

# SHINJUKU NEWS



Foreign Language Website <http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/>  
Please make your inquiries in Japanese when calling the coordinating division.

**No. 24**

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## Are You Sure You Have Not Forgotten? Necessary Procedures to Complete as You Start a New Life in Shinjuku



In Japan, spring is the time of year when people start a new chapter in their lives, such as school entrance ceremonies or the start of a new school year. We imagine there are a lot of people who are starting a new life in Shinjuku City. Are you familiar with the procedures that need to be completed when you start living in Japan? It may be a good idea to read the checklist below.

### Checklist of Main Procedures That Need to Be Completed at the City Office

Check	Item	Person Who Needs to Apply	Where to Apply
	Foreign resident registration	Foreign residents living in Japan for 90 days or longer	Family and Resident Registration Division
	Enrollment in National Health Insurance*	Those with a visa period of stay of one year or longer (This excludes those who are enrolled in health insurance at their places of employment.)	National Health Insurance Eligibility Section, Medical Insurance and Pension Division
	Enrollment in National Pension	Those who are between 20 and 59 years of age and have completed foreign resident registration	Pension Section, Medical Insurance and Pension Division
	Application for medical subsidy for children/child allowance	Those with a child 15 years of age or younger	Children's Medical Care and Allowance Section, Children and Family Division

\* National Health Insurance is a medical health insurance program in which members pay premiums according to their incomes and apply the insurance to medical fees when treated for illnesses or injuries. Just as it does for Japanese citizens, National Health Insurance covers part of your medical expense when you are examined or treated by a doctor. Those who are eligible must enroll.

For details and information on other procedures, please read the *Guide to Living in Shinjuku* and *Information on Everyday Living for Foreign Residents of Shinjuku City* described on page 3. In addition, if you do not feel comfortable asking questions in Japanese, please feel free to visit the Foreign Resident Advisory Corner, where consultation in foreign languages is available free of charge.

### Foreign Resident Advisory Corner

**Areas of Consultation:** General everyday living, procedures and application forms to be completed at Shinjuku City Office, etc.

**Location:** Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F

**Hours:** 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

#### Language:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Chinese	English Korean	English Chinese	English Korean	English Chinese

**Telephone Consultation:** English and Japanese, Tel: 03-5272-5060  
Chinese, Tel: 03-5272-5070  
Korean, Tel: 03-5272-5080

The next issue of *Shinjuku News* will be published in June 2011. *Shinjuku News* is available at various public facilities, such as Shinjuku City Office, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Branch Offices, and public libraries.

# Let's Review Keys to Looking for Housing and Rules for Everyday Living!

Customs related to housing and everyday living in Japan are very unique. Have you ever heard people talk about how difficult it is for foreign residents to rent housing or how confusing the rules for everyday living are?

Procedures for renting housing in Japan are very complex. In some cases, things may not proceed smoothly, or problems can happen because of a lack of knowledge. Also, you might unintentionally cause problems with your neighbors if you are not familiar with aspects of Japanese life or rules for communal living.

Please familiarize yourself with the necessary knowledge to look for housing and the rules for everyday living for the most comfortable and fulfilling life possible in Shinjuku City.

## Keys to Looking for Housing and Rules for Renting

### STEP 1 ● Before You Look for Housing

It is important to do some research on the community, type of housing, and amount of rent you are thinking of. You can find such information on the Internet, through information magazines, or at a real estate agency. As a rule, initial fees must be paid in one lump sum and cannot be paid in installments, so you will need to have the entire amount ready in advance.

**Caution!**

- As a rule of thumb, the monthly rent should be approximately one-third of your monthly income, and you will need about five month's rent to cover the initial fees.

**List of Initial Fees**

Rent for the month you move in	About one month's worth of rent
Chukai-tesuryo (agent's fee)	This is a handling fee paid to the real estate agent. Normally, it is one month's worth of rent.
Shikikin (deposit)	This is a deposit paid to the owner as security. Normally, it is one or two month's worth of rent. After the contract period is finished, the deposit is returned; however, if you are behind in paying the rent or if repairs are needed to restore the place to its original condition, then these expenses are deducted from the deposit.
Reikin (gift money)	This is given to the owner as a gift. Normally, it is one or two month's worth of rent. This money is not returned.

