

The staple food of the Japanese people is rice. Furthermore, with the country surrounded by ocean, fish supply is bountiful, and wide varieties of marine dishes have existed since days of old. Popular Japanese cuisine includes *sushi*, *tempura*, *ramen*, *soba*, *salon*, and so on.



① A: *Watashi ga ogoru wa.*  
B: *Sankyuu.*



② B: *Nihon-shoku mo oishii ne.*  
(*Sushi, soba, toofu*) (*Paku-paku*)  
A: *Desho?*



③ B: (*gee*) *Nani kore?*  
A: *Doshita no?*



④ A: *Nattou yo. Oishii desho?*  
B: *Kusatten ja nai?*

### ● words & phrases ●

- 私 (*watashi*: I, me) おごる (*ogoru*: to treat)
- 日本食 (*nihon-shoku*: Japanese food) おいしい (*oishii*: tasty) スシ (*sushi*: sushi) ソバ (*soba*: buckwheat noodles) トーフ (*toofu*: bean curd)
- 何 (*nani*: what) これ (*kore*: this) どう (*dou*: what) する (*suru*: to do)
- 納豆 (*nattou*: fermented soybeans) 腐る (*kusaru*: to rot)

### notes

① *Watashi* is the most common first-person pronoun. It is usually used by females in formal situations. *Atashi* is used in informal situations.

*Ga* is a particle that indicates the subject.

*Ogoru* means "to treat, to buy for someone." It is used in informal speech when speaking to someone whose social status is equal or lower. *Gochisou-suru* also means "to treat," and is more polite than *ogoru*.

*Wa* is a sentence-ending particle that is used by female speakers in weak assertive or volitional sentences.

② *Nihon-shoku* means "Japanese food or cuisine." *Washoku* and *nihon-ryouri* have the same meaning. *You-shoku* is "Western food."

*Mo* is a particle that indicates an addition, meaning "as well as, also."

*Ne* is a sentence-ending particle that indicates the speaker's request for confirmation or agreement from the listener about some shared information. In this case, it expresses the speaker's feeling of light surprise.

*Desho* is a colloquial version of *deshou*. The sentence ending *deshou* with a rising intonation asks for the listener's agreement. It is softer and less direct than the sentence ending particle *ne*.

*Paku paku* is a mimetic that describes the act of munching.

③ *Gee* is a sound that describes being disgusted by something, such as in this case, a foul taste.

*Doshita* is colloquial expression of *dou*

*shita*, which is the past tense of *dou suru*.

The sentence-ending particle *no* is usually used by females or children to in-group members only in informal situations to express a question with a rising intonation, or emotive emphasis with a falling intonation.

④ *Yo* is a sentence-ending particle that indicates the speaker's strong conviction or assertion about something that is assumed to be known only by the speaker. The use of *yo* directly after a noun is especially used by female speakers.

*Kusatten ja nai* is a contracted version of *kusatte iru no de wa nai*. *Kusatte* is the *te*-form of *kusaru* (to rot). *Iru* is an auxiliary verb. It is used with the *te*-form of a verb, and indicates the continuation of a state. *No de wa nai* is the negative form of *no da*, which is used to ask for an explanation about some information shared with the listener. In this case, the sentence ending pattern *-a ja nai* is a negative question marker.

### script

- A: It's my treat.  
B: Thank you.
- B: Japanese food is also great!  
(*Sushi, soba, toofu.*) (Munch, munch)  
A: Isn't it?
- B: What's this? (Ack!)  
A: What's the matter?
- A: They're fermented soybeans. Aren't they good?  
B: Aren't they rotten?

There are a lot of people who keep pets in Japan. Cats and dogs are the most popular among them. For pet owners, the pets seem to be members of the family.



① A: Oku-san, son'na ni futorasechatte! Kenkou nimo ki o tsukenakya!  
B: Haa...



② B: Kawaii mon desu kara tsui... Nee Tama-chan!  
A: (mu!)



③ B: Himan wa kainushi no sekinin yo!! Oku-san niwa petto o kau shikaku nai wa!!



④ C: Mamaa, boku no oyatsu waa? (dosu dosu)  
A: Reizouko niaisu to piza ga aru wa yo.

### words & phrases

- 奥さん (oku-san: wife) 太る (futoru: to get fat) 健康 (kenkou: health) 気をつける (ki o tsukeru: to be careful) はあ (haa: well)
- かわいい (kawaii: cute) ねえ (nee: right) タマちゃん (Tama-chan: name of the cat)
- 肥満 (himan: obesity) 飼主 (kainushi: owner) 責任 (sekinin: responsibility) ペット (petto: pet) 飼う (kau: to have) 資格 (shikaku: qualification)
- ママ (mama: mom) ぼく (boku: I) おやつ (oyatsu: snack) 冷蔵庫 (reizouko: refrigerator) アイス (aisu: ice cream) ピザ (piza: pizza)

### notes

① *Oku-san* is used to refer to someone else's wife, meaning "madam." It is used like *sensei* (teacher), *shachoo* (president) and *okaasan* (mother) in place of personal names.

*Futorasechatto* is a contraction of *futorasete shimatte*, which is the *te*-form of *futorasete shimanu*. *Shimau* in *V-te shimanu* is an auxiliary verb that indicates the completion of an action. *Futorasete* is the *te*-form of *futoraseru*, which is a causative form of the verb *futoru*, meaning "get fat." In this case, it means to allow someone to get fat.

*Ni* is a particle that marks an indirect object.

*Mo* is a particle that indicates an addition, meaning "as well as, in addition."

*Ki o tsukenakya* is a colloquial version of *ki o tsukenakereba (naranai)*. *V-nakereba naranai* expresses the idea of obligation. Sometimes, *naranai* is omitted if the context is clear.

*Haa* is a less formal expression of *hai*, meaning "yes." In this case, it indicates that the speaker is listening to an unwanted, unexpected, or uninteresting story.

⑥ *Mon* is a colloquial version of *mono*. It indicates a reason or an excuse as if it were a tangible object.

*Kara* is originally a subordinate conjunction that expresses a reason or a cause, but in this case, it is used to give a specific reason or a cause for the speaker's state of mind or feelings in a very indirect and vague fashion.

*Tsui* is an adverb, meaning "carelessly".

*Neo* or *ne* is used to draw the listener's attention or to confirm that the listener has understood what has been said up to that point.

*Mu* is a mimetic that indicates annoyance.

⑧ *Wa* is a particle that marks a topic, meaning "as ..."

*No* is a particle that combines two nouns. In this case, it indicates possession.

*Yo* is a sentence-ending particle that indicates the speaker's strong conviction or assertion. When *yo* is used in this way, the utterance becomes more forceful.

*Mi* is a particle that is used with the predicate *aru* (to have) or *nai* (not to have) to indicate the person who possesses something.

*O* is a particle that marks a direct object.

In *shikaku nai*, the particle *wa* is omitted after *shikaku*. When *wa* is used in negative sentences, it marks the negated element.

The sentence ending particle *wa* is used in female speech and expresses the speaker's weak assertion, intimacy or friendliness.

⑩ *Ni* is a particle that indicates the location.

*To* is a particle that is used to list things exhaustively, meaning "and."

### script

- A: You've let Tama get that fat! You should be careful of her health, too!  
B: Well....
- B: Tama is just so cute... right, Tama!
- A: Obesity is the owner's responsibility! You're not qualified to keep a pet!
- C: Mom, where are my snacks?  
A: There's ice cream and pizza in the fridge.