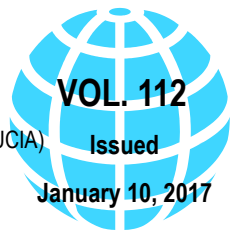




Oh-i!



英語



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Japanese Calendar



A new year has begun and now it is *Heisei* 29, but why does the fiscal year still show as being the 28th year of *Heisei*? I can't understand how Japanese calendar works (how the years are counted)...



①

Japan has an imperial era name system called *Gengo* to count the number of years. *Heisei* 29 is 2017.



But, it's still in the 28th fiscal year of *Heisei* until March, isn't it? Why?



That is because a fiscal year starts in April and ends in March. The same goes with the school year and business year.



I see. That's why schools have entrance ceremonies in April and graduation ceremonies in March.



②

By the way, I heard I was born in *Showa* era, but my child was born in *Heisei* era. Why are our era names different?



It's an imperial era and whenever the emperor changes, the era name changes to a new one. Incidentally, it is said that the first era name started in year 645, and the name of the era was *Taika*.



③

Are there any other countries like Japan which have their own era and count the number of years not using the Christian Era?



④

Taiwan has the era name called *Minkoku*. The name is given to show expiration dates and so on besides the Christian era. Year 1912 is the first year of *Minkoku*, so this year is the 106th year of *Minkoku*.



Thailand is a Buddhist country, and it has its own Buddhist calendar called *Butsureki*. To count the calendar, 543 years is added to the Christian year, so this year is the 2560th year in the Buddhist calendar.



⑤

I would like to know how I can convert my birth year into the Japanese calendar easily.



It's easy if you use magic numbers, "12" and "25."
"Heisei" started on January 8, 1989. If you want to know a year later than year 1989, then the "Last two digits of the year + 12" is the Japanese year. Taking 2017 as an example, the last 2 digits are "17 + 12 = 29", so 2017 is Heisei 29.
"Showa," before Heisei, started on December 25, 1926 and ended on January 8, 1989. If you want to know a year in Showa, then the "Last two digits of the year - 25" is the Showa year. Taking 1982 as an example, the last 2 digits are "82 - 25 = 57," so year 1982 is Showa 57. Please use that technique for reference.

⑥

Separating Garbage



Why does garbage have to be separated?

Garbage contains many items that can be recycled. Separating garbage determines the future of the various items, whether they will be thrown out, or used again in a different way (recycled). For example, a used steel can may be reused in the form of a steel product. However, if garbage is not separated, then it may all be burned and buried, and unable for further use as a resource. In addition, if garbage is not separated properly, then later extra work is required to remove items mixed in that cannot be recycled, and dealing with dirty items is quite challenging.

How is garbage separated?

Garbage is sorted into the following 5 categories and 13 types.



Category	Garbage type	
Recyclables (items that can be recycled)	① Newspaper	Newspaper (including advertisements)
	② Cardboard	Cardboard
	③ Magazines & other paper	Books, magazines, packaging paper, memo paper, snack boxes, calendars, etc.
	④ Milk cartons	Paper cartons for milk or juice that are white inside
	⑤ Fabrics	Clothing, futon covers, towels, etc.
	⑥ Bottles and cans	Beverage bottles & cans (juice, beer, etc.), food jars & cans (jam jars, tuna cans, etc.), medicine bottles (beverage bottles, etc.), cosmetic bottles
	⑦ PET bottles	PET bottles containing beverages, soy sauce, alcohol, etc.
	⑧ White foam trays	White foam (polystyrene) trays with no color or design that are used for fish, meat, side dishes, etc.
	⑨ Plastic containers	Plastic containers and packaging such as snack bags, egg cartons, PET bottle caps, shampoo bottles, etc.
⑩ Combustible garbage (burnable garbage)	Food scraps, special paper such as fax paper, oily paper, waterproof paper, and photos, Aluminum foil, leather products, plastic products, video tapes, cassette tapes, cloth products containing cotton, etc.	
⑪ Non-combustible garbage (non-burnable garbage)	Ceramics (plates, tea cups, etc.), pans, kettles, glass cups, broken glass, heat-resistant glass products, wire hangers, cans larger than 20cm, metal caps for bottles and cans, etc.	
⑫ Hazardous garbage	Batteries, fluorescent lights, light bulbs, cutlery, mirrors, lighters, spray cans, etc.	
⑬ Oversized garbage	Large size garbage such as furniture, futons, bicycles, etc. ※Take oversize garbage to the waste disposal center (free) or request to have it picked up by calling the Oversize Garbage Disposal Center (☎028-643-5371) (Fee: 830yen per item)	
⑭ Garbage that isn't collected	Computers, TVs, washing machines, refrigerators, air conditioners, batteries, tires, bathtubs, organs, pianos, motorcycles, medicines, mattresses and sofas with springs, etc. ※Make a request to stores selling such products or an authorized disposal company for disposal	

Inquiries: Garbage Reduction Division 028-632-2423



Please put garbage out in the mornings of the designated garbage days at the specified garbage stations. Be sure to use the garbage separation "San(3)R" app which is great for confirming about how to separate garbage and check on the collection days.

