The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY TRAVELER SHOULD SAY IN JAPANESE

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 50 of 50. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

LANGUAGES

What do you say in Japanese when you first meet someone, like 'Nice to meet you'?

- **A** Tadaima. Okaerinasai. (ただいま。おかえりなさい。)
- **B** Hajimemashite. Yoroshiku onegai-shimasu. (はじめまして。よろしくお願いします。)
- **C** Itadakimasu. Gochisoosama deshita. (いただきます。ごちそうさまでした。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5299

B Hajimemashite. Yoroshiku onegai-shimasu. (はじめまして。よろしくお願いします。)

WHY Hajimemashite is what you say the first time you meet. Yoroshiku onegai-shimasu asks for a good relationship going forward. The wrong choices are for coming home and for meals.

STRAIGHT FACE
I said hajimemashite to my reflection in Tokyo. We have been inseparable since.

LANGUAGES

How do you politely ask 'Excuse me. Where is the toilet?' in Japanese?

- **A** Sumimasen. Toire wa doko desu ka. (すみません。トイレはどこですか。)
- **B** Sumimasen. Eki wa doko desu ka. (すみません。駅はどこですか。)
- **C** Sumimasen. Hoteru wa doko desu ka. (すみません。ホテルはどこですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5298

A Sumimasen. Toire wa doko desu ka. (すみません。トイレはどこですか。)

WHY Toire means toilet and doko means where. The other two ask where the station and the hotel are. Start with sumimasen to get someone's attention politely.

STRAIGHT FACE
Japan's toilets have more buttons than my TV remote. I needed a phrasebook just to sit down.

LANGUAGES

Which Japanese question means 'Where are you from?'

- **A** Dochira kara desu ka. (どちらからですか。)
- **B** Dochira made desu ka. (どちらまでですか。)
- **C** Donokurai machimasu ka. (どのくらい待ちますか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5301

A Dochira kara desu ka. (どちらからですか。)

WHY Dochira means where, and NHK says it is more polite than doko. Taxi drivers say 'dochira made' for 'where to?', and 'donokurai machimasu ka' asks how long you wait.

STRAIGHT FACE
How do rabbits travel? By hareplanes.

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'I'm from Vietnam' in Japanese (swap in your own country)?

- **A** Betonamu ni ikimasu ka. (ベトナムに行きますか。)
- **B** Betonamu wa doko desu ka. (ベトナムはどこですか。)
- **C** Betonamu kara kimashita. (ベトナムから来ました。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5300

C Betonamu kara kimashita. (ベトナムから来ました。)

WHY Kara marks the starting point, so kimashita means 'came from'. Replace Betonamu with Amerika, Kanada or your own place. The wrong choices ask 'Do you go to Vietnam?' and 'Where is Vietnam?'

STRAIGHT FACE
What's a pirate's favorite country to travel to? Arrgentina.

LANGUAGES

How do you ask someone to speak slowly in Japanese?

- **A** Moo ichi-do itte kudasai. (もう一度言ってください。)
- **B** Yukkuri hanashite kudasai. (ゆっくり話してください。)
- **C** Yoku wakarimasen. (よくわかりません。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Sumimasen. Yoku wakarimasen. (すみません。よくわかりません。)

WHY Wakarimasen means 'don't understand', and yoku makes it softer. Wakarimashita is the opposite, 'I see' or 'I understand'. Use it when you cannot follow what was said.

STRAIGHT FACE
What's the smartest type of insect? A spelling bee.

SESK.INFO #5304

LANGUAGES

Which phrase means 'I'm sorry. Please say it again' in Japanese?

- **A** Sumimasen. Yukkuri hanashite kudasai. (すみません。ゆっくり話してください。)
- **B** Sumimasen. Kore wa nan desu ka. (すみません。これは何ですか。)
- **C** Sumimasen. Moo ichi-do itte kudasai. (すみません。もう一度言ってください。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Yukkuri hanashite kudasai. (ゆっくり話してください。)

WHY Yukkuri means slowly and kudasai makes it a polite request. The other choices mean 'please say it again' and 'I don't quite understand'. Together they are your best travel survival set.

STRAIGHT FACE
How do new pilots learn to fly? They just wing it.

SESK.INFO #5302

LANGUAGES

Which phrase tells someone politely 'I'm sorry. I don't quite understand'?

