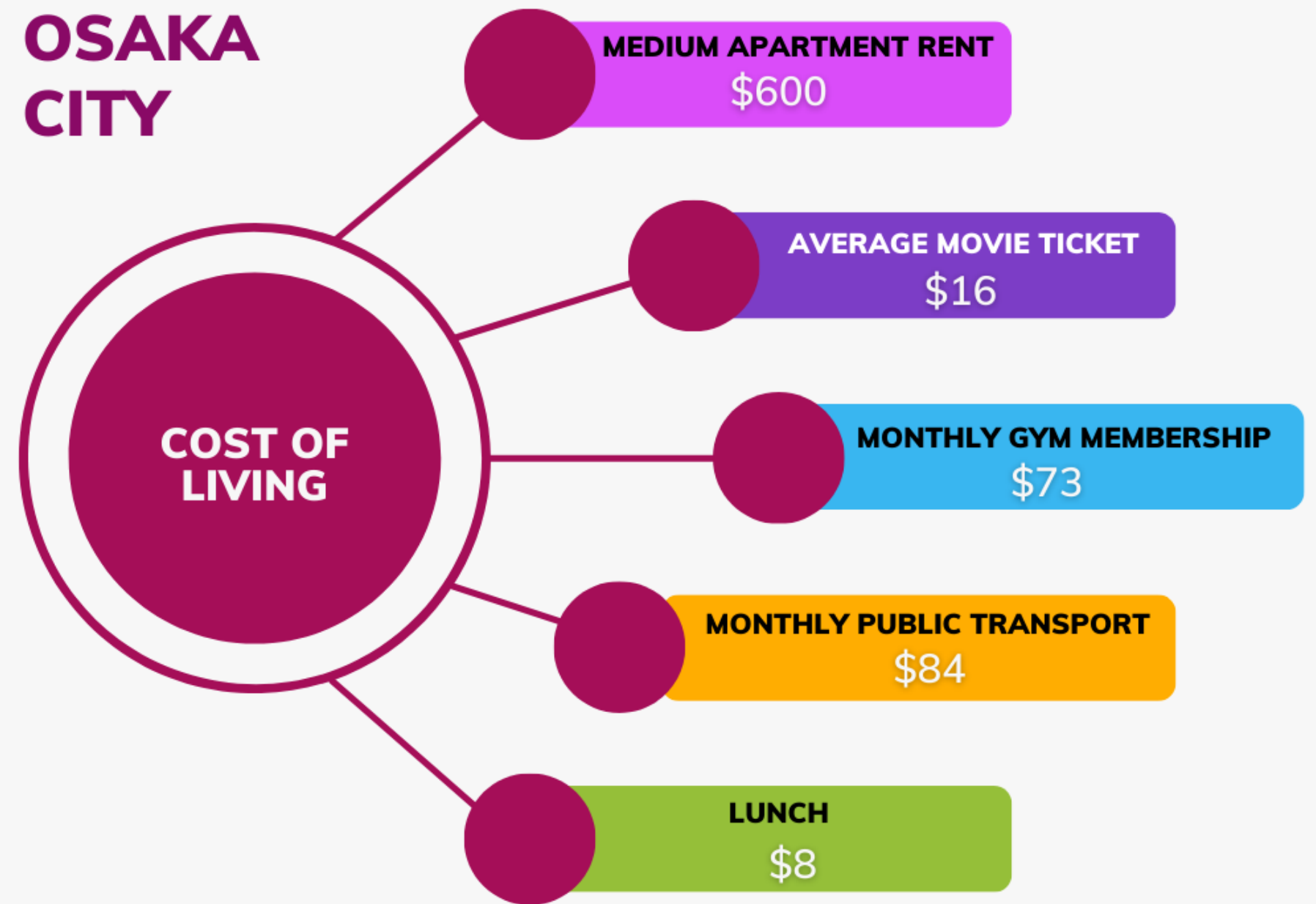
Comparisons of cost of living in different Japanese cities.



