

Think back to the time when you studied Japanese, “ desu/ masu.”

# Are you talking in polite Japanese?

It is important to treat other people with respect and it is expressed by using honorific Japanese. Try to talk to other people with polite expression. It is useful in many situations of daily life when using this.

I found some expressions used by foreigners very eccentric. I also found some foreigners who are using rude Japanese language. In Japan, there has been a custom using honorific Japanese when communicating with older or unfamiliar persons. I found that some of the fluent speakers of Japanese could not use the honorific Japanese properly. The honorific Japanese has a lot of expressive idioms, respect, humble and polite form.

Here is a comparison table describing basic polite and high-profile words which you studied at the beginning stage.

|                        |                     |   |                             |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| I agreed.              | "Soka"              | ⇒ | "So desuka"                 |
| I do not know.         | "Shiranai"          | ⇒ | "Shirimasen"                |
| Thank you.             | "Arigato"           | ⇒ | "Arigato gozaimasu"         |
| Yes.                   | "Un"                | ⇒ | "Hai"                       |
| Is that Ok'd?          | "Korede ii?"        | ⇒ | "Korede ii desuka?"         |
| I understood.          | "Wakatta"           | ⇒ | "Wakarimashita"             |
| I will go.             | "Iku"               | ⇒ | "Ikimasu"                   |
| Is the teacher absent? | "Sensei wa yasumi?" | ⇒ | "Sensei wa oyasumi desuka?" |



A lot of Japanese people reluctantly accept the inevitable that foreigners are using the eccentric expressions because they are not Japanese and do not know how to use polite words. However, it would be advisable to learn and try to use the polite Japanese if the stay in Japan would be longer. Nobody feels discomfort when hearing people communication or being talked with polite words. On the contrary, when being replied back with rude words, some people feel discomfort even if non-showing expression. The speaker's dignity and integrity are judged by the words spoken. At the time of job-interviewing the high favorability rating requires polite words with respect to others rather than being fluent in Japanese. We often heard/saw Japanese young mothers scolding their child with rude words. It is necessary for Japanese people, same as foreigners, to study Japanese proper language. We would like to build comfortable society which enables us to have a good conversation with others by trying to use polite words. FICEC holds Japanese language class at its office from 10:00 to 12:00 every Thursday and it is possible to study the polite Japanese language at its office. Why not join this class?

**"Child-care support center" Mothers as well as child make new friends at this facility.**

"Child-care support center" (The name is depending on cities or town) is one of facilities where pre-school children and their parents can get together socially. Child-care support, group activity on child-raising, provision of information and course of child-raising are available at this facility. You can have a counseling on child-care with ease because they are managed by city or town.

1. Fujimi municipal child-care support center, Pippi: Monday to Friday, 09:00 -12:00 & 13:00 -17:00 Tel 251-3005
2. Fujimino municipal Uenodai nursery & child-care support center: Monday to Friday, 09:50 -15:30 Tel 256-8623
3. Miyoshi town-run child-care support center: Monday to Friday, 08:30 12:00 & 13:00 - 17:15 Tel 258-5106



**Represented DVD movie, "Let's live in Saitama" !**

DVD movie "Let's live in Saitama"

(Requested by Saitama prefecture, 7 languages) was represented. There are contents which require information when starting to live in Saitama. Notice to city office, when falling sick, educational issue, counseling in times of troubles, residents' association, Japanese language class and information on livelihood.

Youtube video is available

(<http://www.youtube.com/user/saitamakenkokusaika>, 7 languages). For more detailed information, check out our web site of Kokusai-ka, Saitama Prefecture.

**Preventive vaccination act was revised.**

**You may want to confirm it for your important child.**

The major areas of revision are as follows from April 1 on. The subsidy for under-mentioned 3 kinds of vaccines has been given since fiscal year 2011 because they have been done on voluntary basis. However, all vaccines are available free of charge by revision in law.

- 1) Preventive vaccination against cancer of the cervix: Girls from 1<sup>st</sup> grade of Junior high school to 1<sup>st</sup> grade of senior high school.
- 2) Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B)

**FICEC consultation new open in Fujimi city!**

From April 3, 2013 FICEC's consultation for foreigners has been open at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Fujimi city office. It is recommendable to consult FICEC staff before anxiety begins to grow.

Please feel free to consult them. Bus service from Tsuruse station is available.

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> counseling room inside Fujimi city office, every Wednesday 09:00 – 12:00



vaccine: Infants from older 2 months to 5 years old. Frequency of inoculation is depending on commencing time.

(Hib disease is a serious disease, it could result in brain damage.)

- 3) Pneumococcal vaccine: Infant from older 2 months to 5 years old. Frequency of inoculation is depending on commencing time. For further inquiries, contact health-care center of cities or town.

[www.ficcc.jp/living/](http://www.ficcc.jp/living/)

Contact Fujimino International Cultural Exchange Center for further inquiries