- **A** Sumimasen. Yoku wakarimasen. (すみません。よくわかりません。)
- **B** Sumimasen. Wakarimashita. (すみません。わかりました。)
- **C** Hajimemashite. Yoroshiku onegai-shimasu. (はじめまして。よろしくお願いします。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Sumimasen. Moo ichi-do itte kudasai. (すみません。もう一度言ってください。)

WHY Moo ichi-do means one more time, and itte kudasai means please say. The first wrong choice asks for slow speech, and the second asks what something is.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked the echo in the temple to say it again. It did, and then it did again.

SESK.INFO #5303

LANGUAGES

Which Japanese word gets a stranger's attention politely, like 'Excuse me'?

- **A** Itadakimasu (いただきます)
- **B** Sumimasen (すみません)
- **C** Hajimemashite (はじめまして)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Sumimasen (すみません)

WHY Sumimasen is the all-purpose way to get attention, and it can also mean 'I'm sorry'. Itadakimasu is said before eating. Hajimemashite is for first meetings.

STRAIGHT FACE
In Tokyo I said sumimasen so often that my phrasebook asked for a day off.

SESK.INFO #5305

LANGUAGES

Which Japanese greeting do you use in the morning?

- **A** Ohayoo gozaimasu (おはようございます)
- **B** Konnichiwa (こんにちは)
- **C** Konbanwa (こんばんは)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Okaerinasai. (おかえりなさい。)

WHY Okaerinasai means welcome home, and it is the standard reply to tadaima. Gochisoosama deshita is said after a meal. Hajimemashite is for first meetings.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where does Santa stay when he's traveling? At a ho-ho-hotel.

SESK.INFO #5309

LANGUAGES

Which Japanese phrase means 'Thank you very much'?

- **A** Wakarimashita (わかりました)
- **B** Yookoso irasshaimashita (ようこそいらっしゃいました)
- **C** Arigatoo gozaimasu (ありがとうございます)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Ohayoo gozaimasu (おはようございます)

WHY Ohayoo gozaimasu is the polite morning hello. Konnichiwa is for the daytime, and konbanwa is for the evening. Adding gozaimasu makes the morning greeting more polite.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do they eat for breakfast in Tokyo? Japancakes.

SESK.INFO #5307

LANGUAGES

Someone at home says 'Tadaima' (I'm home). What do you answer?

- **A** Gochisoosama deshita. (ごちそうさまでした。)
- **B** Hajimemashite. (はじめまして。)
- **C** Okaerinasai. (おかえりなさい。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Ogenki desu ka. (お元気ですか。)

WHY Genki means well, and the polite o in front plus desu ka turns it into a question. The wrong choices mean 'Where is it?' and 'How much is it?'

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked a Tokyo cat 'ogenki desu ka'. It said it was feline fine.

SESK.INFO #5308

LANGUAGES

Which phrase asks 'How are you?' politely in Japanese?

- **A** Doko desu ka. (どこですか。)
- **B** Ogenki desu ka. (お元気ですか。)
- **C** Ikura desu ka. (いくらですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Arigatoo gozaimasu (ありがとうございます)

WHY Arigatoo gozaimasu is the polite way to thank shop staff and strangers. Wakarimashita means 'I see', and yookoso irasshaimashita is a host's welcome.

STRAIGHT FACE
When shouldn't you drink a hot beverage? If it's not your cup of tea.

SESK.INFO #5306

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'How much is this hair dryer?' in Japanese?

- **A** Kono doraiyaa wa doko desu ka. (このドライヤーはどこですか。)
- **B** Kono doraiyaa wa ikura desu ka. (このドライヤーはいくらですか。)
- **C** Kono doraiyaa wa nan desu ka. (このドライヤーは何ですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5311

B Kono doraiyaa wa ikura desu ka. (このドライヤーはいくらですか。)

WHY Ikura means how much. Doko would ask where it is, and nan would ask what it is. Swap doraiyaa for any item you point at.

STRAIGHT FACE
Japan's banking news: Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up, Bonsai Bank is cutting back some of its branches, and Karaoke Bank is going for a song.

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'This is my friend, Ayaka' when introducing someone in Japanese?

- **A** Tomodachi no Ayaka-san desu. (友達のあやかさんです。)
- **B** Tomodachi wa doko desu ka. (友達はどこですか。)
- **C** Tomodachi o mite kudasai. (友達を見てください。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5310

A Tomodachi no Ayaka-san desu. (友達のあやかさんです。)

WHY The pattern is relationship, then no, then name with san, then desu. The wrong choices mean 'Where is my friend?' and 'Please look at my friend.'