TOKYO CITY



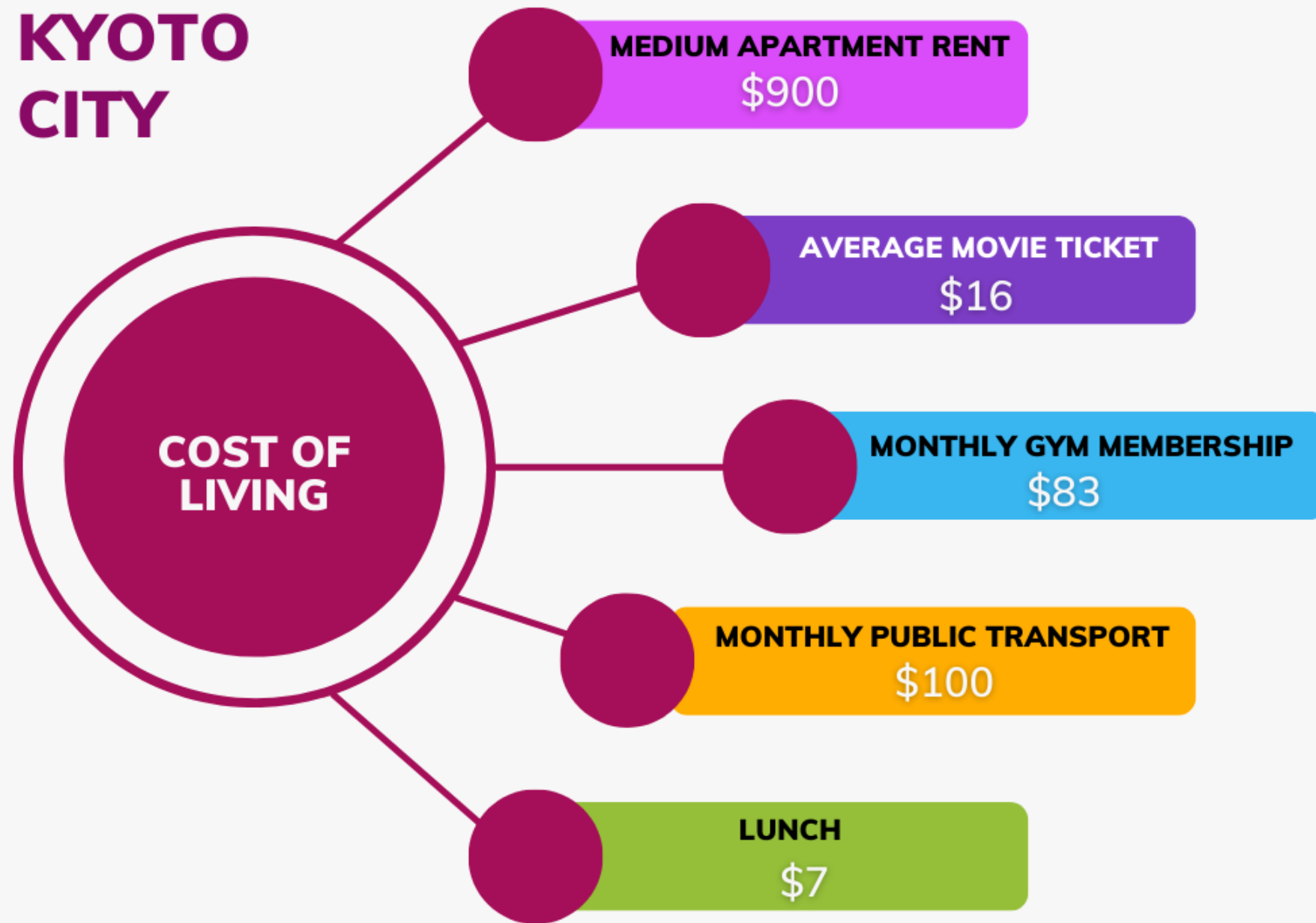
OSAKA CITY



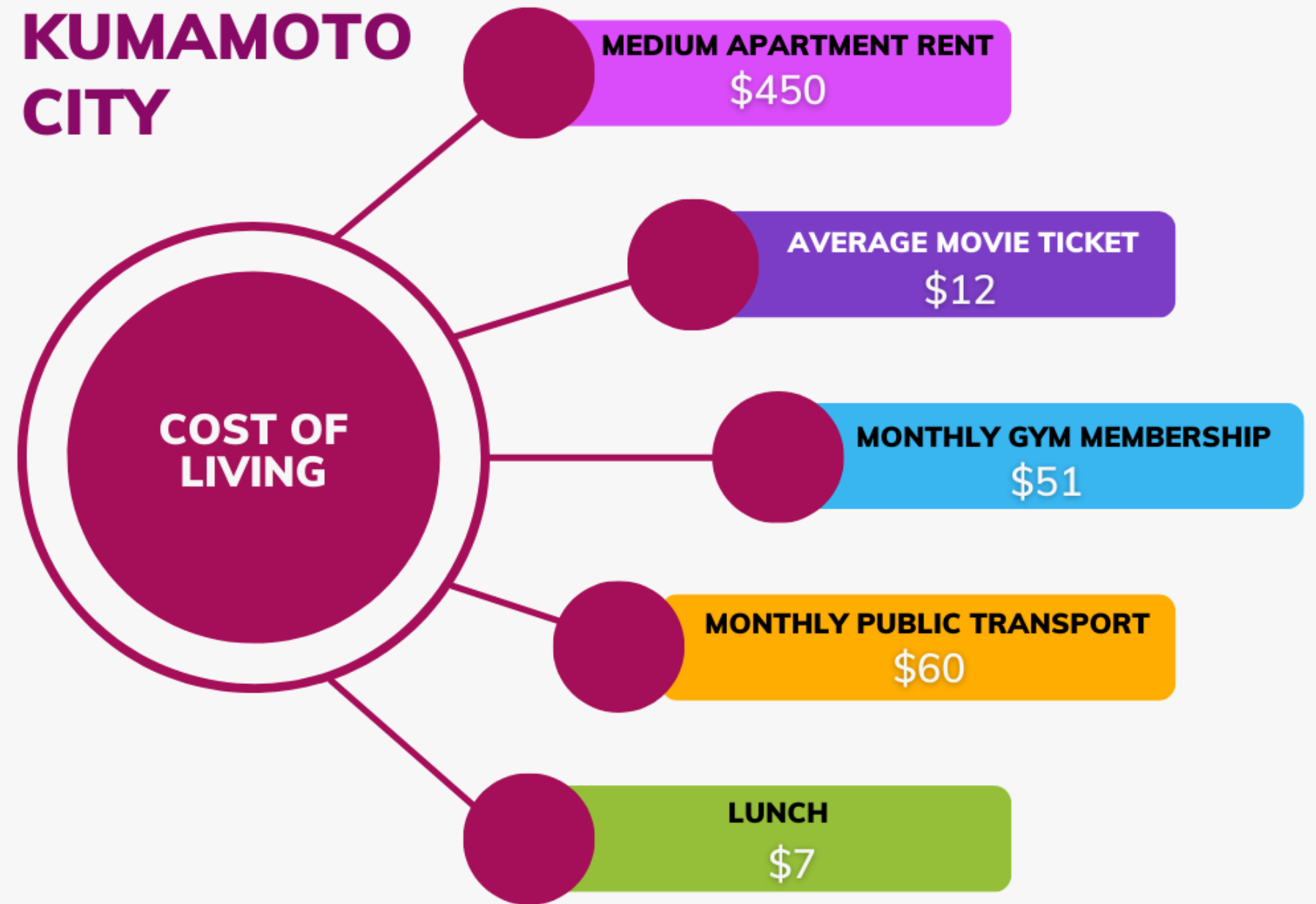
Comparisons of cost of living in different Japanese cities.



