

LESSON NOTES

Video Culture Class: Japanese Holidays #16 Respect for the Aged Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences

16

KANJI

1. 孫から祖父母へ、または子どもから両親へ、あるいは地域で、お年寄りに「いつもありがとう。これからも元気で過ごしてね」という気持ちを伝えるのが「敬老の日」です。「長年にわたり社会に尽（つ）くしてきた老人を敬愛（けいあい）し、長寿を祝う」という趣旨のもと、毎年9月の第3月曜日が祝日になります。その発祥（はっしょう）には諸説（しよせつ）ありますが、1947年、兵庫県の農村で敬老会を開いたことから、全国に広まったそうです。
2. 今では9月第3月曜日が敬老の日ですが、2002年までは、別の日に決められていました。いつだったか知っていますか。
3. 正解はこのビデオの最後に紹介します。
4. 敬老の日当日やその前後に、お年寄りの住んでいる地域で「敬老会」が開かれることがあります。高齢者に、公民館のような公共の施設に集ってもらい、合唱サークルによる歌の披露、ダンス同好会による演舞（えんぶ）など、参加者と地域住民と一緒に楽しめるような余興（よきょう）が催（もよお）されます。また、赤飯や和菓子、拡大鏡（かくだいきょう）といった記念品が贈呈（ぞうてい）されることもあります。幼稚園や保育園では、児童の祖父母を招いて参観会を開いたり、小学校では感謝の手紙を書いて祖父母に渡したりするなど、異年齢の交流を深める機会にもなっています。
5. 厚生労働省は、毎年「敬老の日」を前に、100歳以上の高齢者の人数を調べます。また、自治体では、「傘寿（さんじゅ）」（満80歳）「卒寿（そつじゅ）」（満90歳）など、節目の年を迎えられた高齢者には、お祝い金や記念品が贈るところもあります。さらに、100歳を越える長寿の方には、市長や町長が直接、住まいを訪問してお祝いのことばをかけたたり、祝いの品を贈呈したりします。
6. 高齢者と同居している家庭はもちろん、離れて暮らす家族も、敬老の日には感謝の気持ちを伝えます。「ありがとう」ということばだけでなく、贈り物をするのも多々あります。贈って喜ばれた敬老のプレゼントとしては、食事会や花などのほか、孫からの手作りの品や孫の写真などが上位に上がるようです。

CONT'D OVER

7. 敬老の日を9月の第3月曜日に移行させる際、高齢者団体から反発が相次いだため、2001年には老人福祉法が改正され、9月15日が「老人の日」、9月15日から1週間が「老人週間」と制定されました。
8. さて、ここでクイズの答えです。
9. 2002年まで、敬老の日はいつだったのでしょうか。正解は9月15日です。国民の祝日の一部を、従来の日付から特定の月曜日に移動させる制度を「ハッピーマンデー制度」と呼びます。公務員や中規模以上の企業を中心に、週休二日制が広まったため、月曜日を休日とすることで土曜日・日曜日と合わせて三連休にし、余暇（よか）を過ごしてもらおうという趣旨で法改正が行なわれました。1998年には「成人の日」「体育の日」、2001年には「海の日」「敬老の日」の移動が決定されました。

ENGLISH

1. Respect for the Aged Day is when people convey their feelings of continuing gratitude and wishes for good health, whether grandchildren to their grandparents, children to their parents, or anyone to the elderly in their neighborhood. This national holiday falls on the third Monday of September each year, and aims to celebrate the longevity of, and show respect to, the elderly who have devoted themselves to society for many years. While there are several theories about its origins, it is thought to have spread across the country after a Respect for the Aged party was held in a rural village in Hyōgo Prefecture in 1947.
2. While these days Respect for the Aged Day is held on the third Monday of September, until 2002 it had been held on a different day. Do you know on which date it used to be held?
3. You'll find out later.

CONT'D OVER

4. On this day, and the days surrounding it, Respect for the Aged parties are held for the elderly living in the area. The elderly gather together in public facilities such as community centers to enjoy entertainment such as choir and dance performances with the participants and local residents. Souvenirs such as red rice, Japanese sweets, and magnifying glasses are also sometimes presented. Grandparents are invited to the classes at their grandchildren's kindergarten or nursery, and elementary school students write letters of thanks to their grandparents. The day is a good opportunity for the different generations to strengthen their bonds.
5. Each year before Respect for the Aged Day, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare finds out the number of people over 100 years of age. Local municipalities also sometimes give gifts or souvenirs to elderly people who are celebrating milestones that year, such as Sanju (turning 80), or Sotsuju (turning 90). Those who turn 100 or more receive a visit from the city or town mayor. They are then congratulated and presented with a congratulatory gift.
6. Naturally, households with elderly family members convey their gratitude on Respect for the Aged day, but families who live apart get involved as well. Often, this involves not only saying thank you, but also giving gifts. Meals, flowers, handmade crafts by the grandchildren, and photos of the grandchildren are high on the list of popular gifts given on this day.
7. When Respect for the Aged Day was moved to the third Monday in September, in order to appease the opposition of elderly associations, the Act for the Welfare of the Aged was also amended in 2001, and September 15th was established as Elderly Day, with the following seven days established as Elderly Week.
8. Now it's time for the answer to our quiz...
9. So on what date was Respect for the Aged Day held up until 2002? The correct answer is September 15th. The system of moving some national holidays from their traditional date to a specific Monday is known as the Happy Monday System. With the five day workweek becoming common for civil servants and within medium-sized companies, the law was amended to form three-day weekends by making some Mondays holidays. This was done with the goal of increasing workers' leisure time. In 1998, Coming of Age Day and Sports Day were moved to Monday, and in 2001 Marine Day and Respect for the Aged Day were also moved.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
余暇	よか	yoka	leisure time
週休二日制	しゅうきゅうふつか せい	shūkyū futsuka sei	5-day work week
従来	じゅうらい	jūrai	in the past
老人福祉法	ろうじんふくしほう	Rōjin Fukushi Hō	Act for the Welfare of the Aged
同居	どうきょ	dōkyo	living together
長寿	ちょうじゅ	chōju	longevity
卒寿	そつじゅ	sotsuju	90th birthday
傘寿	さんじゅ	sanju	80th birthday
参観会	さんかいかい	sannkan kai	visiting a class
敬老の日	けいろうのひ	Keirō no hi	Respect for the Aged Day
尽くす	つくす	tsukusu	to be dedicated to
発祥	はっしょう	hasshō	origin
余興	よきょう	yokyō	side show, entertainment
高齢者	こうれいしゃ	kōreisha	elderly people
お年寄り	おとしより	o-toshiyori	elderly people

SAMPLE SENTENCES

敬老の日には、祖父母に感謝の気持ちを伝えます。

Keirō no hi ni wa, sofubo ni kansha no kimochi o tsutaemasu.

Japanese people show appreciation for their grandparents on Respect for the Aged Day.

スノーボードの発祥はアメリカです。

Sunōbōdo no hasshō wa Amerika desu.

Snowboarding is originally from the US.