You might already know words like こんにちは(konnichiwa 'hello') and ありがとう(arigatou 'thank you'), as those are both from Standard Japanese, which originates in the Tokyo area. However, Japan is a diverse country filled with different languages and dialects! Beyond 2020, why not venture out of Tokyo and see what you can find?

9月 · September · 長月 · ながつき

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

IO月・October・神無月・かんなづき

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

北海道。HOKKAIDO

The northern island of Hokkaido is the traditional territory of the indigenous Ainu, who have a language completely unique from Japanese. To greet someone in Ainu, you say イランカラッテ (irankarapte) - which, unlike konnichiwa, can be used at any time of the day.

There are also several ways to thank people in Ainu, such as the formal イヤイライケレ(iyairaykere) or casual ヒオーイオイ (hioy'oy).



Traditional Ainu dress are worn on special occasions, and you can see these patterns throughout Hokkaido.

II月·November·霜月·	しもつき
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日	月	火	水	木	金	土
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

I 2月・December・師走・しわす

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Even within the Japanese language itself, you can find more dialects than you can imagine!

People from neighbouring towns would be able to understand each other easily, but the farther you go from home, the more differences you will encounter.

January・睦月・むつき |月|

	•					
日	月	火	水	木	金	土
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

2月·February·如月·

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

山形。YAMAGATA

In Yamagata in the Tohoku region, instead of arigatou for 'thank you' you can say おしょうしな(oshoushina), which is rumoured to come from the word 笑止(shoushi 'laughable, ridiculous') with the honorific prefix & (o).

石川。ISHIKAWA



If you're in Ishikawa in the central Chubu region of Japan, you can try using あんやと (anyato 'thanks') when talking with friends. It can get shortened even further into just あんと (anto)!

Ishikawa was home to the powerful Kaga clan, and even now you can visit historic sites to see how a samurai would have lived back then.

大阪。OSAKA



Osaka is known for its food like takoyaki - balls of fried dough with octopus inside!

When it comes to thanking people, listen carefully for Osakans using おおきに(ookini). It originally meant 'greatly' and would be used in sentences like おおきにありがとう (ookini arigatou), but now it means 'thank you' all on its own!

3月 · March · 弥生 · やよい

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

4月・April・卯月・うづき

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

In Ehime on the island of Shikoku, people also use a word that was once paired with arigatou to say thank you: だんだん(dandan). This comes from だんだん ありがとう (dandan arigatou), meaning 'many thanks.'

廳児島。KAGOSHIMA

On the island of Kyushu, in Kagoshima, listen carefully you might be able to guess こんちゃらごわす(koncharagowasu) means konnichiwa ('hello').

5月 · May · 皐月 · さつき

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

6月 · June · 水無月 · みなづき

月	火	水	木	金	土
	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30			
	7 14 21	1 7 8 14 15 21 22	1 2 7 8 9 14 15 16 21 22 23	1 2 3 7 8 9 10 14 15 16 17 21 22 23 24	1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25

In Okinawa, which was once the Ryukyu Kingdom, you can find the Ryukyuan which languages related to but distinct Japanese. from Okinawa 'hello' would be ハイサイ(haisai) for men homes. See if you can spot them if you visit!



guarding the entrance to buildings including or ハイタイ(haitai) for women.

And instead of arigatou, you might also hear people say ニフェーデービル (nifee deebiru 'thank you')!

7月・July・文月・ふみづき

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

8月・August・葉月・はづき

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APPS





MEMORY HINT











LANGUAGE TEST

中語能力試験 JLPT.JP/E/