KYOTO CITY



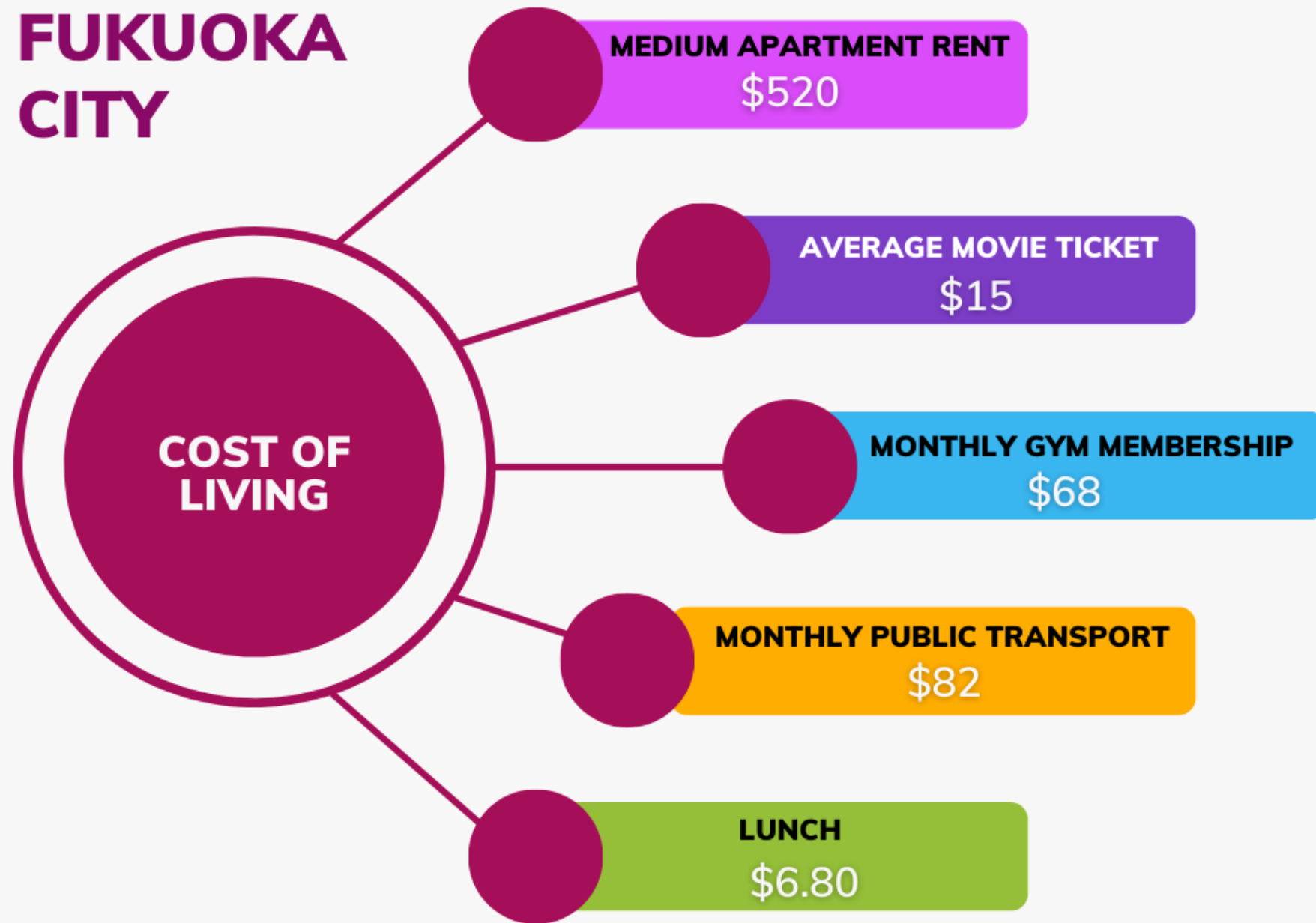
KUMAMOTO CITY



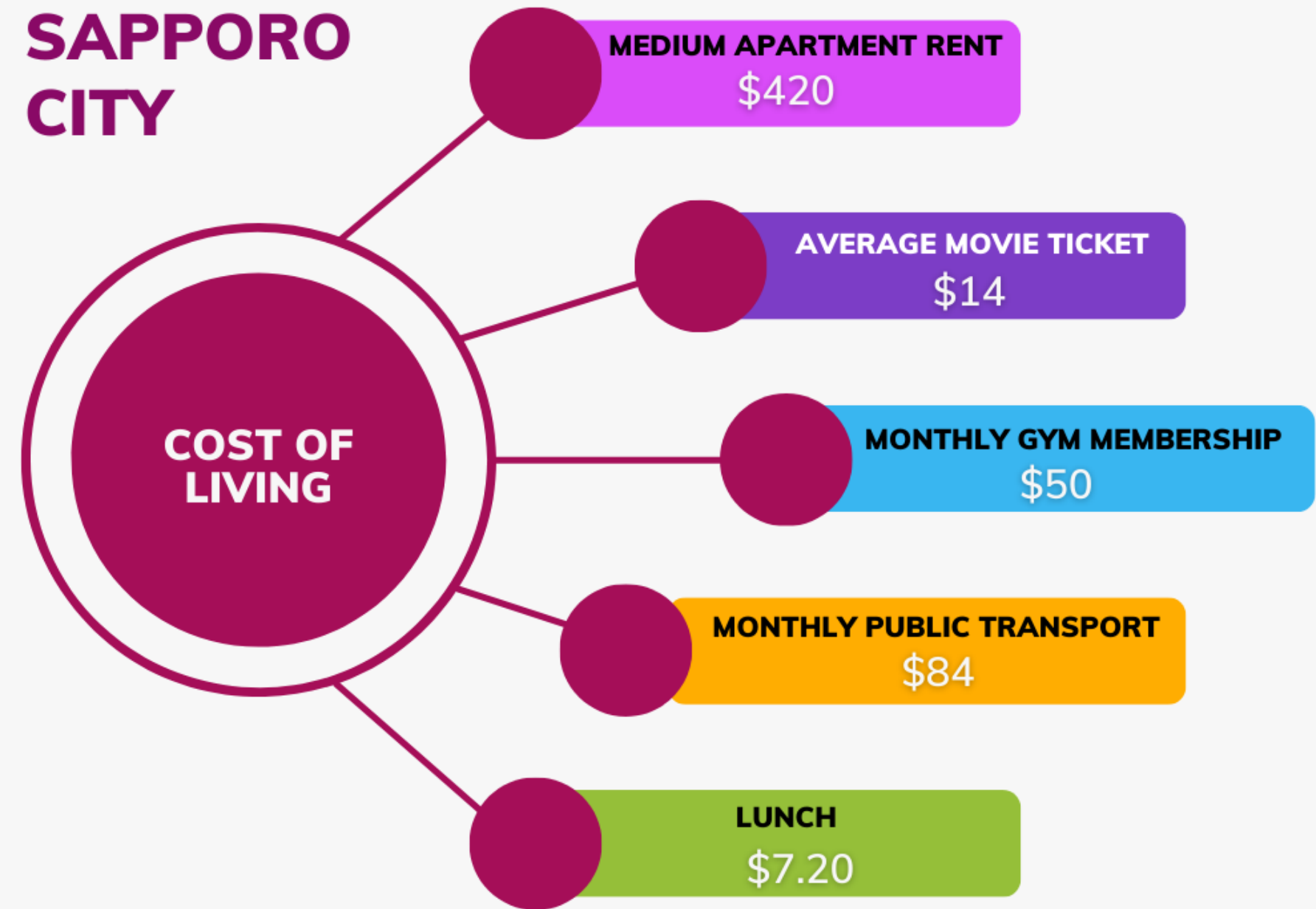
Comparisons of cost of living in different Japanese cities.



FUKUOKA CITY



SAPPORO CITY



A Quick Travel Guide of Japan



HOKKAIDO

Hokkaido is the northernmost and second-largest prefecture in Japan.

Known for its unspoiled natural beauty, powder-snow ski slopes, rich Ainu cultural heritage, and unique culinary delights,



HOKKAIDO





Recommended things to do in Hokkaido



Hokkaido is **a paradise for nature enthusiasts** and the culinary scene is a treat for food lovers.

Niseko

This is Asia's premier year-round resort.

It boasts **world class powder snow** during winter months, and in summer it is a retreat from the oppressive humidity.



Hot Spring Onsens

Unwind and rejuvenate in Hokkaido's natural hot springs.

The region is dotted with **idyllic onsen resorts** such as Noboribetsu, Jozankei, and Tokachigawa.





If you want to explore more about Hokkaido,



And learn Japanese vocabulary and practice listening to native Japanese,

check these free video blogs on Hokkaido below from JOL's teachers and staff

Sapporo Soup curry

A culinary sensation that took Japan by storm!

[Read the blog and watch the video here](#)

Autumn Festival

Another reason for foodies to visit Sapporo city!

[Listen to the blog and learn more here](#)

Asahiyama Zoo

Immensely popular and well-designed.

[Learn more about this zoo and watch the video](#)

Shimaenaga

A brief look at a cute Hokkaido wonder.

[Read about the Long-tailed tit in Japanese](#)

Canoeing

A fantastic way to adventure around the pristine rivers.

[Read this short and fun Japanese blog](#)

All the blogs include an English translation, vocabulary list, and a YouTube video !

TOKYO – KANTO REGION

Tokyo, the pulsating heart of Japan where tradition and innovation collide in a dazzling display of modernity and timeless beauty.

Embrace the vibrant energy and immerse yourself in its thriving pop culture scene.





Recommended things to do in Tokyo



Tokyo is a wonderful metropolis with **latest attractions**, some inside favourite tourist sites.

Tokyo Station **Redevelopment**

Past history meets modern architecture in a way that only Tokyo can do.

After the pandemic, from 2022 onwards, Tokyo station has seen a spectacular redesign.



Tokyo Tower = **New eSports hub**

This iconic landmark has a brand-new VR attraction and is fast becoming a global eSports hub.

Try out *new high-tech games, VR and AR attractions* at this revered cultural gem.



Prepare to be amazed by Tokyo and Kanto!

JOL's teachers and staff wrote a number of Japanese blogs for you to study

Japanese vocabulary and Kanji and study listening by watching the YouTube videos.

Tokyo or Chiba?

Many landmarks are called Tokyo but are they really?

[Read this blog and learn about this here](#)

The oldest uni in Japan

A surprising fun fact and place to visit in Chiba.

[Find out more about this fascinating history here](#)

Hasedera Temple

A must-visit site in Kamakura in June.

[Study Japanese while reading this blog](#)

Sanja Matsuri

In Asakusa in May? Don't miss this one!

[Read about a great festival in Tokyo](#)

Edo Village

In the famous town of Nikko, you can find a historic theme park.

[Find out more in this blog by a Japanese teacher](#)

All the blogs include an English translation, vocabulary list, and a YouTube video !

