

Manners and everyday behaviour in Japan often differ from those in other countries due to contrasting cultural values. Japanese society tends to emphasize group harmony and respect for shared spaces. Various Japanese words and phrases relate to everyday behaviour and manners in society. They reflect the unique social expectations shaped by Japan's history and values. Understanding these distinct aspects of Japanese culture can help avoid misunderstandings and enhance cross-cultural interactions.

9月 September							10月 October						
日	月	火	水	木	金	土	日	月	火	水	木	金	土
			1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
11月 November							12月 December						
日	月	火	水	木	金	土	日	月	火	水	木	金	土
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		
1月 January							2月 February						
日	月	火	水	木	金	土	日	月	火	水	木	金	土
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28						
31													
3月 March							4月 April						
日	月	火	水	木	金	土	日	月	火	水	木	金	土
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
5月 May							6月 June						
日	月	火	水	木	金	土	日	月	火	水	木	金	土
						1		1	2	3	4	5	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												
7月 July							8月 August						
日	月	火	水	木	金	土	日	月	火	水	木	金	土
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

Riding Public Transportation

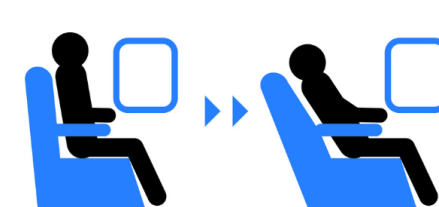


Passengers typically line up on the train platform or at the bus stop according to their train car number or bus route for which they are waiting. You may see lines or arrows marked on the ground showing where you should line up, or 「最後尾」(さいこうび) *saikōbi* signs indicating the end of queues at bus stops.



While riding the bus or train, passengers are expected to switch their mobile phones to silent or vibrate mode 「マナーモード」 *manā mōdo* (from "manner mode"), as ringtone and other sounds from mobile phones are considered disruptive in the quiet atmosphere of public transport. Phones held near priority seats may interfere with medical devices such as pacemakers, so passengers are asked to turn their phones off completely.

Passengers are expected not to make or take calls while riding public transportation, as conversations can cause disturbance to surrounding riders. You may see signs that say 「車内での通話はご遠慮(しゃないでのつうわはごえんりょ)ください」 *shanai deno tsūwa wa goenryo kudasai*, asking passengers to refrain from talking on the phone inside the bus/train. If phone calls need to be made while riding the *shinkansen* (bullet train), passengers can use the vestibule spaces between train cars or designated spaces for work-related phone calls.



On trains with reclining seats, it is common for Japanese people to seek permission from the person behind them before tilting their seat backwards, by asking 「少し倒(すこしたお)してもいいですか」 *sukoshi taoshitemo ii desu ka*. Reclining seats can reduce the space for the passenger behind, intruding on their legroom or comfort, so checking first helps avoid inconvenience.

Shopping

In many clothing stores in Japan, especially those selling shirts, sweaters, or dresses, customers are given a face cover フェイスカバー *feisu kabā* in the fitting room. Placing this thin, disposable cloth over your face while trying on clothes is good etiquette. The purpose is to prevent makeup or cosmetics from transferring onto the clothing. This keeps the items clean for the next customer and reduces damage or stains that might make the clothing unsellable.



Paying by cash at stores and restaurants is still a common practice in Japan. Rather than exchanging them by hand, bills and coins are typically placed on a "change tray" or "cash tray" キャッシュトレイ *kyasshu toreī*. This ensures the customer and shop staff can easily confirm the amount and avoid errors.

On rainy days, shops keep their floors dry by asking patrons to place their umbrellas in an umbrella stand. At entrances of department stores and shopping malls, excess rainwater can be shaken off umbrellas in dryer stands. In addition, long plastic bags 傘袋(かさぶくろ) *kasabukuro* are usually provided, and umbrellas are placed into these disposable sleeves before being brought into the store, keeping floors safe from slipping hazards.



Out and About



Eating while walking is generally viewed as impolite in Japan, partly because it can lead to spills and litter on the streets. In some cities, you may even see signs reminding people of this rule, such as 「食べ歩き禁止」(たべあるききんし) *tabearuki kinshi*, "no eating while walking." There are exceptions, however—especially at festivals, where food stalls serve popular treats such as yakisoba and takoyaki, and people enjoy them hot off the grill.

Littering is taken very seriously in Japan, with penalties that can include substantial fines. As garbage bins are not commonly found on the street, "No Littering" 「ポイ捨て禁止」(ポイすてきんし) *poi sute kinshi* signs prompt people to carry their trash home for proper disposal.

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