### STEP 2 ● Visit a Real Estate Agency

You must be able to state clearly your occupation, telephone number, budget, the community you have in mind, the floor plan, and whether or not you have a guarantor.

**Caution!**

- If you cannot speak Japanese, it is a good idea to have someone who can speak Japanese accompany you.
- It is also a good idea to dress carefully to make a good impression.



### STEP 4 ● Apply

To apply for housing, you must have a tenant application form (available at the real estate agency), passport, foreign resident registration card, student ID card, etc. Also, you need to have a guarantor. If you do not have a guarantor, you may be able to ask for help from a rent guarantee company or similar organization, so please consult the real estate agent.

**Caution!**

- If someone is living with you, be sure to notify the owner. You cannot let a friend live with you for a long period of time without the permission of the owner! If you fail to notify the owner, you may be asked to move out.

### STEP 3 ● Inspect the Actual Apartment

Check the environment of the actual apartment, including the amount of sunlight in the room; the nearest station; and the wallpaper, water utilities, flooring, and other facilities for any damage. You can visit the actual apartment free of charge.

**Caution!**

- Be sure to check and see if the apartment is within the service area of your cell phone.



### STEP 5 ● Finalize the Contract

Important terms will be explained to you before you finalize the contract. If you do not fully understand any of these terms, be sure to ask for clarification. Also, you should read the contract carefully and, again, ask for clarification of anything that you do not fully understand before signing the contract or affixing your personal seal to it.

**Caution!**

**Required items when finalizing a contract:**

- Certificate of registered items in the foreign resident registry, passport, income certificate, school attendance certificate, income certificate of your guarantor, name stamp registration certificate, initial fees, etc.



### STEP 6 ● Move In

The conditions for using the electricity, gas, and water vary depending on the home. It is wise to confirm these conditions with the owner or real estate agent.

**Caution!**

- If you plan to move out, you must give the owner at least one month's advance notice.

## Following the Rules for Everyday Living and Practicing Com- mon Courtesy Lead to a Happy Life!

Sometimes the actions of a foreign resident who is not accustomed to life in Japan can bother neighbors and cause problems. Let's follow the rules and customs of Japan, be considerate of others, and do our best so that everyone can live comfortably.

## Helpful Everyday Hints

- Be careful to keep the noise level down. Avoid loud conversations, watching TV with the volume too high, playing musical instruments, running the washing machine, and opening/closing doors at odd hours, particularly late at night and early in the morning.
- If you plan to have a party, be sure not to bother your neighbors.
- Do not leave private belongings or garbage in the common areas of the apartment building, such as the hallway or stairway.
- If you have a pet, be sure to check the contract and rules concerning pets.
- If you have pungent spices that Japanese people are not accustomed to, try to keep the smell from reaching your neighbors.
- Doing renovations without the permission of the owner or real estate agency is prohibited.



## Announcement

Shinjuku City has publications that contain more detailed information on how to look for housing and rules for everyday living. We hope that you will use these publications to learn more about Japanese culture and everyday customs so that you can lead a more comfortable and fulfilling life in your local community.

### ★ Guide to Living in Shinjuku

This is an easy-to-understand illustrated guidebook for foreign residents who have recently come to Japan. It has helpful information on everyday life and explanations of everyday customs and rules.



### ★ Information on Everyday Living for Foreign Residents of Shinjuku City

This publication includes information that is necessary for foreign residents, from information on child raising, welfare, employment, and disasters to other useful information. This publication consists of 10 booklets, each one covering a different aspect of everyday life.

**Availability:** Foreign Resident Registration Desk, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (see below), and other locations  
**Languages:** Japanese with kana, English, Chinese, and Korean



Located in the waiting room of the Foreign Resident Registration Desk, Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F

## Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

**Address:** Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku City 160-0021

**Inquiries:** Tel: 03-5291-5171, Fax: 03-5291-5172

**How to Get There:** A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station's east exit or a five-minute walk from Seibu-Shinjuku Station

**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Closed:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays and during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3)

**Web site:** [www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=279](http://www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=279)



Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F)



## Are You Ready for Digital Terrestrial TV?

2011年 アナログテレビ放送終了

Current analog TV broadcasting will end on July 24, 2011, and broadcasting will be switched to digital terrestrial broadcasting. Once the switch is made, you will not be able to watch programs on an analog TV.