OSAKA - KANSAI REGION

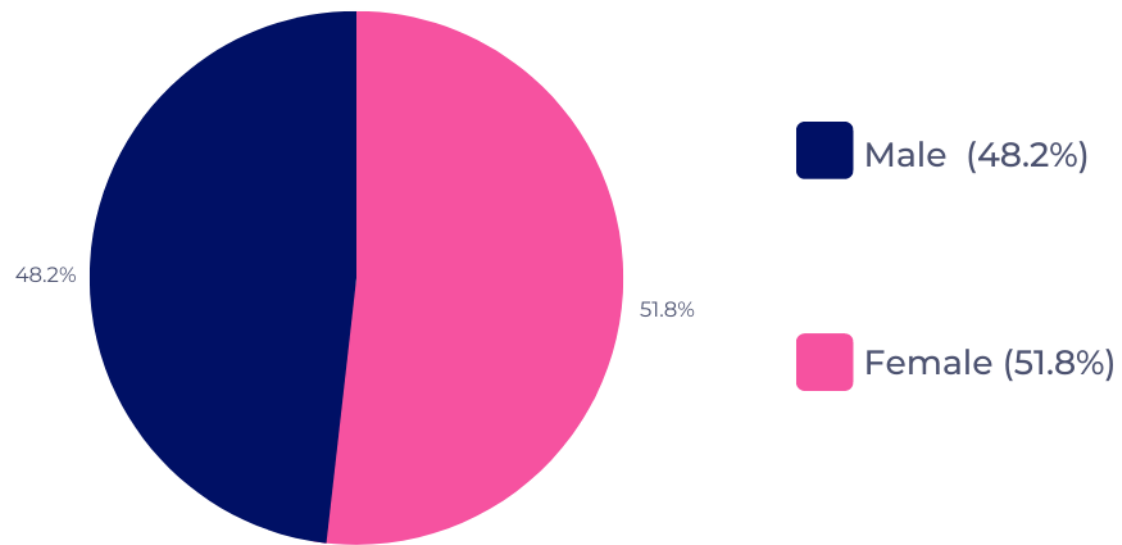
Japan's culinary capital where you can experience the warmth and friendly nature of Osaka's residents, known for their distinctive sense of humour and spirited personality.

From its counter-culture, and love of shopping and fashion it's a must-go destination!

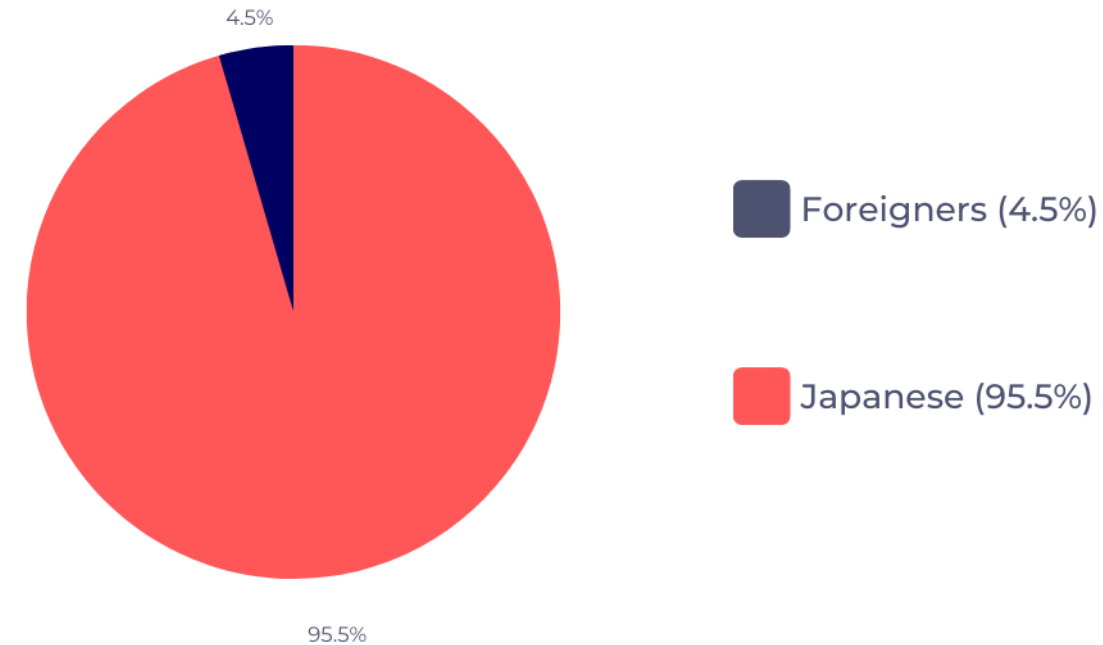


Here are some interesting statistics about Osaka.

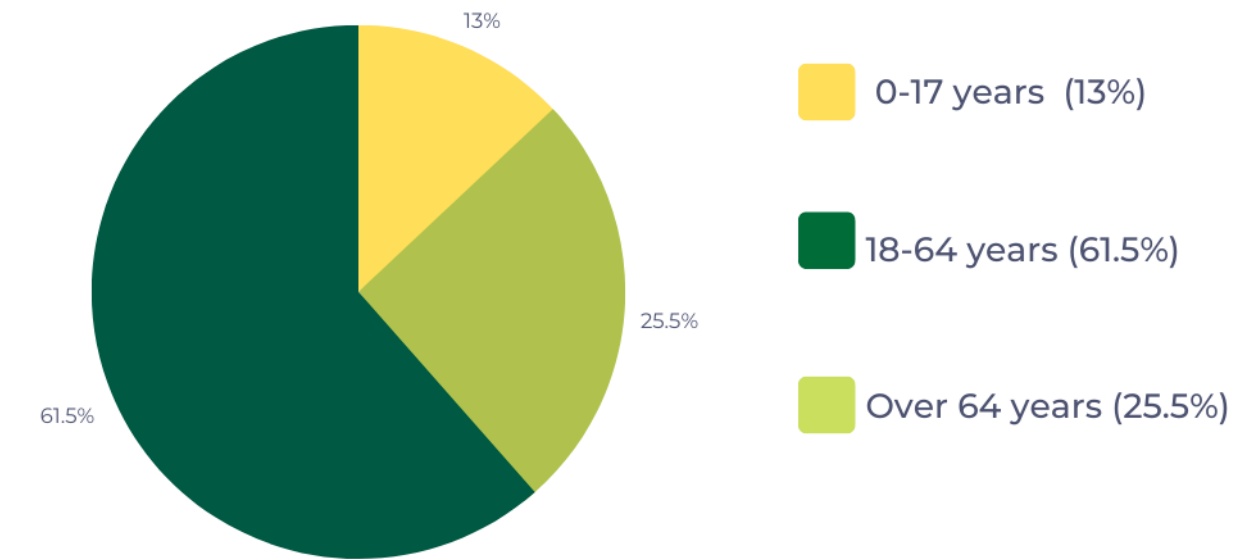
GENDER RATIO



NATIONALITY RATIO



AGE RATIO



These ratios are for Osaka from the 2020 census, but other cities in Japan have very similar ratios.



Recommended places to go in Osaka



There are **a myriad of shopping areas**, so if you love shopping, your head will spin!!

Shinsaibashi-suji Arcade

This covered arcade is standard all over Japan. Find anything here from traditional Kimono stores and tea-shops, to restaurants to suit all tastes!

The quintessential Japanese “shotengai”!



America Mura

Although it sounds like it is an area for Western fashion, Ame-Mura is actually a hip place to find Japanese fashion. *There are some brands that you can only find in this area!*

Check out the many Cosplay shops and cafes too!



KYOTO - KANSAL REGION

The cultural heart of Japan. It served as the country's capital for over 1000 years. It is the biggest tourist draw in Japan with over 80 million visitors annually!