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the professor wear his sunglasses to class? Because his students were so bright.

LANGUAGES

How do you say 3,000 (as in 3,000 yen) in Japanese?

- **A** Sanzen (三千)
- **B** Sanbyaku (三百)
- **C** Sanjuu (三十)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5313

A Sanzen (三千)

WHY Sen is 1,000, so 3,000 is sanzen. Sanbyaku is 300 and sanjuu is 30. Mixing up the thousands and hundreds is a common travel mistake.

STRAIGHT FACE
What's the most expensive fish? A goldfish.

LANGUAGES

Which Japanese number is 800 (as in 800 yen)?

- **A** Roppyaku (六百)
- **B** Nanahyaku (七百)
- **C** Happyaku (八百)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5312

C Happyaku (八百)

WHY Hundreds are sound-shifted in three places: sanbyaku (300), roppyaku (600) and happyaku (800). Roppyaku is 600 and nanahyaku is 700.

STRAIGHT FACE
If a clock strikes 13, what time is it? Time to get a new clock.

LANGUAGES

How do you ask a shop 'Do you have a map?' in Japanese?

- **A** Sumimasen. Chizu wa arimasu ka. (すみません。地図はありますか。)
- **B** Sumimasen. Chizu wa doko desu ka. (すみません。地図はどこですか。)
- **C** Sumimasen. Chizu wa ikura desu ka. (すみません。地図はいくらですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **Sumimasen. Chizu wa arimasu ka. (すみません。地図はありますか。)**

WHY Arimasu ka means 'is there' or 'do you have'. The wrong choices ask where the map is and how much it costs, which are not the same question.

STRAIGHT FACE
What's the best seat on a flight to a tropical vacation? An isle.

SESK.INFO #5316

LANGUAGES

How do you tell a clerk 'I'd like a souvenir of Hokkaido'?

- **A** Hokkaidoo no omiyage wa ikura desu ka. (北海道のお土産はいくらですか。)
- **B** Hokkaidoo no omiyage ga hoshiin desu ga. (北海道のお土産が欲しいんですが。)
- **C** Hokkaidoo kara kimashita. (北海道から来ました。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **Hokkaidoo no omiyage ga hoshiin desu ga. (北海道のお土産が欲しいんですが。)**

WHY The pattern is '[thing] ga hoshiin desu ga', where hoshii means want. The wrong choices ask the price and say 'I came from Hokkaido'.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where do Arctic foxes store their money? In snow banks.

SESK.INFO #5317

LANGUAGES

Which Japanese request politely asks a shop for a bit more discount?

- **A** Moo sukoshi hanashite kudasai. (もう少し話してください。)
- **B** Moo ichi-do itte kudasai. (もう一度言ってください。)
- **C** Moo sukoshi yasuku shite moraemasen ka. (もう少し安くしてもらえませんか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C **Moo sukoshi yasuku shite moraemasen ka. (もう少し安くしてもらえませんか。)**

WHY Yasuku shite means to make it cheaper, and moraemasen ka is a very polite request. The wrong choices ask someone to talk a little more and to say it again. Not every shop discounts, so ask kindly.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did one penny say to the other penny? Let's get together and make some cents.

SESK.INFO #5315

LANGUAGES

In Japanese, how do you say 'That's too expensive for me'?

- **A** Oishii desu. (おいしいです。)
- **B** Takasugimasu. (高すぎます。)
- **C** Kiree desu ne. (きれいですね。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **Takasugimasu. (高すぎます。)**

WHY Takai means expensive, and sugimasu adds 'too much'. The wrong choices are 'it's delicious' and 'it's beautiful'.

STRAIGHT FACE
That souvenir was takai, tall in price and tall on the shelf.

SESK.INFO #5314

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'May I take photos here?' in Japanese?

- **A** Shashin o totte mo ii desu ka. (写真を撮ってもいいですか。)
- **B** Shashin o totte kudasai. (写真を撮ってください。)
- **C** Shashin wa ikura desu ka. (写真はいくらですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5319

A **Shashin o totte mo ii desu ka.** (写真を撮ってもいいですか。)

WHY The te-form plus mo ii desu ka asks for permission. Shashin o totte kudasai means 'please take a photo (of us)', and the last choice asks the price.

STRAIGHT FACE
What kind of photos will you find on a turtle's phone? Shell-fies.

