



PLAZA NEWS



Miyazaki International Foundation

Questions, comments, postings, or for information in Plaza News: Miyazaki International Foundation, B1 Carino Miyazaki, Tachibanadori Higashi

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Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed: Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays and December 29 to January 3

Talk with the CIRs! Anyone from overseas is welcome to attend!

★A chat with Marsh from England (Japanese & English)

◇Date & Time : March 18th (Fri) 6:00pm - 7:00pm

◇Deadline: March 15th (Tue)



★A chat with Sky from Singapore (Japanese & Chinese)

◇Date & Time : March 22nd (Tue) 3:00pm - 4:00pm

◇Deadline: March 18th (Fri)



*We accept applications by phone or in person.

*Everyone is welcome to come along, but in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we have to limit the number of participants to about 4 people. Places are first come, first served, but priority will be given to first-time participants.

*Please note that this chat may be subject to change or cancellation depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

◇Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki International Foundation

Japanese Practice Sessions

*FREE, No Registration Required

◇Dates & Time: 10:30 am - 11:30 am

[Wed] 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30

[Fri] 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

◇Venue: CARINO Miyazaki B1F

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



Useful Information on Disaster Preparedness for Foreign Residents

As this year's Disaster Preparedness Seminar for Foreign Residents has been cancelled due to COVID-19, we provide here some useful information. It is important to prepare for disasters before they happen.

We hope you find this information useful!

○Miyazaki International Foundation

This website provides some basic information on disasters and disaster preparedness, brochures (in PDF format).

Also, every year the Miyazaki International Foundation holds disaster preparedness seminars aimed at people from overseas living in Miyazaki, so you can learn how to prepare for natural disasters, and what to do if they happen.

<https://www.mif.or.jp>

○Useful apps and websites for disasters

(available in multiple languages)

The National Government has produced a leaflet introducing smartphone apps and websites that can be used to find out about disasters in Japan. Download it and put it up somewhere easily visible!

<http://www.bousai.go.jp/kokusai/web/index.html>



About the Miyazaki International Plaza



The Miyazaki International Foundation provides a range of services. Please contact us when using our service.

◇Books Available to Borrow

There are books on multiculturalism, overseas study, language learning, etc. Each person can borrow up to two books for two weeks at a time. There are also English language newspapers available.

◇Bulletin Board

The bulletin board displays a wealth of information on multiculturalism and international exchange. Anyone is welcome to use the board to share information on cultural exchange, language study, and free giveaways in a A5-A4 size sheet for up to two weeks.

◇Flag rentals

We lend standard and miniature flags to schools, local government entities, and international exchange organizations in Miyazaki Prefecture. Please contact us beforehand.



◇World Box

So far this year, we have lent out traditional costumes from the Czech Republic, Korea and Singapore to high schools in the prefecture for their cultural festivals and library displays. We have also lent out World Boxes from several different countries to primary schools for use in their foreign language classes. In addition, the costumes are often worn as part of international exchange projects, which are useful for international understanding and education.

The contents of each box differ slightly from country to country. For more information, please visit our website.

◇International Cooperation for Everyone

The Miyazaki International Foundation is collecting the following. To make a donation please bring or mail the following to the Miyazaki International Foundation.

- 1) Used Postcards
- 2) Used Postal Stamps

*When Sending in Stamps:

Please leave a 0.5 - 1 centimeter area of paper/envelope around stamps when cutting them out.

We will not be able to make use of stamps that are scratched or torn.



◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation

Now Recruiting Volunteers from Overseas

Volunteer Recruitment for International Chat Sessions

We are looking for people from overseas to help us with International Chat sessions, where people can enjoy chatting in English, Chinese and Korean.

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



You can study Japanese!

The Miyazaki International Foundation holds “Japanese Language Classes”, “Japanese Practice Sessions” and can also “Introduce Japanese Volunteers” to foreign residents. Here are a few testimonials from our people who have tried these services. If you are interested in learning Japanese, please do not hesitate to contact us.

● Impressions of the Japanese Language Classes held in University of Miyazaki

•Ms. Amonrat Choornasard

First of all, I would like to say thank you to Miyazaki International Foundation which organized Japanese lesson in University of Miyazaki. This class is very useful for improvement my Japanese language skills especially, speaking skill because teacher and students communicated in Japanese language. Teacher taught a lot of things not only lesson in a book but also culture and lifestyle of Japanese for understand and living in Miyazaki. Moreover, in this class had 2 teachers taught each group of students who had differences language level, teacher concentrated every student and selected suitable lesson to all of students. I wish to join Japanese lesson in next class. Everybody, let's join with me.