Fun events 🎵 🎶

Japanese Culture Workshop



- 🕒 February 19 (Sun) 10:00AM – 2:00PM
- 😊 You can experience various aspects of Japanese culture, such as kimonos, tea ceremony, flower arranging, calligraphy, origami, etc. Japanese traditional dance and music will be performed on stage.
- Cost** 300yen, elementary students = 100yen
- Sign up** Not necessary
- @ Utsunomiya City Hall 14F Large Meeting Room
- ☎ UCIA 028-616-1870

Utsunomiya Cyclo-Cross Series in Mizuhono Shizen no Mori Koen (Mizuhono Natural Forest Park)



- 🕒 February 4 (Sat) 10:10AM – 3:30PM
February 5 (Sun) 9:30AM – 3:00PM
- 😊 This is a bicycle off road race competition. Booths serving food such as hot pot cooking using locally grown vegetables, and bicycle-related booths.
- @ Mizuhono Shizen no Mori Koen
- ☎ Toshi Miryoku Sozoshitsu 028-632-2460. Regarding the competition & observing call: 028-625-1145



French Culture Seminar Learn more about France!



- 🕒 January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24 (Fri) 10:30AM – 12:00PM Total: 5 times
- 😊 A seminar on French food culture and lifestyle taught by a French instructor
- For** People age 20 or older living in Utsunomiya City who have never learned French before
- Capacity** 20 people chosen by lot
- Cost** 6,000yen (Ingredients, etc.)
- Sign up** By January 15 (must arrive by that day), please fill in the required information in the “application form” on the Utsunomiya City International Association’s website, or send the following information (seminar title, your address, name, name in katakana, telephone number, and age) on a postcard to: International Association Secretariat, 4-1-1 Baba-dori, Utsunomiya-shi, Tochigi-ken 〒320-0026
- @ Utsunomiya Shimin Plaza, etc.
- ☎ Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA) 028-616-1870



Film Festival

- 🕒 January 22 (Sun) 10:00AM -
City merging 10th year commemoration Kawachi Film Festival “Hotarugawa” (“Firefly River”) and “Ishiyama no Uta” (“The Song of Rock Mountain”)
- @ Kawachi Chiiki Jichi Center
- Capacity** First 100 people
- 🕒 January 29 (Sun) 2:00PM -
Famous Film Watching Festival “Furiko” (“Pendulum”)
- @ Higashi Shimin Katsudo Center
- Capacity** First 320 people
- ☎ Shichokaku Library 028-638-5704



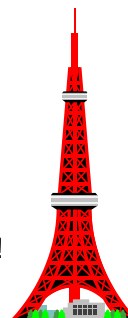
♪ International Exchange Salon

- 🕒 4th Sunday of every month
4:00PM – 6:00PM
Jan. 22 Traditional Japanese games
Feb. 26 World quiz
- 😊 An event at which you can talk with people from various countries
- Cost** Free
- @ Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP)
- ☎ UIP 028-616-1563

Information

Hachimanyama Koen

Hachimanyama Koen, located in the center of Utsunomiya City, is famous for its cherry blossoms. On clear days, it is possible to see Tokyo Sky Tree and Mt. Fuji from Utsunomiya Tower in the park!



【Utsunomiya Tower】

Open	9:00AM - 4:30PM
Closed	Mondays (Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), the day after a national holiday excluding Saturdays and Sundays), December 28 – January 3
Admission	190yen ※Elementary & junior high school students = 90yen (Elementary, junior high, and high school students living in or attending school in Utsunomiya City = Free)

< Inquiries > Koen Kanri Jimusho (Park Management Office)
5-2-7 Hanawada, Utsunomiya City ☎ 028-624-0642



At the park there is a place to ride go carts and there are animals such as red-crowned cranes, which were a gift from Qiqihar, China, a friendship city of Utsunomiya!



Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP) Services

Consultation for Foreign Residents



		Spanish Portuguese	Chinese	Thai	English
UIP ☎028-616-1564	3:00PM-6:00PM	Mon	Tues	Wed	Fri
		4 th Sunday of month (appointment needed)			
City Hall ☎028-632-2834 (during office hours)	9:00AM-12:00PM	Thurs	2 nd Thurs	—	—
	2:00PM-5:00PM	Thurs	—	2 nd Thurs	2 nd Thurs
Administrative Scrivener ☎028-616-1564	3:00PM-5:00PM	3 rd Monday (appointment needed)			

Interpreter Volunteer Service

Go with someone needing language assistance to such places as national and prefectural facilities and the city hall and interpret for them.

- ▶ Monday – Saturday
9:00AM - 5:00PM
- ▶ 1 time (2 hrs) 2,000 yen
- ▶ Please fill out an application form at UIP, pay the fee, and apply.

“Oh-i!” is published in easy Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Thai, and is also available on the UCIA website. <http://www.ucia.or.jp>
There you can enjoy reading past issues of the “Oh-i!” too.

Clip art on page 1 provided by: Yurika Usui & Natsuki Nemoto