

## SUPERSTITIONS IN JAPAN

Superstitions are a combination of religious background, useful advice and cultural values. Japanese superstitions are fascinating and truly unique. About some of the superstitions we can relate to with our own culture and daily life.

Let us look at a few of the most interesting and fascinating beliefs and superstitions in Japan which are believed to bring good fortune and luck and also those which are associated with bad luck.

There is a unique belief that when you are nervous before giving a presentation or speech, just write the kanji of hito (人) on your palm three times and then swallow it. You are swallowing the people you are afraid of, before they can swallow you, by overwhelming or intimidating you !! I think it's a great morale booster and one should try it. Quite fascinating !

Another superstition which we in India are unaware of is that one shouldn't hang clothes out for drying at night, because you'll be practically begging a spirit to come and haunt them. This came about as there used to be a belief that clothes retain an owner's spirit after death. Scary isn't it !!

The common crow too has an interesting significance in Japan. It's a bad omen to hear one cawing, usually indicating bad luck or death will come upon you. But in India a crow cawing indicates that guests will be visiting you ( a good sign !!).

Less a superstition and more a pseudoscience, there is a belief in Japan that your blood type dictates your personality. Unlike a lot of the other superstitions, this one is actually believed by quite a few today! If you're type A, you are described as 几帳面 (きちょうめん), or someone who is well-organized. If you're type B, you are described as 自己中 (じこちゅう), or selfish. If you're type AB, you are considered a mix of A and B and are described as 変わり者 (かわりもの), or eccentric. Finally, type O. If you are type O, you are 楽観主義 (らっかんしゆぎ), or optimistic. There's no real science backing up this belief, but it can be fun to categorize yourself. Did it get it right for you?

~ Poonam Nand Dey

### Type A:

Creative  
Cooperative  
Stubborn  
Uptight



### Type B:

Empathetic  
Passionate  
Selfish  
Erratic



### Type AB:

Rational  
Adaptable  
Indecisive  
Critical



### Type O:

Confident  
Resilient  
Self-centered  
Unstable



# MEET Titas Chatterjee

Last year in our NKKS drama at IN NICHI BUNKASAI you have seen a mock – fighting of SUMO! TITAS CHATTERJEE was one of the actors. He has just returned after being in Japan for one year in an academic student exchange program! We had a chat with him about his experience, study, dreams and so on.



Q: How did you get the chance to go to Japan?

A: I had the opportunity to visit Japan through an academic exchange program from Jadavpur University. It was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to learn not only the classroom but also through everyday life. Living in Japan

gave me the chance to experience it's culture, traditions and way of life. I also met people from different backgrounds, explored many places of historical and cultural importance and gained a deeper appreciation of Japanese society.

Q: Self-Introduction:

A: I am currently pursuing my undergraduate studies in Comparative Literature from Jadavpur University. I have a strong interest in languages, literature, history and culture which naturally led me to study Japanese. I enjoy learning about different societies and believe that language is one of the best ways to understand people and build meaningful connections across cultures.

Q: Why did you choose to learn Japanese?

A: I chose to learn Japanese because I was fascinated by Japan's history, literature, culture and the richness of its language. As I continued learning I realised that Japanese is much more than a means of communication – it provides a deeper understanding of the country's ideas, traditions and world view. Learning the language has been an enjoyable and rewarding journey that continues to motivate me every day.

Q: Your impression of Japan, Japanese people and culture.

A: I admire the country's rich cultural heritage, beautiful seasonal traditions and the balance it maintains between preserving traditions and embracing innovation. The kindness, courtesy and sincerity of the people made my stay memorable. Every experience from everyday interactions to cultural events helped me appreciate the values that shape Japanese society.

Q: Your hobbies.....

A: I enjoy reading, learning about history and international relations, watching documentaries and exploring different cultures and languages.

Q: How do you want to utilise this language in the future or in your career?

A: In the future I hope to pursue research on Japan, particularly the historical, cultural and intellectual relationship between India and Japan. I am interested in exploring how the two countries have influenced each other over time and how academic and cultural exchanges can continue to strengthen their friendship. I also hope to use Japanese language to engage with original sources, collaborate with researchers and contribute to greater mutual understanding between the two countries.

