

Unit 9 O-MO-TE-NA-SHI Japanese Culture

✓ REVIEW

Put the following Japanese into English.

1. 足袋とは、伝統的な日本のかかとまでの履物で、親指とほかの指が分かれています。
2. わび・さびとは、典型的な日本人の美意識です

俳句

Haiku



CONVERSATION 1

Key words:

- poem (countable noun) 詩
- poetry (uncountable noun) (集合的な) 詩歌
- Moras are the rhythmic units of Japanese 音 (おん). The Japanese writing system of kana is based on moras, placing one kana on each mora. Moras are counted as 1-paku, 2-haku, ... using haku (拍)

1. Listen to the conversation twice without looking at the text.
2. Now repeat after the teacher, looking at the text.



A: What is Haiku poetry?

B: Haiku poetry is a fixed form of Japanese poetry which consists of 17 moras in three phrases of five, seven, and five moras respectively. It focuses on a brief moment in time involving nature. It is a way of looking at the physical world and seeing something deeper. Unlike English poetry, Haiku doesn't rhyme and we almost always use present tense. Haiku poems date back to the 9th century Japan.

3. Read the conversation until you memorize it.

4. Role play

Your teacher plays the role of A and you play the role of B.

CONVERSATION 2

1. Listen to the conversation without looking at the text.

2. Now repeat after the teacher, looking at the text.

A: Can you give me an example?

B: A celebrated example is the 17th-century haiku by Matsuo Basho about a frog.

This separates into moras as follows:

fu-ru-i-ke ya	(5 hiragana = 5 moras)	ふるいけや
ka-wa-zu to-bi-ko-mu	(7 hiragana = 7 moras)	かわずとびこむ
mi-zu-no-o-to	(5 hiragana = 5 moras)	みずのおと

Translated:

old pond . . .
a frog jumps in
the sound of water

The tiny sound made by one frog leaping into a pond is meant to highlight the quietness of the setting.

3. Read the conversation until you memorize it.

4. Role play

Your teacher plays the role of A and you play the role of B.



CONVERSATION 3

Key words:

- imply 暗に意味する
- verse 詩の一行
- envision 心に描く

1. Listen to the conversation twice without looking at the text.
2. Now repeat after the teacher, looking at the text.

A: Can you tell me about some rules in writing a haiku poem?

B: A haiku traditionally contains a kigo, a seasonal word or phrase that symbolizes or implies the season. For example, in the Basho's frog haiku, the frog is a seasonal reference that suggests late spring. Another important aspect is the division of the verse with a kireji, a "cutting word". In this haiku, the 'ya' at the end of the first phrase is a cutting word that produces a pause, giving the reader a chance to take a breath and envision the scene of the old pond.

3. Read the conversation until you memorize it.
4. Role play

Your teacher plays the role of A and you play the role of B.

PRACTICE SENTENCES

Put the following Japanese into English.

1. 俳句とは、五・七・五の十七音から成る日本の定型詩です。
2. 切れ字とは、句を切る働きをする語のことです。

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