LANGUAGES

Which phrase asks 'May I try these clothes on?' in Japanese?

- **A** Kono fuku wa ikura desu ka. (この服はいくらですか。)
- **B** Kono fuku wa doko desu ka. (この服はどこですか。)
- **C** Kono fuku, shichaku-shite mo ii desu ka. (この服、試着してもいいですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5318

C **Kono fuku, shichaku-shite mo ii desu ka.** (この服、試着してもいいですか。)

WHY The -te mo ii desu ka pattern asks permission. Shichaku means trying on clothes. The wrong choices ask the price and where the clothes are.

STRAIGHT FACE
Customer: May I try on that dress in the window, please? Clerk: No, ma'am. You'll have to use the fitting room like everyone else.

LANGUAGES

Which question asks 'Which one is the most popular?' in Japanese?

- **A** Dore ga ichiban takai desu ka. (どれが一番高いですか。)
- **B** Dore ga ichiban chikai desu ka. (どれが一番近いですか。)
- **C** Dore ga ichiban ninki ga arimasu ka. (どれが一番人気がありますか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5321

C **Dore ga ichiban ninki ga arimasu ka.** (どれが一番人気があります。)

WHY Dore means which one, and ichiban means the most. The wrong choices ask which is the most expensive and which is the closest. Replying 'Kore ga osusume desu' means 'I recommend this one'.

STRAIGHT FACE
A pig and a horse had a race. Who won? The pig, because tonkatsu (pork cutlet) sounds like 'ton katsu', and katsu means 'to win'.

LANGUAGES

How do you ask a restaurant chef 'What do you recommend?' in Japanese?

- **A** Osusume wa doko desu ka. (おすすめはどこですか。)
- **B** Osusume wa nan desu ka. (おすすめは何ですか。)
- **C** Osusume wa ikura desu ka. (おすすめはいくらですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5320

B **Osusume wa nan desu ka.** (おすすめは何ですか。)

WHY Nan means what, so you are asking what the recommendation is. The wrong choices would ask where it is and how much it costs.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the sushi say to the bee? Wassabee!

LANGUAGES

A station worker says 'San-ban-sen desu'. What do they mean?

A It's the third exit.

B It's platform number three.

C It's three yen.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B It's platform number three.

WHY Ban means number, and sen means line or track. So san-ban-sen is the platform or track number three. Station staff say it when you ask where a line is.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a train that eats toffee? A chew chew train.

SESK.INFO #5323

LANGUAGES

At a station, how do you ask 'Does this train go to Ikebukuro?'

A Kono densha wa Ikebukuro ni ikimasu ka. (この電車は池袋に行きますか。)

B Kono densha wa Ikebukuro kara kimashita. (この電車は池袋から来ました。)

C Ikebukuro wa doko desu ka. (池袋はどこですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Kono densha wa Ikebukuro ni ikimasu ka. (この電車は池袋に行きますか。)

WHY Ni marks the destination, and ikimasu means goes. Swap in your own station name. The wrong choices say 'This train came from Ikebukuro' and ask where Ikebukuro is.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why can't the train engineer be electrocuted? Because he's not a conductor!

SESK.INFO #5322

LANGUAGES

A passerby says 'Hakubutsukan wa, hidari ni arimasu'. Where is the museum?

A On the left.

B On the right.

C Straight ahead.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A On the left.

WHY Hidari means left, migi means right, and massugu means straight. Remember the trio and you can follow most directions.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why aren't unicorns great dance partners? They have two left feet.

SESK.INFO #5325

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'How can I get to Kinkakuji Temple?' in Japanese?

A Kinkaku-ji wa ikura desu ka. (金閣寺はいくらですか。)

B Kinkaku-ji kara kimashita. (金閣寺から来ました。)

C Kinkaku-ji made, doo ittara ii desu ka. (金閣寺まで、どう行ったらいいですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Kinkaku-ji made, doo ittara ii desu ka. (金閣寺まで、どう行ったらいいですか。)

WHY Made means 'up to', doo means how, and ittara ii desu ka means 'should I go'. The wrong choices ask the price and say you came from the temple.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a polar bear in Mexico? Lost.

SESK.INFO #5324

LANGUAGES

What do Japanese people say before they start eating a meal?

- **A** Gochisoosama deshita. (ごちそうさまでした。)
- **B** Hajimemashite. (はじめまして。)
- **C** Itadakimasu. (いただきます。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5327

STRAIGHT FACE
I said itadakimasu to my ramen. It was a noodle-ly pleasant moment.