The sticker shown above is attached to TVs and video recorders that are currently on sale and support only analog broadcasting. To watch TV after the switch is made to digital terrestrial broadcasting, you must make adjustments in one of the following ways:

● Buy a new TV

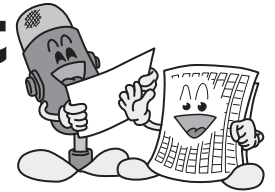
● Buy a digital tuner

● Subscribe to cable television

For more information, please read the notification flier. A copy of the flier can be found on the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' Web site:  
[www.soumu.go.jp/main\\_sosiki/joho\\_tsusin/dtv/pdf/chideji\\_hayawakari04\\_en.pdf](http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/dtv/pdf/chideji_hayawakari04_en.pdf)

**Inquiries:** DTV Call Center, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Tel: 0570-07-0101 (weekdays: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

# Japanese-Language Speech Contest Shabeleon '10



At last year's Shabeleon, which was held in June, there were 20 participants from seven different countries, including representative Japanese-language students and contestants from the general public. Under such themes as experiences in Japan, cultural differences between home countries and Japan, and personal dreams, participants gave speeches in the Japanese-language they had worked hard to polish. We asked Mr. Li Feng, who won first prize with his impressive speech, about his thoughts on winning and his suggestions as to how to improve Japanese-language skills.

<b>Winner</b>	Li Feng (China)	Speech Title: "Precious Life, Thank You"	School Name: Unitas Japanese Language School Tokyo
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## Interview with the Winner

### — Congratulations! What led you to enter Shabeleon?

I study at a Japanese-language school, and those with whom I speak Japanese in my daily life are limited to my teachers and the other foreign students who go to that school as well as some of my coworkers at the place where I work part-time. Shabeleon seemed like a great opportunity to have many people listen to my Japanese at the hall and test my Japanese-language skills. So, this is why I decided to enter.

### — How did you learn Japanese?

Since around the time I was in high school, I have loved Japa-

nese anime a lot and had listened to the language every day for the following eight years up to the present. I actually started studying Japanese two years ago, but because I listened to Japanese for quite a few years before then, I think my ears naturally grew accustomed to the sound; therefore, I was already fairly familiar with hearing and pronouncing Japanese. Perhaps one way of learning a foreign language is by not studying it initially but by starting from something you like or enjoy.

### — Is there anything in your everyday life in Japan that you try to focus on?

I basically live each day with the following thought in mind: *Always try to experience Japanese customs and Japanese food.* For example, I have just tried eating *natto* (fermented soy beans), which Japanese people like, and I am now quite a fan and eat it practically every day at mealtimes. By experiencing the everyday life of the people of Japan, I believe that my understanding of Japan will grow. Also, all these new experiences will be great springboards for conversations with Japanese people.

I also believe that a person's attitude about taking the initiative to start a conversation is important. The reason I feel this way is because I think that even if, for example, my Japanese is not perfect, the feeling I want to express will get across. To me, this is one way of getting better at speaking Japanese.



## Why Not Challenge Yourself by Participating in the Japanese-Language Speech Contest Shabeleon '11?

Why not show the fruits of all that hard work you had put into your Japanese-language studies and try expressing your thoughts in a seven-minute speech in Japanese?

**Date and Time:** June 11 (Sat.), 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. (Get-together: 5 to 6:30 p.m.)

**Location:** Small hall, Shinjuku Bunka Center 3F (6-14-1 Shinjuku)

**Eligibility and Capacity:** Those who live, work, or go to school in Shinjuku City and whose first language is not Japanese; approximately 15 contestants; restricted to those who have lived in Japan for two years or less; although those who have entered the contest before may participate up to two times, including the upcoming contest, those who have won an award are not eligible to participate in the contest again. If the number of applications exceeds capacity, preliminaries will be held.

**Theme:** As a rule, contestants are free to choose their own theme (must be unpublished).

**To Apply:** Submit a completed speech contest application form and your planned speech in person or by mail by May 6 (Fri.). For more information, see the contest guidelines.