•Mr. Zia Hejazi

Since I have the experience of studying in Japan for several times, I have realized that one may not fully enjoy the life here unless to understand the Japanese Language. Despite that Japanese people are very cooperative, it would be more helpful if one could speak a little bit with their language. I found the current course very useful for leaning the Japanese language. I was totally illiterate, but after getting initial lessons, now I am able to read and understand some sets of words in Japanese. All this grants me further courage and confidence. I would like to thank Miyazaki International Foundation for providing such a great opportunity free of charge and would like to say “Please keep it up.”

● Impressions of Japanese Practice Sessions

•Mr. Bruce Tiedemann

I am from America and have been using the Japanese Practice Sessions through the Miyazaki International Foundation for many years. I find it very useful and it has helped me very much in my everyday living experiences here in Miyazaki. The volunteer teachers are very kind, helpful and they work at my pace. It's like having your own personal tutor. I would highly recommend using this service if you want to improve your Japanese language abilities.

•Ms. Amy Louise Bennet

Despite studying Japanese at a language school for 1 year, I was not confident at all with speaking. Being new to Miyazaki and not knowing many people also meant I didn't have a lot of opportunity to practice. Being asked the reason for wanting to study and having lessons tailored to this was the main reason I joined. However, since joining, I believe the best thing about the Japanese Practice Session is the friendly and relaxed atmosphere as it helps me to feel less nervous about trying to speak Japanese.

<Information from the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents>

Daily Life Consultations for Foreign Residents in Miyakonojo

Staff will be available for consultations concerning everyday difficulties. You can consult with us in your native language. (We may use machine translation and phone interpreting services for consultations) Consultations are strictly confidential. ※Consultation may be subject to cancellation due to COVID-19. Online consultations (using Zoom) are also available.

◇Date & Time : March 19th (Sat) 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

◇Venue: Mirai Sōzō Station Mallmall 2F

◇How to Apply:

Priority will be given to advance reservations. You can also come in person (up to 30 minutes per appointment). Please send us an email or fax at least one day in advance containing: (1) your name, (2) contact details (telephone number), (3) what you would like to discuss, and (4) what language you would prefer to use for consultation.

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents

TEL : 0985-41-5901 FAX : 0985-41-5902

E-mail : support@mif.or.jp



Website



Facebook



Instagram

- Staff's Tweet -

Is the Tomato a Fruit or a Vegetable?

Tomatoes, the red fruit that adds a nice splash of color to the table, are called “西红柿” or “番茄” in Chinese. Japanese people categorise it as a vegetable, but in Taiwan, it is classed as a fruit. It is my belief that this is because Taiwanese tomatoes are so sweet and juicy that they are often served as a dessert at street stalls, in the form of candy tomatoes (糖葫蘆). If you go to a local supermarket there, you will find Taiwanese tomatoes in the fruit section. Make sure to give them a try!



VS



An Englishman in Miyazaki

“Isn't that what's written on the back of American coins?”



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR
Marsh Graham

Hi everyone! Hope you're all keeping well. Maybe the pandemic is finally starting to get to me, but I got to thinking this month about... Trousers. Specifically, why they're almost always only mentioned in the plural – if you cut a pair in half, why don't you end up with a single trouser? If you add a third leg, why do you end up with a three-legged pair of trousers and not a trio of trousers? After a bit of research, the reason is actually surprisingly simple: English has a few nouns, classified as *pluralia tantum*, that are never, or at least only ever rarely, used in the singular. Just like “scissors,” “trousers” is only ever used in the singular attributively – i.e. in constructions like “a trouser leg,” that refer to a specific part of the object. This phenomenon isn't just limited to English, either – in German, *Ferien* (holiday) is always plural, as is the Finnish *Kasvot* (face). There are also *singularia tantum* – nouns which only have a singular form, like fish, milk or popcorn – these are usually used to describe a kind of mass of something that doesn't easily divide into component parts, or that can't be easily separated once mixed. It's certainly always been accurate whenever I've cooked fish or made popcorn, anyway.

So, there you have it – the answer to the question absolutely nobody was asking: That's why it's one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish, but not one trouser, two trousers. It also gives us a bonus answer to Homer Simpson's fantastic semi-rhetorical question of why he can't have no kids and three money instead of three kids and no money. In any case, it's at least a good way to show that the rarity of plural and singular forms in Japanese can sometimes be very convenient! That's before we even get into articles...