C Itadakimasu. (いただきます。)
WHY Itadakimasu expresses thanks to those who prepared the meal. After eating you say gochisoosama deshita. Hajimemashite is for first meetings.

LANGUAGES

In a taxi, how do you say 'To the monkey hot spring, please'?

- **A** Saru no onsen kara kimashita. (猿の温泉から来ました。)
- **B** Saru no onsen made onegai-shimasu. (猿の温泉までお願いします。)
- **C** Saru no onsen wa doko desu ka. (猿の温泉はどこですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5326

STRAIGHT FACE
The taxi door opened by itself. I have never felt so welcomed by a car.

B Saru no onsen made onegai-shimasu. (猿の温泉までお願いします。)
WHY Say your destination, then made onegai-shimasu. The driver's question is 'Dochira made?' (Where to?). The wrong choices say you came from the hot spring and ask where it is.

LANGUAGES

How do you ask a sushi chef 'Please don't put wasabi in' in Japanese?

- **A** Wasabi o takusan irete kudasai. (わさびをたくさん入れてください。)
- **B** Wasabi wa irenaide kudasai. (わさびは入れないでください。)
- **C** Wasabi wa ikura desu ka. (わさびはいくらですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5329

STRAIGHT FACE
What did Sushi A say to Sushi B? Wasabi!

B Wasabi wa irenaide kudasai. (わさびは入れないでください。)
WHY The nai-form plus de kudasai means 'please don't'. The first wrong choice is the opposite, 'put in a lot of wasabi', which Mi Ya orders in the same skit.

LANGUAGES

What is the polite thing to say in Japanese when you finish a meal?

- **A** Gochisoosama deshita. (ごちそうさまでした。)
- **B** Itadakimasu. (いただきます。)
- **C** Okaerinasai. (おかえりなさい。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5328

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the student eat his homework? Because the teacher told him it was a piece of cake.

A Gochisoosama deshita. (ごちそうさまでした。)
WHY Gochisoosama deshita thanks the cook and host after the meal. Itadakimasu is for before eating, and okaerinasai welcomes someone home.

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'How do I eat this?' at a Japanese restaurant?

- **A** Sumimasen. Kore, doo yatte taberun desu ka. (すみません。これ、どうやって食べるんですか。)
- **B** Sumimasen. Kore, ikura desu ka. (すみません。これ、いくらですか。)
- **C** Sumimasen. Kore, nan desu ka. (すみません。これ、何ですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5331

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the vegan start eating sushi? Just for the halibut!

A **Sumimasen. Kore, doo yatte taberun desu ka.** (すみません。これ、どうやって食べるんですか。)

WHY Doo yatte means 'how' and taberu means eat. Staff may tell you to dip it in the sauce. The wrong choices ask the price and what the thing is.

LANGUAGES

How do you order 'One orange juice, no ice' in Japanese?

- **A** Orenji-juusu hitotsu. Koori wa doko desu ka. (オレンジジュース１つ。氷はどこですか。)
- **B** Orenji-juusu hitotsu. Koori o takusan kudasai. (オレンジジュース１つ。氷をたくさんください。)
- **C** Orenji-juusu hitotsu. Koori wa irenaide kudasai. (オレンジジュース１つ。氷は入れないでください。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5330

STRAIGHT FACE
What Japanese drink is made from cabbage, carrots and broccoli? Mitsuya Cider, because 'mitsu yasai da' means 'it's three vegetables'.

C **Orenji-juusu hitotsu. Koori wa irenaide kudasai.** (オレンジジュース１つ。氷は入れないでください。)

WHY Hitotsu means one, and koori means ice. The same 'irenaide kudasai' pattern means 'please don't put in'. The wrong choices ask where ice is and ask for lots of ice.

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'What is this?' while pointing at something in Japanese?

- **A** Kore wa doko desu ka. (これはどこですか。)
- **B** Kore wa ikura desu ka. (これはいくらですか。)
- **C** Kore wa nan desu ka. (これは何ですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5333

STRAIGHT FACE
When you look at your sushi rolls, what do you see? I just seafood.

C **Kore wa nan desu ka.** (これは何ですか。)

WHY Nan means what. Kore means this thing close to you, sore means near the listener, and are means over there. The wrong choices ask where it is and how much.

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'I can't eat raw eggs' in Japanese?

