DAILY YOMIURI ON-LINE



Pero Pero Penguin's

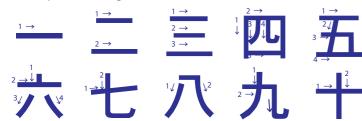
5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

I love Japanese food, and I go to Japanese restaurants guite often. The only problem I have is that I can't read the prices on the menus when the numbers are written in Chinese characters $(-, \pm)$, instead of Arabic numerals. To be honest, I only know — (one) through Ξ (three), so I often order without knowing the price. I always get nervous when I have to pay my bill. Also, the prices of sushi vary from restaurant to restaurant, and that makes me nervous. That is why I have to go to the same restaurant when I want to eat sushi. Ms. Hirayama, could you help me to read those numbers?

■ ■ I also love Japanese food and frequent Japanese restaurants, so I know that most of them do not write their prices in Arabic numerals. There are two types of numbers commonly used in Japan: Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3) and Chinese numerals $(-, -, -, \Xi)$. Generally, Chinese numerals are used when numbers are written vertically, while Arabic numerals are used for horizontal writing. But please note that this is not a rule. For example, articles are written vertically in Japanese newspapers, although they often use Arabic numerals. And Chinese numerals are preferred to describe the Japanese holidays, even if they are written horizontally. Let me show you some more examples.

Arabic numerals	Chinese numerals	Japanese-styled pronunciation	Chinese-styled pronunciation
1	_	hitotsu	ichi
2	Ξ	futatsu	ni
3	Ξ	mittsu	san
4	四	yottsu	shi/yon
5	五	itsutsu	go
6	六	m utts u	roku
7	せ	nanatsu	shichi / nana
8	八	yattsu	hachi
9	九	kokonotsu	kyū / ku
10	+	tō	jū

The steps for writing:



Let's practice ■ e.g., 502 390 8934 4105 五 8 0 9 3 0

Chinese numerals for addresses and telephone numbers on business cards, etc. (zip codes must be in Arabic numerals)

e.g., 〒151-0063 東京都 渋谷区 7-36-9 〒151-0063 Tokyo-to Shibuya-ku 7-36-9

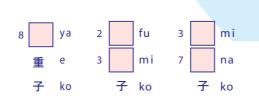


(postcard / envelope)

■Chinese numerals for people's names These names are generally given to Japanese men. "郎… rō (meaning "lad")" Ichirō, Gorō, Saburō

sabu 郎 rō

Many Japanese girls' names end with "子…ko (child)" Yaeko, Fumiko, Minako



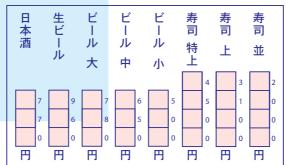
■Chinese numerals for place names

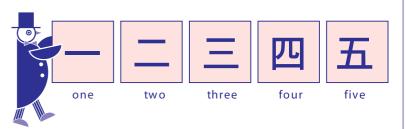
(Chinese numerals are frequently used for the place names in Kyoto and for the names of temples and shrines. e.g., 三十三間堂: san jū san gendō) Note: The Chinese numeral "10" should be "+ (ten)", not "O (zero)."



■Chinese numerals on a menu (yen → 円···en)

寿司 (sushi)	並	nami (ı	regula	r)	2,000円	
寿司 (sushi)	上	jō (bett	er)		3,100円	
寿司 (sushi)	特上	. tokujō	(best)		4,500円	
ビール (beer)	小	shō (sr	mall)		500円	
ビール (beer)	中	chū (m	edium	1)	650円	
ビール (beer)	大	dai (la	rge)		780円	
生ビール (draft	beer)				960 F	}
日本酒 (sake)					770円	
	<u>ا ا</u>	` <i>\</i>	砉	丰	丰	





(Single cry of crane)

tsuru no hito koe crane

1) A single, authoritative word 4) To cooperate with someone else on a single task (Three-legged couple) 3 <u>ni</u> nin <u>san</u> kyaku

2) Rome was not built in a day 日にして成らず

> Rome wa ichi nichi ni shite narazu day not built

3) To round off the numbers (Four is down, five is up)

shi sha go nyū throw away add to / put in

person 5) Unable to keep one's resolution for a long time (A monk without willpower)

日坊主 mik ka bōzu days a boy

6) To be changed again and again (Two rolling, three rolling)

転する

ni ten san ten suru tumble

A) Unable to keep one's resolution. (e.g., $49.5 \rightarrow 50$)

To round off the で 計算して下さい。 numbers de keisan shitekudasai with please calculate

B) If you can't keep your word, you can't accomplish what you have decided to do.

with whatever

Unable to keep で 何をしても 長続きしません。 one's resolution de nani o shitemo nagatsuzukishimasen

can't keep C) Our negotiations will never end. They are always changing.

話し合い は いつも hanashiai wa itsumo negotiation always

To be changed again and again

D) We survived through those difficult times by cooperating with each other very closely.

To cooperate with each other to do the same task

at last was made in spite of president

で 厳しい 時期 を 乗り越えました。 de kibishiijiki o norikoemashita with difficult times survived

E) Everything was accomplished, but we have to go back to the drawing board because the president has the last word. やっと 決まった のに 社長 の A single authorit-で やり直し です。 yatto kimatta noni shacho no de yarinaoshi desu ative word

F) Remember that Rome was not built in a day. Let's keep our chins up!

Rome was not です。 頑張りましょう。 built in a day desu gambarimashō

Answers A) 3) B) 5) C) 6) D) 4) E) 1) F) 2)

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga

go back