**Note:** The speech contest application form and guidelines are available at the Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (see page 3); the Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F); and Shinjuku Bunka Center.

**Application/Inquiries:** Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future

6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku City 160-0022; Tel: 03-3350-1141; e-mail: bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp



# Announcement concerning FY2011 National Health Insurance Premiums

## ● The Method of Calculating the Income-Based Amount for Insurance Premiums Will Change

National Health Insurance premiums include a per-capita amount and an income-based amount. Starting in FY2011, the formula used to calculate the income-based amount will change. Instead of multiplying Resident's Tax by an insurance premium percentage, the difference between one's total income and the basic deduction (¥330,000) is multiplied by an insurance premium percentage.

### Method of Calculating the Income-Based Amount

Up to and Including FY2010
Resident's Tax × Insurance premium percentage
↓
Starting in FY2011
Difference between total income and basic deduction (¥330,000) × Insurance premium percentage

## ● Interim Program to Alleviate Drastic Change Will Be Implemented with the Change in the Calculation Method

Some people will see their insurance premiums increase with the change in the calculation method. A three-stage program to alleviate drastic change will be implemented for two years (FY2011 and FY2012). If the difference between your total income and the basic deduction is 1.5 times more than the taxable income, you are eligible for this program. Please call for more information.

## ● The Insurance Premium Percentage and Other Figures Will Change

		FY2010	FY2011
Annual Insurance Premium	<b>Medical portion</b> • Maximum ceiling FY2010: ¥500,000 FY2011: ¥510,000	Per-capita amount	¥31,200
		Insurance premium percentage (income based)	Resident's Tax × 0.80
	<b>Support portion</b> • Maximum ceiling FY2010: ¥130,000 FY2011: ¥140,000	Per-capita amount	¥8,700
		Insurance premium percentage (income based)	Resident's Tax × 0.23
	<b>Long-Term Care Insurance portion</b> (for those between 40 and 64 years of age) • Maximum ceiling FY2010: ¥100,000 FY2011: ¥120,000	Per-capita amount	¥12,000
		Insurance premium percentage (income based)	Resident's Tax × 0.17
			Difference between total income and basic deduction × 6.13%
			Difference between total income and basic deduction × 1.96%
			Difference between total income and basic deduction × 1.28%

**Note:** You will be notified of your exact insurance premiums in June, when notifications are sent by mail to all insurance members.

**Inquiries:** National Health Insurance Eligibility Section, Medical Insurance and Pension Division, Health Department, Tel: 03-5273-4146

## ||||| Shinjuku City Scholarships for Foreign Students |||||

Shinjuku City offers scholarships of ¥240,000 for one year to 15 (tentative) foreign students with high grades who find it financially difficult to continue their studies.

**Eligibility:** Those who fulfill all of the following requirements:

- (1) Those with a student visa status and who are studying at their own expense or have been dispatched by a foreign government (Japanese-government-sponsored foreign students are not eligible.)
- (2) Those who have studied for one year or longer in Shinjuku City (under a master's or doctor's course at a graduate school or as an undergraduate or junior college student or in a specialized course at a specialized training collage) and are planning to continue their studies for at least another year
- (3) Those who have completed foreign resident registration procedures in Shinjuku City and are currently living in Shinjuku City
- (4) Those with excellent grades, who are of good character, and find it financially difficult to continue their studies in Japan

**To Apply:** Applications are accepted every year in May. Please apply at the coordination section of your school office. The Shinjuku City Office will make a final decision after a letter of recommendation is received from your school.

**Inquiries:** Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division, Tel: 03-5273-3504 (in Japanese)

For information on other scholarships, visit the following Web sites or consult the school you attend.  
Japan Student Services Organization  
Web site: [www.jasso.go.jp/study\\_j/scholarships\\_e.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/study_j/scholarships_e.html)  
Japan Study Support—Information for Foreign Students  
Web site: [www.jpss.jp/en/](http://www.jpss.jp/en/)

## Shinjuku Municipal Comprehensive Children's Center Will Open on April 1

The following services will be offered at Shinjuku City's first comprehensive child-raising support facility:

- (1) Comprehensive consultation and development support for children and their families
- (2) Temporary child care
- (3) Children's club, which takes care of children after school
- (4) Children's hall
- (5) After-school activity support for disabled children

**Inquiries:** Comprehensive Children's Center, Tel: 03-3232-5673

## International Exchange Salon in Shinjuku 2011 Will Be Held!

Why not enjoy international exchanges through conversations with people from other countries? Anyone and everyone is welcome to participate. Let's get together at Hygeia 11F on the second Friday of the month!