Kyoto invites you to step into a world where time stands still, where the rich tapestry of Japanese tradition and culture unfolds at every corner.





Recommended places to go in Kyoto



Kyoto is **the historical center of Japan** with a huge range of tourist sites for you to visit

Gion

Gion is the most famous entertainment with a long ancient history.

It is the place of tea houses and geisha, that constitute some of the most **iconic images of Japan**.



Ponto-chō

If you are looking for a place to have a drink and and some dinner, then head to riverside area of Ponto-chō.

It is **a great place to practice your Japanese speaking skills** with the locals.



Kansai : The Vibrant Soul of Japan's Food, Trade and Comedy Culture!

JOL's teachers made some video blogs for you to study Japanese for free.

Study by listening to the YouTube videos and reading the Japanese with translations.



Gourmet City

Osaka is a city that captures the essence of Japan's culinary delights.

[Read about the Takoyaki and Okonomiyaki queues](#)

Akashi Kaikyo Ohashi Bridge

Japan and the Kansai region has a vibrant construction industry where engineering marvels abound.

[Read about a teacher's visit to a famous bridge in Kansai](#)

The Kobe Luminarie

The Kobe Luminarie is an event that has been held every year since 1995.

[Read about the Kobe Luminarie](#)

Deer in Nara

Visit Nara city and the wonderful sites and park.

[Meet the locals wildlife in this iconic park!](#)

All the blogs include an English translation, vocabulary list, and a YouTube video !



FUKUOKA – KYUSHU REGION

Welcome to Kyushu, the captivating southern region of Japan where breath-taking natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality await you.

The capital of this prefecture is Fukuoka city.





Recommended places to go in Kyushu



From long nature walks and historical towns, and **pristine beaches**, Kyushu has it all!

Kumamoto castle

Arguably the most beautiful castle in Japan.

This impressive structure and the surrounding mountain areas of Mt. Aso deserve a few days to enjoy.



Miyazaki

From mystical mountains shrouded in mist to pristine coastlines kissed by the azure waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Miyazaki is one of Japan's hidden gems.





Discover the Enchanting Allure of Kyushu - Japan's Southern Gem!



JOL's teachers and staff have written **hundreds of free Japanese learners' blogs**.

Learn Japanese vocabulary, Kanji and study listening by watching the YouTube videos.

Noko no shima

A pretty flower park and more in Fukuoka.

[See more and learn new Japanese vocabulary](#)

Kawachi Fuji garden

A trip to a garden full of Japanese wisteria.

[Take the trip and look at the photos with us here](#)

Kumamoto Castle

Perhaps the number 1 Japanese castle.

[Read the blog and enjoy the pictures](#)

Huis Ten Bosch

Holland in Japan?! This theme park is interesting.

[Read the blog and watch the YouTube video](#)

100 Million Yen Toilet

You've really got to see it to believe it!

[Read this blog from Tagawa in northern Kyushu](#)

Satsuma Kiriko

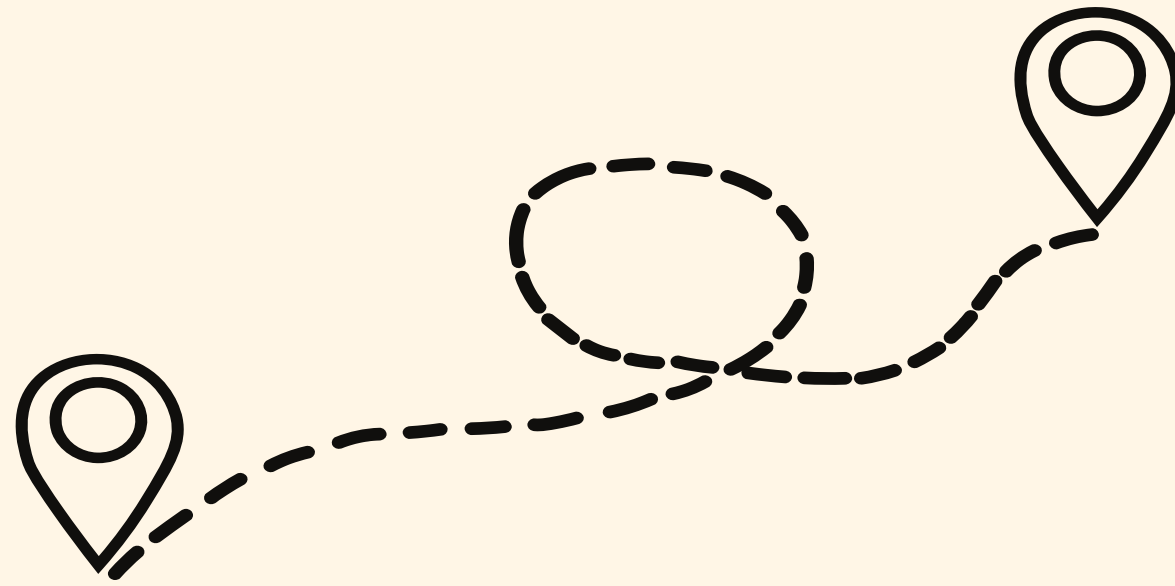
A 19th century Kagoshima speciality craft.

[Read the blog about beautiful glass cuttings](#)

Hita a pottery village

Interested in pottery and crafts? This town is worth a visit.

[Read the blog, learn new vocabulary and listen to natural Japanese](#)



IF YOU GET A CHANCE, THEN TRAVEL,
travel, travel.

And there are *many exhilarating ways*
to make the field of learning
the Japanese language enjoyable.

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THINGS TO KNOW, BEFORE YOU GO



ENTRY / VISA

To travel to Japan, you may need a visa. Some nationalities do not require a visa. *Check if your country is visa-exempt on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website*

⇒ https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html



SAFETY

Japan is well-known for being a safe country. You should not expect theft or violence but please take usual precautions, and *it is recommended to use any available hotel safeboxes for your valuables.*



One thing to note is that travellers are sometimes asked to show their passports (in duty free shops, or if you have any incident that involves law enforcement), and it is actually a law that **you have to carry your passport with you at all times.**



