

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #16

Common Household Items

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KANJI

1. What are five common things in the home in Japan?
2. 1. 仏壇
3. 2. 神棚
4. 3. 玄関
5. 4. こたつ
6. 5. 畳

KANA

1. What are five common things in the home in Japan?
2. 1. ぶつだん
3. 2. かみだな
4. 3. げんかん
5. 4. こたつ
6. 5. たたみ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common things in the home in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. butsudan
3. 2. kamidana
4. 3. genkan
5. 4. kotatsu
6. 5. tatami

ENGLISH

1. What are five common things in the home in Japan?
2. 1. a family Buddhist altar
3. 2. a household altar
4. 3. house entrance
5. 4. table with an electric heater
6. 5. tatami mat

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
仏壇	ぶつだん	butsudan	a family Buddhist altar
神棚	かみだな	kamidana	a household altar

こたつ	こたつ	kotatsu	table with an electric heater
畳	たたみ	tatami	tatami mat
玄関	げんかん	genkan	house entrance

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>仏壇は、古くから日本の家庭において中心的な存在でした。 <i>Butsudan wa, furukukara nihon no katei ni oite chūshintekina sonzai deshita.</i></p> <p>The family Buddhist altar is traditionally an essential and spiritual center of a Japanese family.</p>	<p>神棚の一番一般的な形は、お札を中に収める、「札宮」という神棚です。 <i>kamidana no ichiban ippantekina katachi wa, ofuda o nakani osameru, "fudamiya" to yū kamidana desu.</i></p> <p>The most common type of miniature altar has a miniature shrine with a talisman inside it, which is called a "fudamiya".</p>
<p>日本の典型的な冬のイメージは、家族がこたつを囲んでミカンを食べる様子です。 <i>nihon no tenkeitekina fuyu no imēji wa, kazokuga kotatsu o kakonde mikan o taberu yōsu desu.</i></p> <p>A typical image of winter in Japan is a family sitting around a "kotatsu" eating mandarin oranges.</p>	<p>日本では、およそ9.9平方メートルの部屋を「6畳」と表すように、部屋の大きさを畳の数で表します。 <i>nihon dewa, oyoso kyū ten kyū heihō mētoru no heya o "roku jō" to arawasu yōni, heya no ōkisa o tatami no kazu de arawashimasu.</i></p> <p>The area of a room in Japan is often described by the number of tatami mats it contains, such as "6 tatami mats" for a room measuring around 9.9 square metres.</p>
<p>玄関で靴を脱いだ後は、つま先がドアの方を向くようにそろえます。 <i>genkan de kutsu o nuida ato wa, tsumasaki ga doa no hō o mukuyōni soroemasu.</i></p> <p>After taking your shoes off at the entrance, the shoes should be lined up neatly with the toes pointing towards the front door.</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. A family Buddhist altar

A *butsudan* is a family Buddhist altar. The size of this altar varies, but it usually takes the form of a wooden cabinet with doors. Memorial tablets for deceased family members and ancestors are often kept inside.

2. A household altar

A *kamidana* is a miniature altar to enshrine a deity which is set on a high position on a wall. Since most Japanese live with both Shinto and Buddhist influences, a lot of mixed religious customs are found in everyday life.

3. House entrance

A Japanese house entrance is normally raised, so that people take off their shoes in the lower area before stepping up into the house. Because of this custom of taking the shoes off before entering, Japanese front doors usually open outwards.

4. Table with an electric heater

A *kotatsu* is a table with an electric heater usually covered with a blanket or other such covering. Japanese people often use a "kotatsu" instead of a normal table in winter, and sit down around the *kotatsu* with their legs under the blanket.

5. Tatami mat

Tatami mats are used as flooring in traditional Japanese rooms. Their surface is covered with woven soft rushes, and is softer than a wooden floor.