**Dates and Time:** April 8 (Fri.), May 13 (Fri.), and June 10 (Fri.); 6:45 to 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (see page 3)

**Fee:** ¥200 per session

**To Apply:** No advance reservations are required. Please feel free to come to the site on the day of the event.

**Inquiries:** Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future  
6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku City 160-0022, Tel: 03-3350-1141  
E-mail: [bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp](mailto:bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp)

# Do You Know?

## Child-Care and Educational Systems in Japan



Child-care and educational systems differ by country. Do you know how child-care and educational systems in Japan are different from those in your home country? We imagine that you may have many questions, such as what month does elementary school start in Japan and is it free? In this issue, we will describe child-care and educational systems in Japan and explain in detail application procedures in Shinjuku City. Please read the following information carefully so that your child can enjoy everyday life in Japan while growing in a healthy manner.



### Nursery School

Child care is provided on behalf of the parent if the parent is unable to take care of the child at home due to work, illness, or other reasons. There are municipal and private nursery schools.

- ★ **Eligible Ages:** As early as 43 days after birth until entrance to elementary school (This varies depending on the nursery school.)
- ★ **Fee:** Nursery fees are determined based on the income tax amount of the parents, the child's age, and other factors.
- ★ **To Apply:** Applications for authorized nursery schools (both municipal and private) are handled by the Nursery School Division service counter (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 2F). Application forms for enrollment in April are accepted between mid-December of the previous year and mid-January.

Caution!: Although applications are accepted around the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month for enrollment the following month, this does not mean your child is guaranteed a spot because there are many people who wish to enroll their children in nursery school.

- **Inquiries:** Enrollment Section, Nursery School Division, Tel: 03-5273-4527



### Kindergarten

This is an educational facility for children who are too young to enter elementary school. There are municipal and private kindergartens. Municipal kindergartens include those that offer classes for children between 3 and 5 years of age and those that offer classes for children between 4 and 5 years of age.

**Note:** The following information applies to municipal kindergartens.

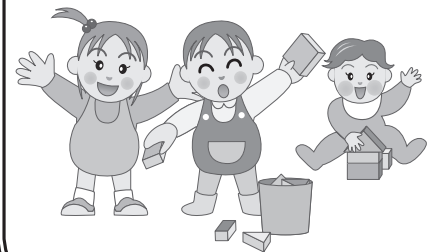
- ★ **Eligible Ages:** Between 3 and 5 years of age
- ★ **Fee:** There is an entrance fee of ¥1,500 and a child-care fee of ¥6,000 per month (11 months, excluding August). (There is a program that grants exemption from child-care fees and other expenses depending on income standards.)
- ★ **To Apply:** Application forms for enrollment in April are accepted in early November of the previous year at each kindergarten. For enrollment in the middle of the school year, i.e., after April, please check with the particular kindergarten to see if there is a vacancy and ask about application procedures.
- **Inquiries:** Either the particular kindergarten in which you are interested or the Kindergarten Section of the School Management Division, Tel: 03-5273-3103



### Kodomoen

This is a facility that offers both child care and education with the goal of nurturing the child's development and growth, functioning as both kindergarten and nursery school.