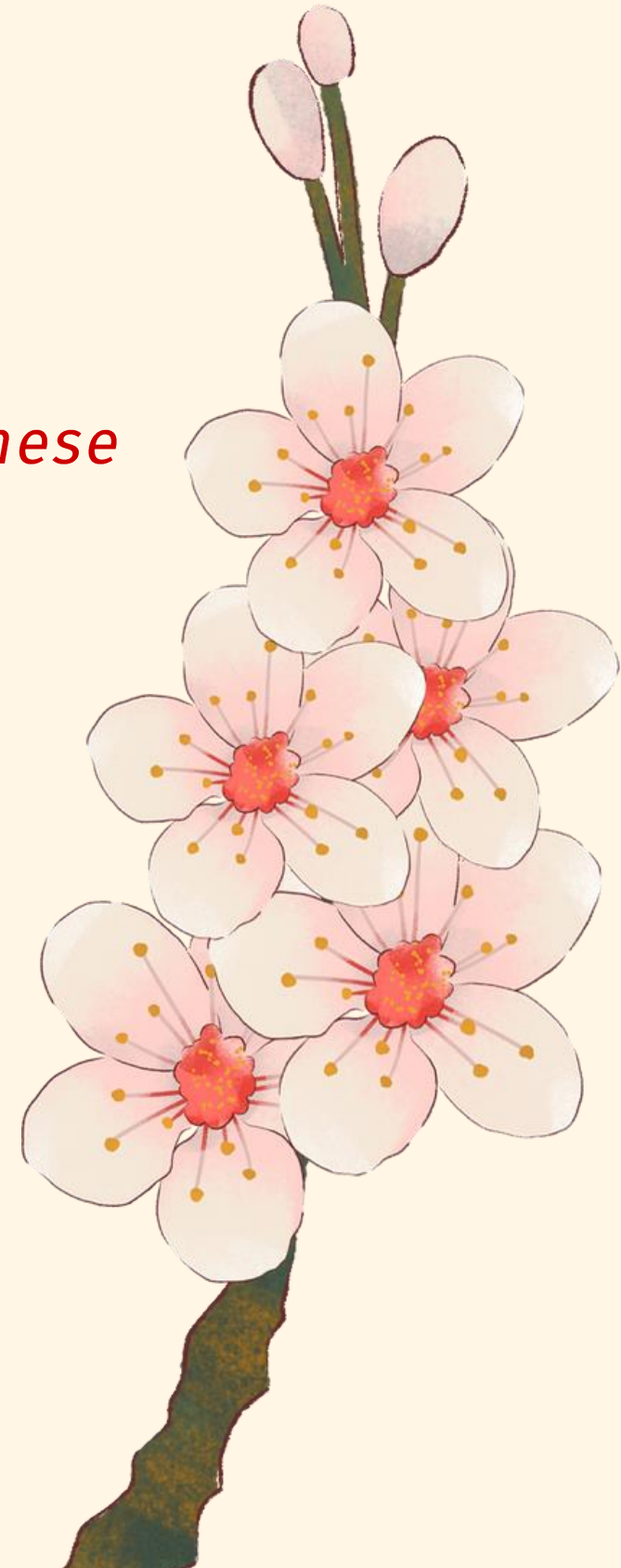
THINGS TO KNOW, BEFORE YOU GO

LANGUAGE

You really need to study some Japanese before going to Japan.

Most people are not competent English speakers, and *you need to know some basic Japanese* to get around safely and trouble-free.

Signs, announcements on public transport are often in both languages in the main cities, but if you go off the beaten *path in some rural areas, you need to be able to read some basic Kanji understanding* and Japanese communication.



A QUICK FUN GUIDE TO LOCAL DIALECTS



There are so many different dialects or 'ben' in Japanese!

HOKKAIDO - BEN

なんも (Nanmo)

Meaning

You're welcome. It's not a big deal. It's nothing special. Don't worry about it.

Example sentence

A: 昨日はいろいろ言って、ごめんね。

B: なんも。

A: Yesterday, I said various things. I'm sorry.

B: *It's nothing.*

なまら (Namara)

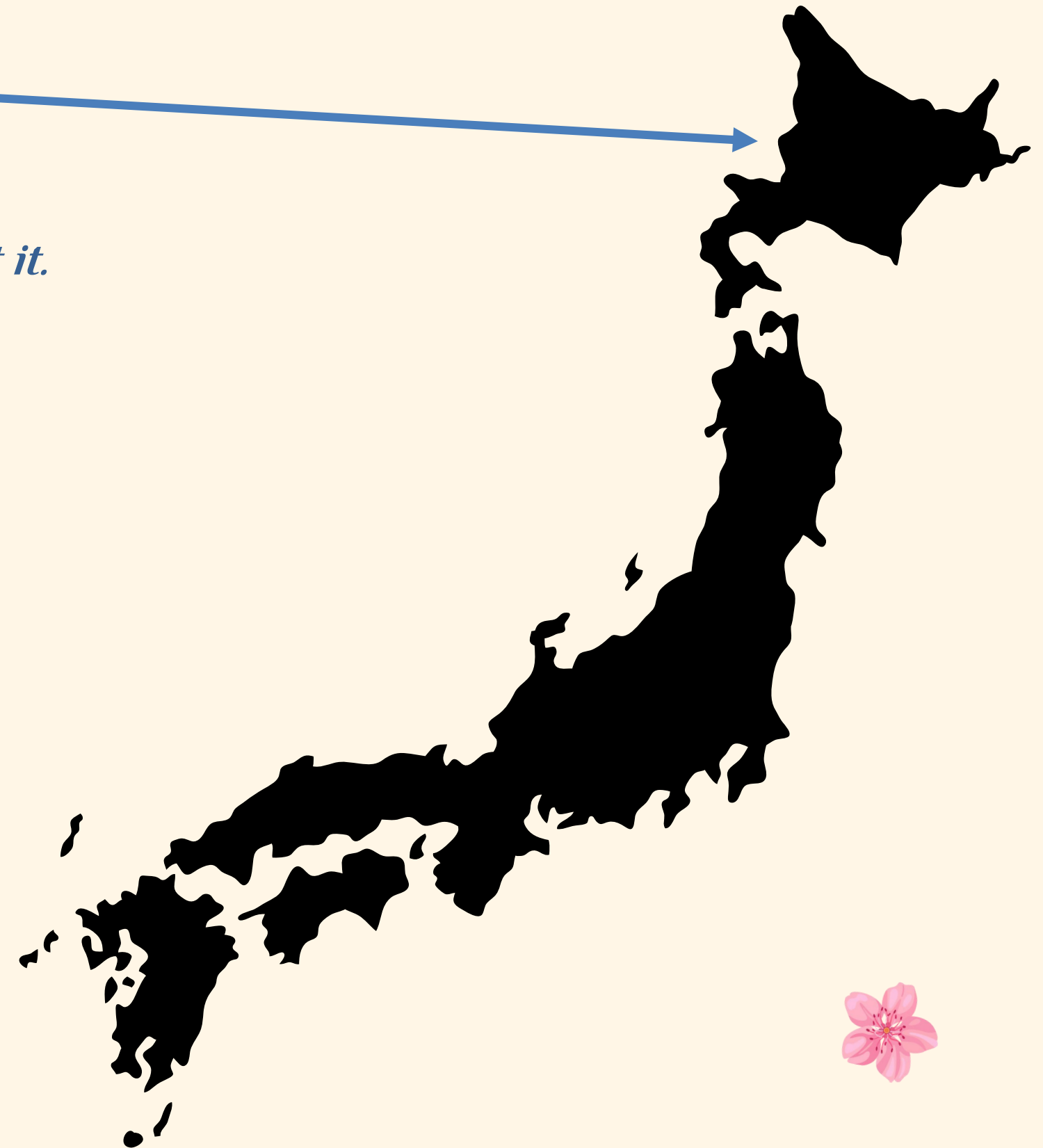
Meaning

Very, extremely

Example sentence

このビール、**なまら**おいしい！

This beer is *really* delicious!



A QUICK FUN GUIDE TO LOCAL DIALECTS

There are so many different dialects or 'ben' in Japanese!

OSAKA - BEN

まけて (Makete)

Meaning

Can you give me a discount?

Example sentence

この魚、まけてくれへん？

Could you give me a discount on this fish, please?

あかん (Akan)

Meaning

When things don't go as planned or to indicate prohibition of an action.

