

case 1. "YATAI"

There are many *Yatai* at *Omatsuri*. There are *Kakigori* (shaved ice), *Watagashi* (cotton candy), *Ikayaki* (grilled squid), *Yakisoba* (fried noodle), etc. Now, let's buy *Kakigori* at *Yatai*.

Visitor: What is that red one?
Yatai clerk: That's strawberry syrup.
Visitor: I'll have one. How much is it?
Yatai clerk: 200 yen.

★Japanese translation

屋台 → **[Yatai]** : food stalls
お祭り → **[Omatsuri]** : festival
かき氷 → **[Kakigori]** : shaved ice
いくら → **[ikura]** : How much is it?
ください → **[kudasai]** I'll have one.

case 2. "BON DANCE"

Bon-odori are traditional local festivals held all around Japan in the summer season.

Anh: Can anyone join the dance?
Aiko: Anyone is welcome. We dance in a circle with one pattern of movement. You can easily dance by imitating other people's movement.
Anh: What kind of music do you use in *Bon-odori*?
Aiko: We use various kinds of *min-yo*, traditional local and regional folk songs in Japan.

★Japanese translation

盆踊り → **[Bon-odori]** : Bon dance
音楽 → **[ongaku]** : music

case 3. "HANABI"

Hanabi is one of the most traditional Japanese highlights in summer.

Anh: We often see fireworks and set off fireworks at big events in other countries, too. What's special about Japanese *Hanabi*?
Aiko: In Japan, many fireworks displays are held as the main event of *kawabiraki*, the ceremonies announcing the start of the summer season. When fireworks are big and beautiful, people traditionally shout, "*Tamaya!*" and "*Kagiya!*" to cheer and to show their admiration. At home, too, people enjoy various kinds of small fireworks such as *senko-hanabi*, a sparkler, outside with their family and friends in summer.

★Japanese translation

花火 → **[Hanabi]** : fireworks
夏 → **[natsu]** : summer
友達 → **[tomodachi]** : friend
家族 → **[kazoku]** : family
浴衣 → **[yukata]** : casual summer kimono

'Say it!'
'Let's try!'

'Let's learn some easy Japanese.'

Here we have some easy Japanese words and expressions you can use during *MATSURI* (summer festival and autumn festival).

Nowadays, not all, but most Japanese people traditionally enjoy wearing *Yukata*, a casual summer *kimono*, which makes you feel cooler at summer festivals.

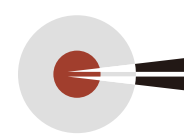


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WA-SHOKU



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夏
秋
食
祭

Travel through the Japanese archipelago, On a festival tour!

~from summer to autumn



Japanese people love festivals. A lot! Japan is a long archipelago, extending from south to north. Each local community has a different culture and holds its own unique festival. Although a variety of festivals is held all through the year all across Japan, they are mostly concentrated in summer and autumn.

However, there's a big difference between a summer festival and an autumn one. It is the very purpose of the festival.

In the old days, serious disasters would often strike during summer. For example, sweltering weather could spread diseases, and insects would damage the all-important crops.

Moreover, just like today, a typhoon could slam into a village and cause severe damage with strong winds and heavy rain.

At that time, people believed these catastrophes were caused by the wrath of God or by vengeful ghosts. So people held festivals to calm them. Moreover, *Urabon-e* is one of the Buddhist festivals to welcome back the souls of the dead, and it's always held in summer.

Summer festivals always include *bon-odori*—a kind of traditional dance. People thought of it as dancing with the souls of their ancestors.

The main dancers were female farmers. It's because *bon-odori* means a special break from heavy labor, and it was fun entertainment for women who work hard every day in the fields.

On the other hand, autumn festivals are intended as thanksgiving for the rice harvest.

In the old days, *goku* was the original unit they used to measure the weight of their rice. Rice was the foundation of their lives and the basis of their economics. It was the very essence of what it means to be alive. So people held the festivals in autumn in order to show appreciation for an abundant crop and to pray for a continuation of good harvests.

Most autumn festivals are spirited and lively, and the main players this time are the men.

WA-SHOKU is a platform to connect people from ASEAN countries to Japanese companies, especially for who are interested in Japanese foods or farming and working in Japan or Japanese enterprises. Our website also provides job opportunities and useful information. Let's check "WA-SHOKU" here. <https://wa-shoku.info/>