- ★ **Eligible Ages:** Up to 5 years of age
- ★ **Fee:** Fees are determined based on the household's income tax amount for the previous year, the child's age, child-care hours, and other factors.
- ★ **To Apply:** Application forms are handled by the Nursery School Division, the Kodomoen Promotion Division, and each *kodomoen*.
- **Inquiries:** Either the particular *kodomoen* in which you are interested or the Kodomoen Promotion Division, Tel: 03-5273-4047



### Schools in Japan

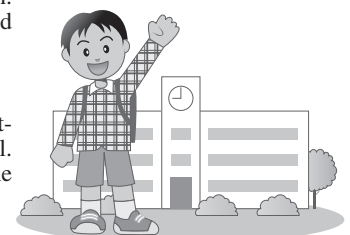
**1. Compulsory education comprises six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school for a total of nine years for children from 6 through 15 years of age.**

Although foreign residents are exempt from Japanese compulsory education, it is possible to enroll or transfer to an elementary or junior high school in Shinjuku City. If you would like to enroll your child, you must file an application. Please consult the office below and do not forget to bring your foreign resident registration card and that of your child.

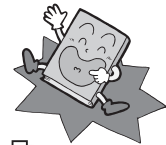
**2. The school year begins in April and ends in March of the following year.**

**Note:** Please note that according to the School Education Act of Japan, a child may not be admitted to a Japanese junior high school unless he/she has graduated from a Japanese elementary school. However, if the child was already of junior high school age when he/she came to Japan, then he/she may be admitted to a Japanese junior high school.

- **Inquiries:** School Management Support Section, School Management Division, Tel: 03-5273-3089



☆ All inquiries are handled in Japanese only. If you cannot speak Japanese, please take advantage of the Foreign Resident Advisory Corner (see page 1).



# Please Take Advantage of Japanese-Language Support Services for Children of Foreign Residents



If you are a parent and worried about your child's Japanese-language skills and how he/she is getting along at school in Japan, here is some news for you! Did you know that in Shinjuku City, where there are many foreign residents, there are various support services to help foreign children learn Japanese and adapt to Japanese school life? We are here to help ease your worries about the Japanese language and help your child enjoy school in Japan.

## A Japanese-Language Learning Support

- Location:** Education Center and its annex (inside Ushigome Nakano Elementary School)
- Description:** Foreign children who have transferred to a Shinjuku municipal elementary or junior high school  
Note: Consultation is required in advance for languages other than Chinese or Korean.
- Procedures:** Students commute to/from classes held at the Education Center. The instructor teaches Japanese in the child's first language. (Elementary school students can learn at the annex as well.)
- Hours:** As a rule, three hours per day for 10 days, totaling approximately 30 hours
- Note:** Upon completion, it is possible to receive further support (see B) at school.

**Inquiries:** International Understanding Department, Education Center,  
Tel: 03-3232-3070 (in Japanese)

## B Japanese-Language Learning Support

- Location:** Shinjuku municipal schools
- Eligibility:** Children who have newly enrolled or transferred to a Shinjuku municipal kindergarten, elementary school, or junior high school
- Description:** An instructor will go to the child's school and teach Japanese in the child's first language.
- Hours:** As a rule, between two and four hours per day or between two and five days a week; kindergarten children can receive 40 hours of instruction in total, elementary school children can receive 50 hours of instruction in total, and junior high school children can receive 60 hours in total.
- Note:** Upon completion, it is possible to receive further support (see C), such as for school subjects in Japanese, if the student so desires.

## C Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Support Program (SJS)

- Location:** Shinjuku municipal schools
- Eligibility:** Elementary and junior high school students who have completed program B and wish to receive further instruction in the Japanese language and school subjects
- Description:** A volunteer will go to the child's school after school hours and help with the Japanese language and school subjects.
- Hours:** About two hours per session, approximately twice a week, for a total of 70 sessions per year
- Inquiries:** Educational Activities Support Section, Educational Support Division, Tel: 03-3209-1111 (main switchboard; in Japanese)

## Kodomo Club Shinjuku (Children's Japanese-Language Class in the Evening)



- Eligibility:** Children in the fifth grade of elementary school through the third year of junior high school and who are currently attending a Shinjuku municipal elementary or junior high school
- Program:** Support in the Japanese language and school subjects

Please call for more information.

**Inquiries:** Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future,  
Tel: 03-3350-1141 (in Japanese)

## Children's Japanese-Language Class during Summer and Spring Vacations

- Eligibility:** Children in the fourth grade of elementary school through the third year of junior high school who have recently arrived in Japan and are currently attending a Shinjuku municipal elementary or junior high school and other children/students who need instruction in the Japanese language



## Peace of Mind with Babysitting Services— Family Japanese-Language Class

Why not have fun learning Japanese with the entire family? There are babysitting services so that families with infants and toddlers who could not attend other Japanese-language classes can study here with peace of mind! The participation fee is ¥500. You can join even in the middle of the term.

