



Olympics, special holidays and the JLPT

As students look forward to summer vacation, the weather also becomes increasingly humid and hot. Some might be busy preparing for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), while others are looking forward to the Olympics. This year, some of the national holidays in



July and August are rearranged. **What is the JLPT?**

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is a test to measure and certify the language proficiency of those whose native language is not Japanese. It will be held on July 4th this year. There are 5 levels to the JLPT; with N5 being the easiest, and N1 is the hardest. It is held twice a year, typically in July and December. Some companies require a certain level of the JLPT when looking for potential employees, so we recommend taking the test for more job options. We recommend signing up as soon as possible since the registration time frame is short. It opens in mid-March for the July test and mid-August for the December test.

Why have the holidays changed this year? The government has decided to change the dates to line them up with the opening and closing ceremony of the Olympics.

National Holidays in July/August 2021

National holidays in 2021:

July 22nd: Ocean Day

Aug 8: Sports Day

July 23rd: Mountain Day

Normal year:

3rd Monday of July: Ocean Day

2nd Monday of October: Sports Day

August 11th: Mountain Day

Tanabata (たなばた or 七夕)



Tanabata means the "Evening of the seventh". It celebrates the meeting of the deities *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi*. According to the legend, *Orihime*, daughter of the *Tentei* wove beautiful clothes by the bank of the *Amanogawa* (also known as the Milky Way). She worked very hard to weave clothes for her father but was sad that she could never meet and fall in love with anyone. Her father arranged for her to meet *Hikoboshi* who lived and

worked on the other side of the *Amanogawa*. They fell in love and got married. However, once married, *Orihime* would no longer weave and *Hikoboshi* allowed his cows to stray. *Tentei* separated the two lovers across the *Amanogawa* in anger. *Orihime* became depressed and begged her father to let them meet again. Moved by his daughter's tears, he allowed the two to meet on the 7th day of the 7th month only if she worked hard and finished her weaving. The date of *Tanabata* varies by region of the country but is celebrated most commonly on July 7th.

How to prevent food poisoning from take-out

Food poisoning precautions! “Take-out foods”

Today, many dining establishments offer take-out menu. Here are some basic precautions against possible food poisoning by take-out foods.

Temperature control!

Do not leave your take-out foods in places exposed to high temperatures such as in your car.



Handwashing is important !

Always wash your hands before you eat something.



Finish eating them early!

After bringing take-out foods home, it's better to eat them as early as possible.



See a doctor when you have symptoms like nausea, vomit, diarrhea, stomach pain, etc.

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