

The Mystery and Magic of Japan



Part One

Look at the pictures of Japan. With a partner, discuss what you can see in each picture. Do you know any Japanese words for the things that you can see?

Part Two

Read the text. The words in blue italics are Japanese words. What do you think these words mean in English?

All three pictures show *Fujisan* from different positions. It is very famous and the most photographed mountain in the world. However, *Fujisan* is not a *yama*. It is a *kazan*.

When I was a university student doing my degree, I went to a Japanese *daigaku* because my major was in Japanese Studies. It was a good experience. I lived with a Japanese *kazoku* and one weekend we stayed in a hostel next to *Fujisan*.

In one *shashin* you can see *sakura* on the trees. Another *shashin* shows a person. She is holding a *higasa*. The third *shashin* shows a *shinkansen* moving at high speed with *Fujisan* in the background.

Who is famous? John Lennon's wife is *nihonjin*. She understands *nihongo*.

Look at the Japanese words from the text and match them to the English words:

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ <i>shashin</i> | ■ Mountain |
| ■ <i>shinkansen</i> | ■ Photograph |
| ■ <i>kazoku</i> | ■ Volcano |
| ■ <i>daigaku</i> | ■ Japanese (language) |
| ■ <i>higasa</i> | ■ Japanese (people) |
| ■ <i>nihonjin</i> | ■ Parasol |
| ■ <i>nihongo</i> | ■ Cherry blossoms |
| ■ <i>yama</i> | ■ University |
| ■ <i>kazan</i> | ■ Family |
| ■ <i>sakura</i> | ■ Bullet train |
| ■ <i>Fujisan</i> | ■ Mount Fuji |

Part Three

1. Do you know any of these Japanese words? How do you know them?
2. Do you know any famous Japanese people? Who? Why are they famous?
3. Would you like to go to any of the places in the pictures? Why?