

# Coming-of-Age Day ceremonies held across Japan

1 The second Monday of January is Coming-of-Age Day. Though the age of adulthood was lowered from 20 to 18 in 2022, most cities still hold Coming-of-Age ceremonies for 20-year-olds, because it is difficult to celebrate 18-year-olds who are busy with university entrance exams or job-hunting.

2 Young women in colorful kimonos and smartly-dressed men celebrated Coming-of-Age Day across Japan. Most of them were maskless in ceremonies held for the first time since COVID-19 restrictions were lifted last spring.

3 The new adults have several characteristics.

1) When they were children, using smartphones and social media was normal.

2) They faced the COVID-19 pandemic while they were in high school.

3) They value “using time effectively.” They call it “Time Performance” in Japanese-English.

They try to do a lot of work in a short time, and want answers quickly.

4) They can use AI effectively, but some of them are in danger of losing ability to think by themselves.

---

coming of age day 成人の日      though ～：～けれども      age 年齢      adulthood 大人時代      lower 下げる

celebrate 祝う      entrance exam 入学試験      job-hunting 就職活動      smartly-dressed おしゃれな服装の

restriction 規制      lift 解除する      characteristic 特徴      social media:Instagram や TikTok など(※SNS は和製英語なので注意)      face 直面する      value 大事にする      effectively 有効に・効果的に      ability 能力

Q1 What was the date of Coming-of-Age Day this year?

Q2 What is the age of adulthood in Japan?

Q3 成人式を、18 歳になった若者達のために開催しない理由を、本文を参考に説明しましょう。

Q4 Did you see young women in colorful kimonos and smartly-dressed men on Coming-of-Age Day?

Q5 Why were the new adults maskless?

Q6 今年 20 歳になった若者たちの特徴について、次の質問に答えましょう。

(1) When they were children, what did they use normally?

(2) When did they face the COVID-19 pandemic?

(3) 彼らが大切にする「タイパ」(和製英語のタイムパフォーマンス)とは、どのような考え方ですか。

(4) AI は、何の略語ですか。

(5) AI を上手く使いこなす若者たちには、どんな危険性がありますか。

(6) Do you use social media, such as Instagram, TikTok, or X?

★次の文を 3 回以上読んで、暗唱しましょう。※本文にない例文もあります。

- 1) What do you want to do **when** you turn 20 years old?
- 2) **When** they were children, using smartphones was normal.
- 3) They faced the COVID-19 pandemic **while** they were in high school.

[Writing]

★外国人の友人 Sam から、Eメールで受け取った2つの質問に、わかりやすく答える返信メールを書きなさい。

Hi! When I was watching TV news, I saw many Japanese ladies in kimono.

Most men were wearing cool suits, but some were wearing hakama.

I heard that they had a Coming-of-Age ceremony. They looked amazing.

Do you want to wear kimono/hakama when you turn 20 years old?

I have one more question.

The news says, these days, young people in Japan value using time effectively.

How about you?

Your friend, Sam

Hi, Sam. Thank you for your e-mail.

Best wishes,

## ◆今日の文法：接続詞

when 主語 + 動詞	～時
while 主語 + 動詞	～の間
because 主語 + 動詞	なぜなら～なので
since 主語 + 動詞	～以来
though 主語 + 動詞	～けれども・～にもかかわらず

1 Fill in the blanks. ※ [ ] には接続詞を、( ) には動詞を入れましょう。

1) 彼らが子供の時、スマートフォンや SNS を使うことは普通のことでした。

[ ] they were children, ( ) smartphones and social media was normal.

2) 私は二十歳になったら、着物を着てセレモニーに出席したいです。

[ ] I ( ) 20 years old, I want to wear kimono and attend the ceremony.

3) 成人年齢は 18 歳に下げられたが、ほとんどの市町村がいまだに 20 歳の若者達に成人式を主催している

[ ] the age of adulthood was lowered to 18, most cities still ( ) Coming-of-Age ceremonies for 20-year-olds.

4) 18 歳は忙しいのである。なぜなら、大学入試や就職活動の準備をしているからだ。

18-year-olds are busy, [ ] they are ( ) for university entrance exams or job-hunting.

5) それは、昨年の春にコロナウィルスの規制が緩和されて以来、初めてのセレモニーだった。

It has been the first ceremony [ ] COVID-19 restrictions were lifted last spring.

2 次の語句を並べ替えましょう。※ただし、文頭に来る単語の頭文字も、小文字になっています。

1) 大人になったら、何がしたいですか。

[ grow up / do / do / when / what / want / you / you / to / ? ]

2) 私達は、高校に通っている間にコロナウィルスの大流行に直面しました。

[ a COVID-19 pandemic / going to / faced / were / while / we / we / high school / . ]

3) 大きな地震が石川県を襲ってから、2 週間がたちました。

[ Ishikawa prefecture / have passed / a big earthquake / hit / two weeks / since / . ]