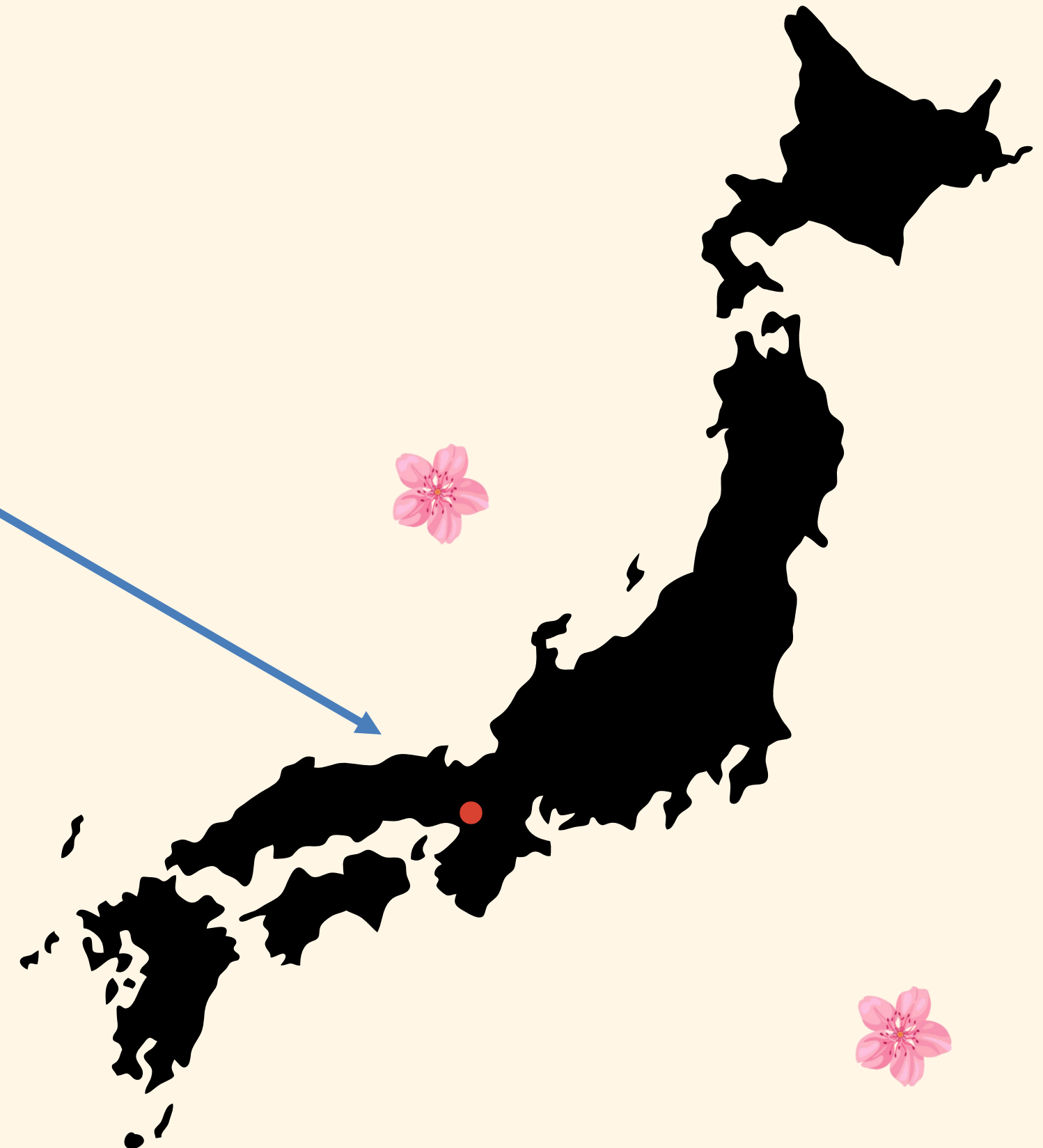
Example sentence

A: おかあさん、あした友達とUSJにいてもいい？

B: あかん。

A: Mom, can I go to USJ with my friends tomorrow?

B: No, you can't.



A QUICK FUN GUIDE TO LOCAL DIALECTS

There are so many different dialects or 'ben' in Japanese!

HAKATA - BEN

なんしよと? (Nanshiyouto?)

Meaning

What are you doing?

Example sentence

A: なんしよと?

B: 宿題をしているところなんやけど、どうしたん?

A: What are you doing?

B: I'm in the middle of doing homework. What's up?

とつとーと? tottoto?

Meaning

Is this taken/ reserved/secured?

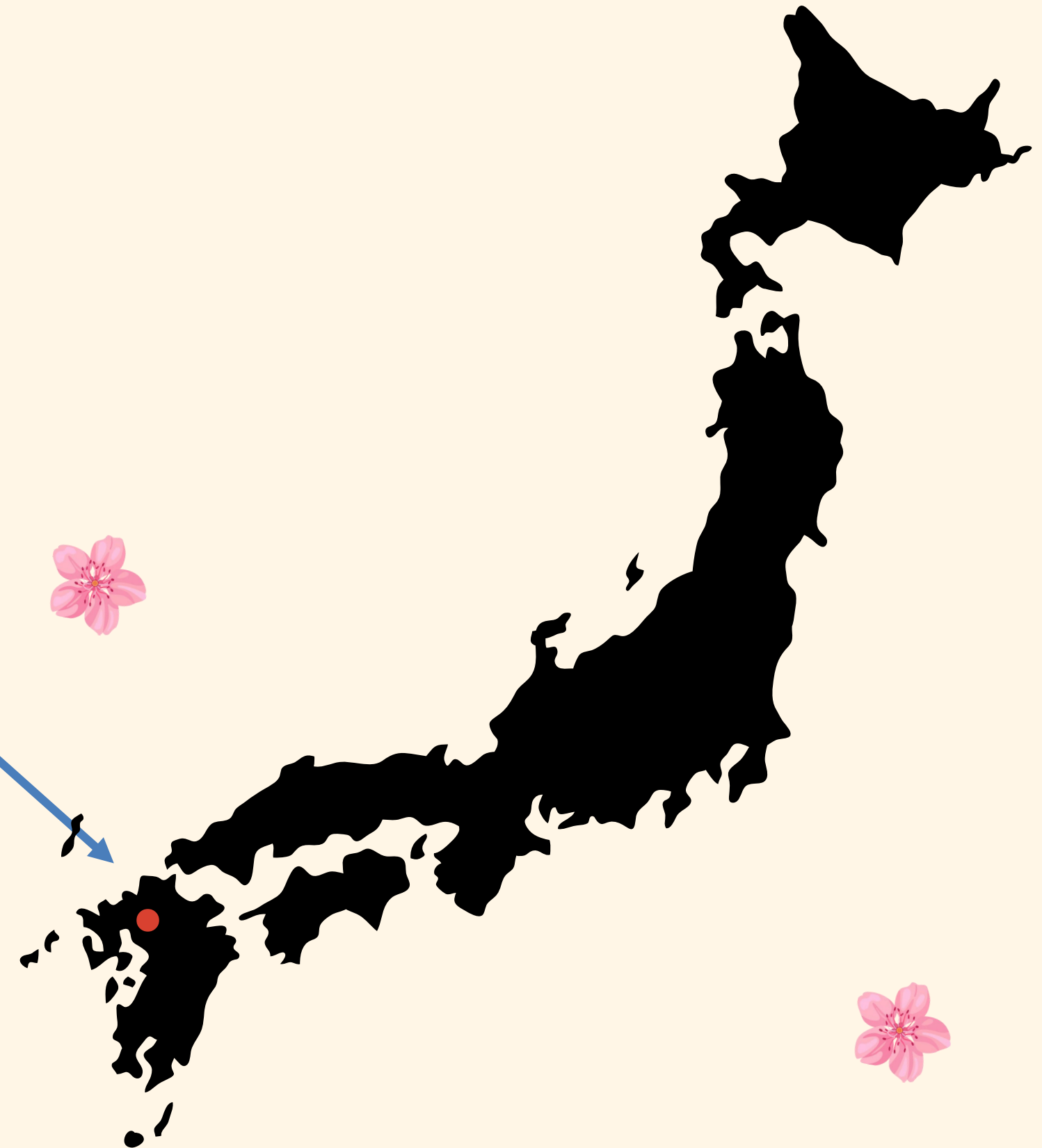
Example sentence

A: この席、とつとーと?

B: とつとーと。

A: Is this seat taken?

