



The Quietest Party of the Year

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

① In many countries, New Year's Eve is loud, with parties, music, and fireworks. In Japan, it is often quiet. Families stay home, eat together, and wait for the new year. This day is called Omisoka. Misoka once meant the 30th day, the last day of a month in the old calendar.



② On this night, many people eat toshikoshi soba, or year-crossing noodles. Why soba? Some say the long noodles mean a long life. Others say soba breaks easily, so it cuts away the bad luck of the year. Nobody knows which story is true.

③ After dinner, many families watch Kohaku, a big singing show on TV. A red team of women and a white team of men sing against each other. The first Kohaku was not on New Year's Eve. It was on January 3, 1951. Since 1953, it has been on December 31 every year.

④ Near midnight, Buddhist temples begin to ring their big bells. Most temples ring them 108 times. Many people believe 108 is the number of human desires that cause trouble. With each deep sound, they try to let go of one. Radio programs in the 1920s helped this custom spread across Japan.

⑤ When the last bell rings, people say Akemashite omedeto, or Happy New Year. Some walk to a shrine in the cold night air. Others go straight to bed, warm and full. It is a quiet party, but it is full of hope.

Words 単語

New Year's Eve 大みそか
calendar 暦、カレンダー
noodles 麺
luck 運

temple 寺
ring (鐘を) 鳴らす、鳴る
desire 欲望、願い
midnight 真夜中、午前0時

custom 習慣、風習
spread 広まる、広げる
let go of 手放す
hope 希望



Reading Check

Choose the best answer. 正しいものを選ぼう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1. What is the passage mainly about?

- (A) How to make soba at home
- (B) How Japanese people spend New Year's Eve
- (C) The history of fireworks
- (D) Parties in other countries

2. What does misoka mean?

- (A) The last week
- (B) The new moon
- (C) The 30th day
- (D) A big party

3. When was the first Kohaku show?

- (A) On December 31, 1953
- (B) On January 3, 1951
- (C) In the 1920s
- (D) On December 31, 1945

4. How many times do most temples ring their bells?

- (A) 108 times
- (B) 12 times
- (C) 33 times
- (D) 1,000 times

5. In paragraph 4, the word spread is closest in meaning to ____.

- (A) stop
- (B) become smaller
- (C) go to many places
- (D) get louder

6. Which is true about the passage?

- (A) Everyone knows why people eat soba.
- (B) Kohaku is a cooking show.
- (C) In Japan, New Year's Eve is often quiet.
- (D) Temples ring bells in the morning.

7. Why does the writer call it the quietest party of the year?

- (A) Because people spend it calmly at home but still celebrate
- (B) Because nobody eats anything
- (C) Because TV is not allowed
- (D) Because it is in summer

8. In the dialogue, what does Mei tell Tom to bring?

- (A) A bowl of soba
- (B) A warm coat
- (C) A TV
- (D) A bell

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

Omisoka is on December 31.	T / F
Omisoka is a national holiday in Japan.	T / F
Misoka originally means the 30th day.	T / F
The first Kohaku show was on New Year's Eve.	T / F
Most temples ring their bells 108 times.	T / F
In Spain, people eat soba at midnight.	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。



● grapes



● orange



● fireworks



● TV



● noodles



● bell



● midnight



● singer

② Unscramble the words. 文字を並べ替えて単語にしよう。

1. E L E M T P

2. N O O E S D L

3. M H G N D I T I

4. B E R E C M E D

5. U T C M S O

6. K C L U

③ Fill in the blanks. 語群から選んで () に入れよう。

cold

summer

excited

soba

show

midnight

31

Year

life

house

bell

swim

pizza

Kenta's Last Night of the Year

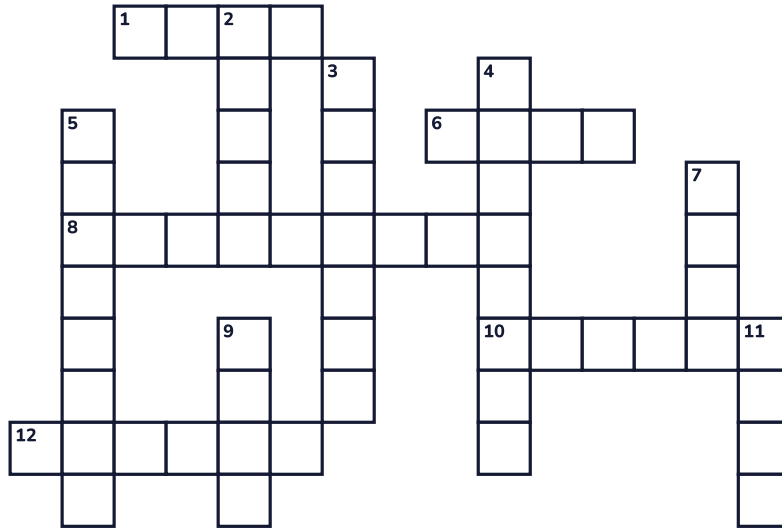
It was December (1) _____. Kenta helped his mother clean the (2) _____. In the evening, the family ate hot (3) _____ together. Grandpa said, Long noodles mean a long (4) _____. After dinner, they watched a singing (5) _____ on TV. Near (6) _____, they walked to the temple in the (7) _____ air. Kenta rang the big (8) _____ one time. It made a deep sound. Then everyone said, Happy New (9) _____! Kenta felt (10) _____ about the new year.



