

JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE VISITS

Shopping Lesson Notes to Teacher

Goal: The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to use skills they already have, in a simulated, but realistic situation, with Japanese-speakers. They will need to rely on their own language skills to succeed. The lesson is designed to be challenging, but fun and confidence-building. Students will work together and may speak to each other in English, but as would be the case if they were on a visit to Japan, none of the "shopkeepers" (presenters) will speak in English, or understand their English. The atmosphere will be very supportive and encouraging.

Skills/Knowledge needed:

Knowledge of numbers and counters

Typical grammar used for shopping, expressions of comparison etc.

Familiarity with hiragana-- all vocabulary will be shown in hiragana

Format:

Presenters will begin with a brief review of the skills to be used, then demonstrate how a typical situation might proceed. They will then hand out envelopes containing a fixed amount of play money and a shopping list to groups of 3-4 students.*

The students must then, as a group, work within their budget to get what they need based on their given situation. This will involve determining where to go for what items and which items to buy. Finally, each group will report to the teacher or to a volunteer how much they began with, what they bought and how much change they have left.

Logistics:

We will need space to set up four shopping sites. We will need 4 empty tables, preferably at a distance from each other to lay out our merchandise on.

Presenters will give self-introduction and a brief explanation in English at the beginning of the lesson, but will speak only in Japanese from then on. It will help if the teacher could brief the students as to what will happen and have some vocabulary prepared ahead of time. The key points for them to know are:

- This will be a total immersion experience, as if they are really in Japan.
- After reviewing the skills needed for the activity, they will form 6 groups. Each group will be given an envelope with a description of what they need to buy and a certain amount of money. As a group, they need to figure out where to go and how to buy everything they need, keeping within their budget. They should imagine that they are in Japan and have to work together to take care of the problem they will be given.
- They may confer with each other in English, but none of the "shopkeepers" will understand English or be able to help them in English.
- As they go along, they should keep track of how much money they spend and what they bought since they will need to report to the teacher or to a volunteer at the end of the activity.

***It will save time if the teacher divides the class into 5 -6 groups in advance. Thank you.**