- **A** Nama-tamago ga suki desu. (生卵が好きです。)
- **B** Nama-tamago wa taberaremasen. (生卵は食べられません。)
- **C** Nama-tamago wa ikura desu ka. (生卵はいくらですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5332

STRAIGHT FACE
Why can't you tease egg whites? Because they can't take a yolk!

B **Nama-tamago wa taberaremasen.** (生卵は食べられません。)

WHY Taberaremasen means can't eat, and nama means raw. Swap in sashimi or any food. The wrong choices say 'I like raw eggs' and ask the price.

LANGUAGES

At a ryokan, how do you ask 'From what time to what time can we use the bath?'

- **A** Ofuro wa ikura desu ka. (お風呂はいくらですか。)
- **B** Ofuro wa nan-ji kara nan-ji made desu ka. (お風呂は何時から何時までですか。)
- **C** Ofuro wa doko desu ka. (お風呂はどこですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Ofuro wa nan-ji kara nan-ji made desu ka. (お風呂は何時から何時までですか。)

WHY Nan-ji means what time, kara means from and made means until. The wrong choices ask the price and the location of the bath.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the employee sit on the clock? He wanted to be on time.

SESK.INFO #5335

LANGUAGES

Which Japanese word tells the cook 'It's delicious'?

- **A** Oishii desu. (おいしいです。)
- **B** Takai desu. (高いです。)
- **C** Samui desu. (寒いです。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Oishii desu. (おいしいです。)

WHY Oishii means delicious. Takai means expensive or tall, and samui means cold. Say oishii desu to a host or chef and they will be happy.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do Japanese kids eat at snack time? Anime crackers.

SESK.INFO #5334

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'I don't know the Wi-Fi password' to hotel staff?

- **A** Waifai no pasuwaado ga wakaranain desu ga... (Wi-Fiのパスワードがわからないんですが...)
- **B** Waifai wa arimasu ka. (Wi-Fiはありますか。)
- **C** Terebi ga tsukanain desu ga... (テレビがつかないんですが...)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Waifai no pasuwaado ga wakaranain desu ga... (Wi-Fiのパスワードがわからないんですが...)

WHY Wakaranain desu ga is a soft way to say you don't know something. The wrong choices ask 'Is there Wi-Fi?' and say 'The TV won't turn on'.

STRAIGHT FACE
What's a computer's favorite thing to snack on? Computer chips.

SESK.INFO #5337

LANGUAGES

In a hotel room, how do you say 'The TV won't turn on' in Japanese?

- **A** Eakon ga kikanain desu ga... (エアコンがきかないんですが...)
- **B** Terebi ga mitai desu. (テレビが見たいです。)
- **C** Terebi ga tsukanain desu ga... (テレビがつかないんですが...)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Terebi ga tsukanain desu ga... (テレビがつかないんですが...)

WHY The nai-form plus n desu ga explains a problem politely. The wrong choices say 'The air conditioner isn't working' and 'I want to watch TV'.

STRAIGHT FACE
The TV in the ryokan would not turn on. I took it as a sign it needed a rest, and so did I.

SESK.INFO #5336

LANGUAGES

Which Japanese word do you shout in an emergency to mean 'Help!'?

A Itadakimasu! (いただきます！)

B Sumimasen! (すみません！)

C Tasukete! (助けて！)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Tasukete! (助けて！)

WHY Tasukete is the te-form of tasukeru, 'to help', used to call for help in an emergency. Itadakimasu is for meals. Sumimasen gets attention but does not signal an emergency.

STRAIGHT FACE
A proton and a neutron are walking down the street. The proton says, "Wait, I dropped an electron. Help me look for it." The neutron says "Are you sure?" The proton replies, "I'm positive."

SESK.INFO #5339

LANGUAGES

At a Japanese inn, what is a 'washitsu' (和室)?

A A Western-style room

B A Japanese-style room

C A hot spring bath

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B A Japanese-style room

WHY Washitsu is a Japanese-style room and yoshitsu is a Western-style room. The staff asks which you prefer. A bath is ofuro.

STRAIGHT FACE
I picked the washitsu, slept on a futon on the tatami, and had a floor-ish night.

SESK.INFO #5338

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'My head hurts. I have a fever' in Japanese?

