



Trains, Brushes, and Little Envelopes

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

① In the first days of January, millions of people in Japan visit shrines and temples. This first visit of the year is called hatsumode. People throw coins into a box, bow, and make a wish for the new year. Many also buy a paper fortune called omikuji.



音声を聞こう

② Hatsumode feels like a very old tradition, but its modern form is not so old. Long ago, people visited their local shrine or a shrine in the lucky direction of the year. Then trains came. In the late 1800s, railway companies told people to ride their trains to famous shrines and temples at New Year. The word hatsumode spread with these ads.

③ On January 2, many children do kakizome, the first writing of the year. They use a brush and black ink to write words like hope or dream on long paper. In mid-January, people burn these papers at a winter fire festival. If the fire goes up high, they say your writing will get better.

④ And of course, children wait for otoshidama, New Year money from adults. The money goes in small, cute envelopes called pochi-bukuro. Pochi is an old word from western Japan for a small tip. So the name means something like just a little something for you. Adults also try not to give amounts with 4 or 9, because these numbers can sound like death and pain in Japanese.

Words 単語

shrine 神社

wish 願い、願う

fortune 運勢、運

tradition 伝統

direction 方角、方向

brush 筆、ブラシ

ink インク、墨

envelope 封筒



Reading Check

Choose the best answer. 正しいものを選ぼう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Japanese people do not go out at New Year.
- (B) Hatsumode started in Germany.
- (C) Japan has several New Year customs, like hatsumode, kakizome, and otoshidama.
- (D) Children write letters to Santa in January.

2. What helped the word hatsumode spread?

- (A) Ads by railway companies.
- (B) A law made by the government.
- (C) A popular song.
- (D) Television news.

3. When do many children do kakizome?

- (A) On December 31.
- (B) On January 2.
- (C) On January 1.
- (D) On February 3.

4. Why do adults avoid giving amounts with 4 or 9?

- (A) Because the envelopes are too small.
- (B) Because children do not like odd numbers.
- (C) Because banks do not have those bills.
- (D) Because the numbers can sound like death and pain.

5. In the dialogue, what does Takumi suggest for tomorrow?

- (A) Visit another shrine.
- (B) Buy more omikuji.
- (C) Try kakizome together.
- (D) Give Mia otoshidama.

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

- | | |
|---|-------|
| Hatsumode is the first visit to a shrine or temple in the new year. | T / F |
| People must go to a shrine, not a temple, for hatsumode. | T / F |
| People burn kakizome papers in a fire festival. | T / F |
| Adults like to give 4,000 yen as otoshidama. | T / F |



Word Work

Words & phrases. 単語のれんしゅう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

① Match the pictures and the words. 絵と単語を線で結ぼう。



●

● envelope



●

● train



●

● shrine



●

● coin



●

● brush



●

● fire

② Fill in the blanks. 語群から選んで () に入れよう。

beach

wish

line

coin

shrine

brush

pizza

money

envelope

summer

omikuji

Yuna's New Year

On January 1, Yuna goes to a (1) _____ with her family. They wait in a long (2) _____.

Yuna throws a (3) _____ into the box and makes a (4) _____. Then she buys an (5)

_____. It says great luck! On January 2, she writes the word dream with a (6) _____.

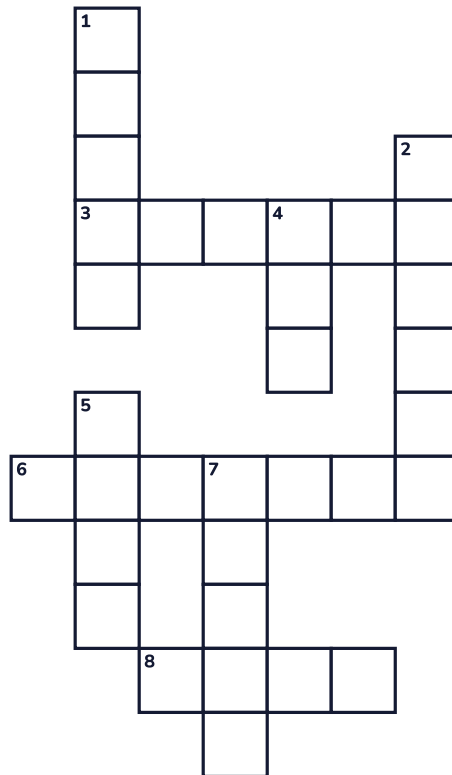
Her grandfather gives her a small (7) _____. There is New Year (8) _____ inside!