~ Alope Basu

いし うえ さんねん

石の上にも三年 | Even dust, when accumulated, becomes a mountain



秋刀魚(さんま) or Pacific Saury is a beloved saltwater fish in Japan and is now beginning to appear in Supermarkets as a sign of the upcoming autumn season!

## Let's Chat in Japanese – II



On 26th July, NKKS conducted the "Let's Chat in Japanese II" Kaiwa Practice Session, providing members with an engaging platform to strengthen their Japanese speaking skills through interactive conversation. Participants were divided into small groups, each guided by one or two mentors, creating a comfortable and encouraging environment for meaningful discussions. The conversations covered a wide range of topics, from hobbies and daily life to personal motivations for learning the Japanese language, allowing learners to practice natural communication while getting to know one another. Throughout the session, the mentors offered valuable guidance, corrected expressions where necessary and encouraged everyone to participate with confidence. The lively exchange of ideas and interactive atmosphere made the programme both educational and enjoyable, leaving participants motivated to continue improving their conversational Japanese and looking forward to future Kaiwa Practice Sessions organised by NKKS.

~ Soumyojit Chakraborty

## Condolences



All NKKS members deeply mourn the sudden demise of one of its old members, Mr. Sanjoy Ganguly, in August 2026. He will be fondly remembered for his exceptional contribution in establishing NKKS and his fun loving nature!



## DID YOU KNOW?



India is Suzuki's largest overseas manufacturing hub; the company has long sold vehicles here, and today, Indian-made Suzuki cars are exported to over 100 countries. The Suzuki Smart Factory in Haryana—inaugurated in July 2026 by Prime Minister Takaichi and Prime Minister Modi—has an annual production capacity of one million vehicles, making it one of the world's largest automotive plants. With 2.35 million vehicles produced in India last fiscal year, Chairman Osamu Suzuki remarked, "Driven by its economic strength, market size, and long-term growth potential, India remains one of the most promising destinations for Japanese companies to expand into."

## Riddle

~ Khushboo Agarwal

しかく

ボールはボールでも、四角いボールは  
なん  
何だ？



## Riddle Solution

(Jul - Aug 2026)

AI (人工知能)



19 September 2026 (Sat)  
2.00 PM

28<sup>th</sup> Nihongo Quiz

[@RMIC Golpark](#)

*All are invited as audience*

4 October 2026 (Sun)  
5.00 PM

Lets chat in Japanese III

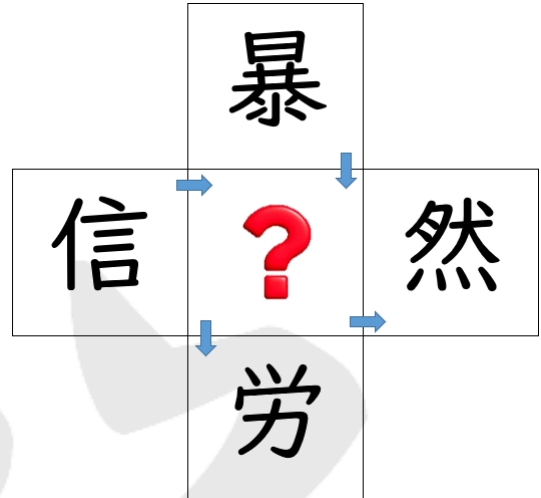
*~by Smritiman san & Friends*

*Further details will be sent by email*

## 穴埋め

~ Adesh Kumar Sahoo

Fill in the centre square with a single kanji character such that when combined with each of the 4 given kanji characters, it will make 4 distinct meaningful words.



## Anaume Solution

(Jul - Aug 2026)

とうばく

倒幕 Overthrowing of the Shogunate

あんまく

暗幕 Blackout curtain

まくした

幕下 Third highest division of Sumo Wrestlers

ばくまつ

幕末 Bakumatsu period, end of the Edo period



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