

Life in Japan

1. _____

During the mid-summer, it can be really hot and humid, which can be uncomfortable. Snow falls in part of the country during the mid-winter months. From summer to autumn, there are typhoons (tropical storms) every year. The months of June and July are the "rainy season" in Japan.

2. _____

You usually go into a Japanese home after you take off your shoes. At most offices, you don't take off your shoes to enter, but there are some traditional businesses where you take off your shoes.

3. _____

When you visit someone's house or a public bath, wash your body before you enter the bathtub. Do not wash your body inside the bathtub. Traditionally, in Japan, the hot water in the bathtub is not changed after every person takes a bath. When you finish your bath, leave the hot water in the bathtub.

4. _____

At most Japanese and Chinese restaurants, chopsticks are usually served. If you can't use chopsticks, ask for a knife and fork.

In most restaurants and bars in Japan, you never pay for individual drinks or snacks, one at a time. You simply pay your total bill when you leave the restaurant or bar at the cash register.

5. _____

For most shopping, you usually pay in cash, but nowadays, a limited number of places, such as hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets, accept credit cards.

6. _____

A lot of government offices, banks and post offices are closed on Saturdays, Sundays and National Holidays in Japan, but a lot of department stores, shops and restaurants are open on these days. In Japan, if a National Holiday falls on a Sunday, the next day (Monday) is a holiday. A lot of public offices, banks and schools close for some days in mid-August too, for "Obon" (the Buddhist event), and at the end of the calendar year and the beginning of the new year (especially January 1 to 3).



READING 1. LIFE IN JAPAN

1. Write a number next to each heading to show where it goes in the text. Two of the headings don't go in the text.

- a) Holidays and national holidays _____
- b) Restaurants _____
- c) Having a bath _____
- d) Staying in a hotel _____
- e) Shoes inside a building _____
- f) Climate and weather _____
- g) Shopping _____
- h) The rainy season brings typhoons _____

2. Circle the best answer

1.
 - a) Summer is very nice
 - b) It snows in winter in some parts of the country
 - c) Typhoons are not common in Japan
2. People usually take off their shoes before they enter
 - a) someone's house
 - b) an office
 - c) a traditional party
3. You must wash
 - a) before you enter the bathtub and clean it when you finish
 - b) in the bathtub, in hot water
 - c) before you enter the bathtub and leave the water in when you finish
4. It is _____ to use a knife and fork in a restaurant
 - a) usually a problem
 - b) usually not a problem
 - c) impossible
5. You can pay by credit card
 - a) everywhere
 - b) in most places
 - c) in some places

6. It's _____ to go shopping on Sundays
- a) possible
 - b) impossible
 - c) unusual
7. "Obon" is
- a) a Buddhist event which takes place in summer
 - b) the name of a special calendar
 - c) Japanese New Year.

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KEY

1. a6 b4 c3 dX e2 f1 g5 hX

2. 1b 2a 3c 4b 5c 6a 7a