A Nodo ga itain desu. Samui desu. (のどが痛いんです。寒いです。)

B Onaka ga suite imasu. Nemui desu. (おなかがすいています。眠いです。)

C Atama ga itain desu. Netsu ga arun desu. (頭が痛いんです。熱があるんです。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Atama ga itain desu. Netsu ga arun desu. (頭が痛いんです。熱があるんです。)

WHY Atama is head, netsu is fever, and itain desu means it hurts. The wrong choices say 'My throat hurts. It's cold' and 'I'm hungry. I'm sleepy.'

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the computer go to the doctor? It caught a virus.

SESK.INFO #5341

LANGUAGES

How do you tell someone 'My throat hurts' in Japanese?

A Nodo ga kawaite imasu. (のどが渇いています。)

B Nodo ga itain desu. (のどが痛いんです。)

C Onaka ga itain desu. (おなかが痛いんです。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Nodo ga itain desu. (のどが痛いんです。)

WHY Itai means painful, and n desu explains your situation. Nodo ga kawaite imasu means 'I'm thirsty', and onaka ga itain desu means 'My stomach hurts'.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the orange go to the doctor? It wasn't peeling well.

SESK.INFO #5340

LANGUAGES

In Japan, where should you go if you lose your wallet?

- **A** A depachika (デパ地下), the department store food hall
- **B** A kooban (交番), the neighborhood police box
- **C** A ryokan (旅館), a traditional inn

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B A kooban (交番), the neighborhood police box

WHY A kooban is a small neighborhood police post. Officers can help with lost items and directions. A depachika sells food, and a ryokan is an inn.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the policeman say to his bellybutton? You're under a vest.

SESK.INFO #5343

LANGUAGES

How do you tell someone 'I lost my wallet' in Japanese?

- **A** Saifu o otoshite shimaimashita. (財布を落としてしまいました。)
- **B** Saifu o kaitai desu. (財布を買いたいです。)
- **C** Saifu wa ikura desu ka. (財布はいくらですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Saifu o otoshite shimaimashita. (財布を落としてしまいました。)

WHY Saifu is wallet, otosu is to drop or lose, and shimaimashita shows regret. The wrong choices say 'I want to buy a wallet' and ask the price.

STRAIGHT FACE
I lost my wallet in Tokyo, and the kooban found it before I even finished my sentence.

SESK.INFO #5342

LANGUAGES

At a restaurant in Japan, how do you politely ask for the check?

- **A** Chekku-auto, onegai-shimasu. (チェックアウト、お願いします。)
- **B** Koohii, onegai-shimasu. (コーヒー、お願いします。)
- **C** Okaikee, onegai-shimasu. (お会計、お願いします。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Okaikee, onegai-shimasu. (お会計、お願いします。)

WHY Okaikee means the bill, and onegai-shimasu means please. Chekku-auto is a hotel checkout, not a restaurant check, and koohii is coffee.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the sushi chef say to the magician? Pick a cod, any cod!

SESK.INFO #5345

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'I'm in front of the ticket gate' in Japanese?

- **A** Kaisatsu no mae ni imasu. (改札の前にいます。)
- **B** Kaisatsu no mae ni ikimasu ka. (改札の前に行きますか。)
- **C** Kaisatsu wa doko desu ka. (改札はどこですか。)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Kaisatsu no mae ni imasu. (改札の前にいます。)

WHY Ni imasu tells where you are, and mae means front. Kaisatsu is the ticket gate. The wrong choices ask 'Do you go there?' and 'Where is the ticket gate?'

STRAIGHT FACE
I told my friend I was at the ticket gate. She said, 'Great, you're on a roll.'

SESK.INFO #5344

LANGUAGES

What does a sign reading お手洗い (otearai) point you to?

- **A** The restroom
- **B** The entrance
- **C** The ticket gate

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A The restroom

WHY Otearai literally means 'hand washing' with the polite prefix o. It is a polite word for restroom, and toire (トイレ) means the same. The entrance is iriguchi and the ticket gate is kaisatsu.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a line of men waiting to get haircuts? A barberquene.

SESK.INFO #5347

LANGUAGES

A sign in a Japanese station says 出口 (deguchi). What does it mean?

- **A** Entrance
- **B** Exit
- **C** Restroom

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Exit

WHY 出 means go out and 口 means mouth or opening, so 出口 is the way out. Its opposite is 入口 (iriguchi), the entrance. Restroom signs say お手洗い or トイレ.

STRAIGHT FACE
How do eggs leave the highway? By going through the eggs-it.

SESK.INFO #5346

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