**Date and Time:** Saturdays, from May 14 through July 16, 10 a.m. to 12 noon (total of 10 classes)

**Location:** Okubo Elementary School (1-1-21 Okubo)

**To Apply:** Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future,  
Tel: 03-3350-1141



## Living Together

**Multicultural living refers to people of different nationalities and ethnic races living together and accepting and understanding the differences between their cultures.**

**In this article, we will report from the front lines of multicultural living.**

How do you learn Japanese? Using Japanese when you go shopping, ride a train, or ask for directions will make life in Japan much easier. Of course, if you have Japanese friends or read Japanese books, you will probably be able to feel closer to this country. However, it is difficult to learn Japanese all by yourself, isn't it? *I cannot pronounce Japanese very well. I want to be able to speak Japanese, but I do not know how. I wish someone would teach me.* Shinjuku City is ready to respond to these cries of despondency! The following are for beginners only! If you are having problems with the Japanese language, why not study together with other people?

## Have Fun Learning Japanese! Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Classes

Are you familiar with Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Classes (SJC)? Shinjuku City offers Japanese-language classes in which volunteers teach basic Japanese necessary for everyday living to foreign residents at the beginner's level. In this issue, we will report on the Ushigome Tansu Chiiki Center Class, which is one of several Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Classes.



Students from France give radiant smiles as soon as they see the camera!

In the SJC classroom at Ushigome Tansu Chiiki Center (community center), which is very close to the Ushigome-Kagurazaka Station on the Toei Oedo Line, sunlight gently pours through the window. The class meets once a week on Tuesday mornings. The students in this class are from various countries. On the day of this report, people from eight countries—France, Brazil, India, South Korea, Israel, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Morocco—were all learning Japanese quite enthusiastically. The volunteer who teaches Japanese commented happily, "I always

have fun learning with everyone in this friendly atmosphere. All the students who come to this class are really motivated to learn."

Students write hiragana one by one while pronouncing each one; they learn vocabulary words while looking at illustrated cards; they can practice short conversations while saying simple Japanese expressions; and they can learn grammar while they explain aspects of their own everyday life. Japanese-language volunteers are able to teach even total beginners, starting with writing hiragana and katakana, in a kind and patient manner.

The most important thing is to take that first step! Why not come join us in learning Japanese?

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Welcome to the Ushigome Tansu Chiiki Center Class!



I started learning Japanese after I came to Japan. I like Japanese words for greeting, such as *konnichiwa* (hello). Now that I can understand Japanese a little, life has become easier for me. Now I can even carry on a short conversation in Japanese. When I get better at it, I want to study to become a physical therapist. (Ms. Alka Sharma from India)

## Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Classes (April through July)

Why not learn Japanese from a volunteer teacher in a class in your community? If there is an opening in the class, you can join even in the middle of the term.

**Eligibility:** Beginning level—Those who need to learn basic Japanese necessary for everyday living are eligible. Those who live, work, or go to school in Shinjuku City will receive priority. However, those who are of junior high school age and younger are not permitted to join the class.

**Dates and Time:** Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (hours depend on class location). There are classes that meet once a week and those that meet twice a week. The day of the week on which classes are held differs according to the class location.

**Location:** Various locations in Shinjuku City, including Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza  
**Note:** Please inquire for details.

**Fee:** ¥2,000 for classes that meet once a week and ¥4,000 for classes that meet twice a week  
**Note:** There will be no refunds of fees.

**To Apply:** Complete an application form and send it by postal mail or fax to Shinjuku Bunka Center (6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku City 160-0022; Fax: 03-3350-4839). Application forms are available at the Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (see page 3); the Foreign Resident Advisory Corner, Shinjuku City Office; and Shinjuku Bunka Center. Also, you can download the form from the city's Web site ([www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/](http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/)).

**Inquiries:** Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future, Tel: 03-3350-1141, e-mail: [bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp](mailto:bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp)