B: Yes, it is taken/occupied.



A QUICK SURVIVAL GUIDE BEFORE YOU GO

These are examples from JOL's Survival Japanese classes

Asking where something is



Example of conversations taught
トイレ (は) どこですか。
toire (wa) doko desu ka.
Where is the restroom?

Asking for products in a store



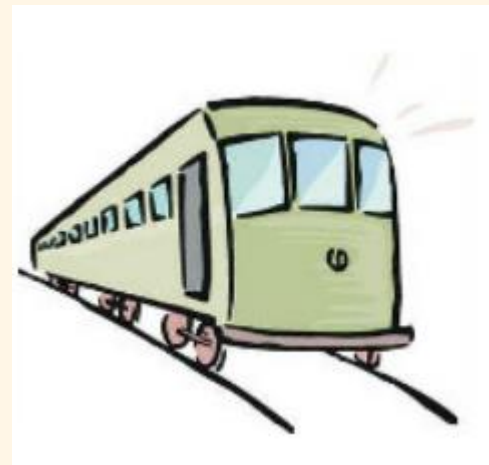
Example of conversations taught
すみません。ちず(は) ありますか。
sumimasen. chizu (wa) arimasu ka.
Excuse me. Do you have any maps ?

Ordering food at a restaurant



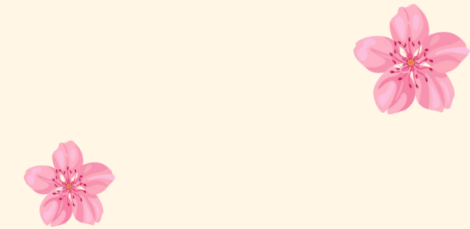
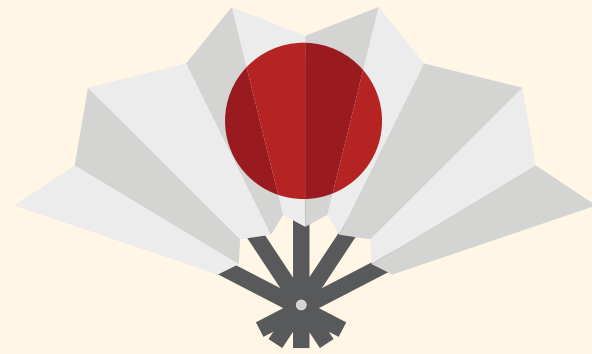
Example of conversations taught
ラーメン (を) ひとつ、おねがいします。
raamen (o) hitotsu, onegai shimasu.
I'll have one bowl of ramen, please.

Asking which train to take



Example of conversations taught
すみません。これ(は) あきはばら にいきますか。
sumimasen. kore (wa) akihabara ni ikimasu ka.
Excuse me, does this (train) go to Akihabara?





Try the Survival Japanese online lessons at *JOL*
The world's first online school with group and private lessons!

“The secret of success is to do the
common things uncommonly well.”

www.japonin.com



JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN JAPANESE COMPANIES



WORK IN YOUR COUNTRY

With the global market expansion, many Japanese companies have set up their corporate offices or local headquarters in different countries. International workers have an excellent edge to get hired.

DIGITAL NOMAD IN JAPAN

Japan is currently considering to create a digital nomad visa to attract more workers and visitors since the post-pandemic tourist economy has yet to fully bounce back. Make use of this chance.

AGEING SOCIETY – JAPAN NEEDS WORKERS

With the looming manpower shortage, there is a growing demand for skilled laborers in a variety of fields including nursing, fishery, agriculture and manufacturing. Basic language skills are required!



TRY BUSINESS JAPANESE LESSONS AT *JOI*

We set the benchmark for excellence.



ISHIBASHI sensei

Teaching Experience: 18 years

- Graduated from Meikai University foreign language dept.
- Completed the 420-hour course for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language
- Passed the Japanese Language Teacher Proficiency Test
- Worked at Japanese language schools in Chiba, Kyoto, and Osaka
- Taught Japanese at companies in Kansai

Business Japanese (For N3 Level And Above)

The contents of the Business Japanese classes (N3 level and above) are detailed below.

Category	Contents
Business Manner	Greetings, visits to other companies, language, business customs, etc. will be reviewed and practiced in a conversational style appropriate to the situation.
Telephone Responses	Confirm the flow of responses and practice standard telephone phrases. Use role-play to practice the caller and receiver responses.
Business Conversation	Students will learn useful conversations for negotiating in business meetings, reporting to superiors, and communicating with colleagues, and will practice conversations and role-plays.
Honorific expressions	Students will review and practice key points of keigo in a conversational format. Students will learn how and in what situations honorific expressions are used in business conversation, and practice through conversation and role-plays.

TRY BUSINESS JAPANESE LESSONS AT *JOI*

We set the benchmark for excellence.



YAMAMOTO sensei

Teaching Experience: 8 years

- Graduated from Tokyo University of Fishery, Department of business management
- Licensed as Professional Engineer (General Engineering Supervision Division)
- Passed the Japanese Language Teacher Proficiency Test
- Worked at a Machine Manufacturer, Department of factory, trade, research and development, sales, general affairs, accounting, and auditing

Business Japanese (For N2 Level And Above)

The contents of the Business Japanese classes (N3 level and above) are detailed below.

Category

Contents

Honorific Keigo expressions and business emails (basic)

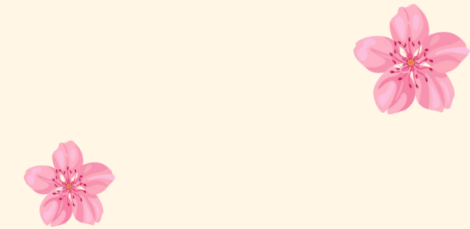
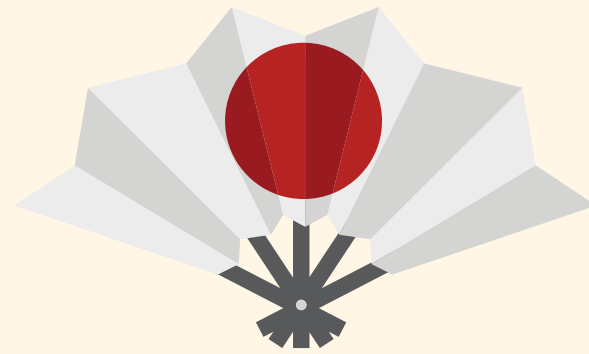
You will learn the basic knowledge of honorific expressions (types of honorific expressions, usage of "o" and "go", formal language). You will also use this knowledge to learn the basics of how to write internal and external emails (to customers and clients).

Honorific Keigo expressions and business emails (upper-intermediate level)

In this lesson you will learn how to write outgoing emails to customers and business partners in a variety of business situations, along with how to use proper Keigo. You will need to be able to type in Japanese in the chat room for this lesson.

Japanese writing for business (document)

You will learn the importance of writing business documents and the rules of writing and using words in different ways. You will also learn how to make your documents easy to read and understand.



Sign up for our Business Japanese online

Discover the unparalleled distinction of our veteran Japanese instructors

“We go beyond simply teaching language skills.”

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Special offer just for you

1 free extra Lesson ticket

if you sign up for our

Trial Lessons now!

Enter this coupon code **[JOI-free-lesson]**
when you [Enrol for the Trial Lessons](#) and
get **1 EXTRA LESSON TICKET free!**





THANK YOU!

BY JOINING THIS JAPANESE LEARNING COMMUNITY, you will receive:

- ✓ Language learning tips and quizzes via email
- ✓ Regular direct teacher blog access
- ✓ Notifications on lesson discounts and campaigns.

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