



# MUROTO EXCHANGE

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## TIPS FOR HOSTING A JAPANESE DELEGATE

### A Message to the Host Families From Tanya Booker – PLHS Japanese Teacher

Thank you sincerely for agreeing to host one of the visiting delegation members from Muroto. On behalf of The Port Lincoln Muroto Friendship Group Incorporated, we hope that it will be an enjoyable and rewarding experience, as well as a very memorable one for you and your family.

It is hoped that the advice and phrases included in this booklet are helpful when introducing the Australian way of life to our guests. For those of you who have hosted an exchange delegate before, the enclosed information will be second nature, and for others, common sense; however, we hope that there are some helpful hints for all in understanding a culture very different to our own.

Upon arrival in Australia, the visiting delegation may often be overwhelmed by the different sights and sounds. The first few days are often filled with enthusiasm and anxiety. One of the most significant challenges they face is attempting to communicate when the language, social cues, body language and context are far different from what they are familiar with. In addition, adjustments have to be made for the variances in climate, physical environment and daily living routines. These circumstances combined with travel fatigue mean that your understanding and patience, particularly during the first few days or so, will be greatly appreciated.

Japanese people often keep problems to themselves, because they think others may not understand them, their needs or their feelings. They will feel much better if they know someone is sympathetically aware of their situation and tries to communicate with them.

## **1) Settling in:**

- first impressions are extremely important to Japanese people (and us)
- learn your guest's name off by heart before they arrive; this helps
- remember, your guest, for whom it may be their first trip overseas, is likely to be very nervous
- a "grand tour" of your home upon arrival, explaining each room and their occupant, is also necessary, as are friendly introductions to all members of your family, including pets
- offering a drink and light snack can also help to "break the ice" when arriving home with your guest for the first time

## **2) Bathroom / Toilet:**

- Japanese bathrooms/toilets are VERY different to Australian ones; ensure that your guest has a clear understanding of how they operate
- you may also wish to suggest an appropriate length of time for a shower, as well as WHEN they can take a shower or bath
- please consider where your guest can leave their bath towel... many worry about matters such as this
- the special toiletry needs of girls may also be a consideration; role playing/gestures play a vital role in bathroom usage explanations

## **3) Laundry:**

- in Japan, laundry is done on a daily basis; therefore, please ensure that your routine is clearly explained
- explain WHERE and WHEN clothes are to be laundered and BY WHOM
- many young girls are quite happy to do their own washing, whilst this (and other household duties) may be quite foreign to Japanese boys

## **4) Mealtimes:**

- inform your new family member of meal times
- knife/fork/spoon cutlery is used in Japan; don't worry
- it is a polite Japanese custom to be hesitant; please offer helpings at least twice
- regard noisy "gobbles" or an odd "slurp" as a compliment; our guests may learn our custom of refraining from doing so
- what does "*help yourself to the fridge/fruit/cupboard*" mean?

## **5) Bedtime:**

- please explain where, when and even how (e.g. you may have to explain that we lay between the sheets); extra blankets?

- speaking and listening to a foreign language 24 hours a day is a very tiring process; your guest may appreciate some early nights

## **6) Communication:**

- sloooooooooow, clear English speech is crucial!
- avoid ambiguous questions, using slang terms and being sarcastic or cynical
- many Japanese people are skilful at reading and writing, but have few opportunities to practice English speaking in Japan
- our Australian students should practice their Japanese language skills also; remember, a homestay is a shared experience
- Japanese-to-English and English-to-Japanese dictionaries can be very helpful
- your guest may also have an electronic translator to help them
- an app that may be useful to both you and them is "SayHi"; it is not 100% accurate, but the message generally gets through; use the keyboard rather than the speak facility
- Japanese people feel most at ease engaging in group activities

## **7) Banking / Post Office / Telephone:**

- guests may need to change or obtain currency during their stay; please offer such an opportunity once or twice
- our young guests are expected to send postcards to their family/friends back home; they will need stamps to do so
- our guests may wish to inform their Japanese family of their safe arrival in the "*Land Down Under*" via a quick telephone call home; it is up to your discretion to allow this or not
- your guest may have a mobile phone with them; it may not work on the Australian phone network

## **8) Shopping:**

- Japanese people of all ages love to shop; please allow for time in our shops for gifts to take home

## **9) Important Rules:**

- alcohol MUST NOT be offered (or be available) to student guests under ANY circumstance
- student guests MUST NOT travel in vehicles driven by Australian students (or non-students under the age of 21) under ANY circumstance

## 10) Useful Japanese Phrases:

Good morning	ohayo gozaimas	おはようございます
Good afternoon / Hello	konnichiwa	こんにちは
Good evening	konbanwa	こんばんは
Good night	oyasuminasai	おやすみなさい
Good bye	sayo-nara	さようなら
How are you?	genki des ka	げんきですか
I'm fine	genki desu	げんきです
I'm ok	maa maa des	まあまあです
I'm not ok	genki janai des	げんきじゃないです
Did you sleep well?	yoku nemure mashita ka	よくねむれましたか
Are you alright? / Is it ok?	daijobu desuka	だいじょうぶですか
I'm / It's alright / ok	daijobu des	だいじょうぶです
Do you understand?	wakari mas ka	わかりますか
I understand	wakari mas	わかります
I don't understand	wakari masen	わかりません
Do you like it?	suki des ka	すきですか
Can you eat it?	taberare mas ka	たべられますか
Can you drink it?	nome mas ka	のめますか
Can you do it?	deki mas ka	できますか
How about ____?	____ wa doh des ka	____はどうですか
Would you like another serve?	okawari wa doh des ka	おかわりはどうですか
What do you want?	naniga hoshii des ka	なにがほしいですか
Where do you want to go?	dokoni ikitai des ka	どこにいきたいですか
Please return at ____ o'clock	number ji ni kaette kudasai	____じにかえってください
Please get up at ____ o'clock	number ji ni okite kudasai	____じにおきてください
See you later	matane	またね
Thank you	arigato	ありがとう
Good luck	ganbatte ne	がんばってね
Yes	hai	はい
No	iie	いいえ
Toilet	toire	トイレ
A little bit	skoshi	すこし
A lot	takusan	たくさん
Menstruation	seiri	せいり

Numbers:

1 one	ichi	6 six	roku
2 two	ni	7 seven	shichi
3 three	san	8 eight	hachi
4 four	shi	9 nine	ku
5 five	go	10 ten	ju