Crossword Puzzle

Read the clues and fill in the puzzle. ヒントを読んで、クロスワードを完成させよう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____



Across →

- 3 A holy place in Japan with a torii gate. (6)
6 A paper at a shrine tells you this about your year. (7)
8 Something you hope will happen. (4)

Down ↓

- 1 You use this to write kanji with ink. (5)
2 A Buddhist building where people pray. (6)
4 Black liquid for writing. (3)
5 Money made of metal. (4)
7 Many people ride this to famous shrines. (5)



Word Search

Find the hidden words. かくれた単語を探そう (→ ↓ ↘ ↗)。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

S	U	B	Y	R	S	W	H	W	H	W	H	V
N	L	T	P	F	I	W	D	S	P	S	R	F
N	M	R	Y	D	O	N	U	J	I	T	C	H
G	S	O	R	B	D	R	K	W	S	V	P	W
N	T	E	N	Y	B	S	H	R	I	N	E	R
M	E	V	N	E	S	F	W	H	K	O	H	V
K	M	U	U	L	Y	O	W	K	R	G	V	J
Y	P	C	H	J	H	R	E	J	P	G	F	H
L	L	R	N	B	B	T	A	P	P	Y	G	P
U	E	I	S	U	K	U	S	E	R	M	J	Y
Y	O	G	O	T	N	N	L	T	M	M	U	M
C	S	I	Y	D	U	E	N	C	L	A	P	F
J	O	J	V	E	O	I	G	I	P	F	N	V

Find these words! 10

- ☐ BOW
- ☐ BRUSH
- ☐ CLAP
- ☐ COIN
- ☐ FORTUNE
- ☐ INK
- ☐ MONEY
- ☐ SHRINE
- ☐ TEMPLE
- ☐ WISH

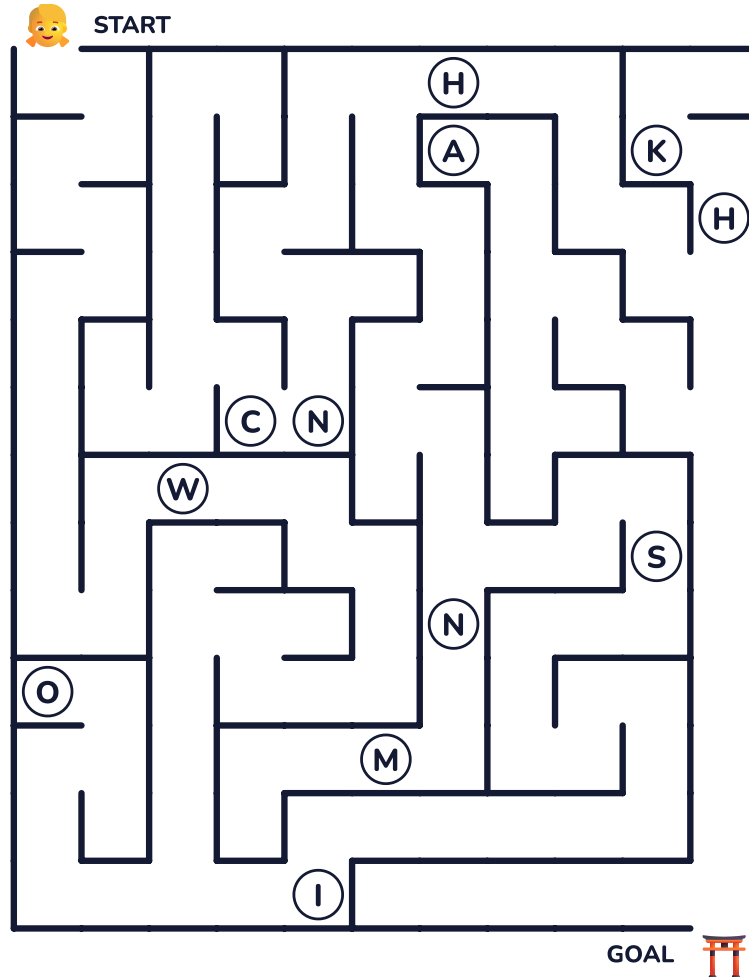


Maze & Sentences

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Help Yuna get to the shrine!

Collect the letters on the right path. What is the secret word? 正しい道の文字を集めると、ひみつの言葉になるよ。



Secret word: _____



Class Activity & Writing

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

At hatsumode this year, I will wish for _____ because _____.

For my kakizome, I want to write the word _____ because _____.



Trace & Color

Trace the words. Then color the picture! なぞって書こう。絵に色を塗ろう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____



shrine



brush



coin



train



fire

Draw your Hatsumode & New Year Customs! 初詣と書き初め・お年玉の絵を描こう。