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 →

- 1 Good fortune. People hope for good _____. (4)
- 6 To hope for something. People make one for the new year. (4)
- 8 Ten, nine, eight... to zero! (9)
- 10 In Spain, people eat twelve of these small fruits. (6)
- 12 A Buddhist place with a big bell. (6)

Down ↓

- 2 To make your room nice and not dirty. (5)
- 3 Long, thin food like ramen or udon. (7)
- 4 Twelve o'clock at night. (8)
- 5 The last month of the year. (8)
- 7 A good feeling about the future. (4)
- 9 Temples ring this big metal thing 108 times. (4)
- 11 Thin Japanese buckwheat noodles eaten on this night. (4)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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

Find these words! 13

- ☐ BELL
- ☐ CLEAN
- ☐ FAMILY
- ☐ GRAPES
- ☐ HOPE
- ☐ LUCK
- ☐ NIGHT
- ☐ SHOW
- ☐ SING
- ☐ SOBA
- ☐ TEMPLE
- ☐ WISH
- ☐ YEAR

Secret Code 暗号を解こう！記号を文字に直すと、メッセージが出てくるよ。



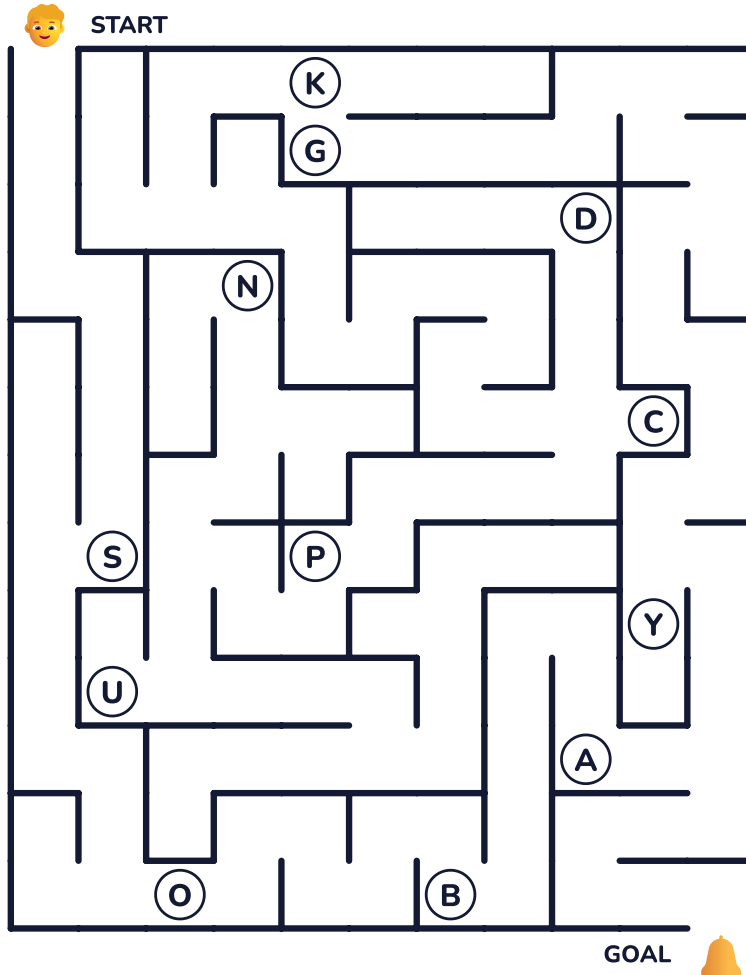


Maze & Sentences

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Help Kenta get to the temple bell!

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: _____

Put the words in order. 並べ替えて正しい文にしよう。

1. day / is / the / Omisoka / last / year / the / of .

2. a / life / for / eat / We / soba / long .

3. families / TV / show / music / watch / on / Many / a .

4. The / 108 / rings / temple / bell / times .

5. Happy / at / say / We / midnight / New / Year .



Class Activity & Writing

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Find Someone Who... クラスで聞いて回ろう！ Ask: "Do you ...?" / "Have you ...?"

Find someone who ...	Name
... has eaten toshikoshi soba	
... has rung a temple bell	
... has stayed up until midnight on New Year's Eve	
... likes watching music shows	
... knows what misoka means	
... can say Happy New Year in two languages	
... helps clean the house at the end of the year	
... has seen fireworks on New Year's Eve	

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

On New Year's Eve, my family usually _____.

This year, I want to let go of _____ because _____.

My wish for next year is _____.



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 _____



noodles



bell



singer



tv

