

# Reiwa Rice Crisis

- 1
- Since summer 2024, Japan has faced a rice shortage, and rice prices have gone up by 55%. Why is this happening? There are three main reasons.
- 2
- First, the summer of 2023 was very hot, and farmers could not grow enough rice.
- 3
- Second, many foreign tourists are visiting Japan. They eat a lot of rice at restaurants, like sushi and seafood places.
- 4
- Third, last September, many people bought extra rice to keep at home. After disaster and typhoon warnings, rice sold out fast in the supermarkets.
- 5
- This March, the government said it would sell 210,000 tons of rice. The first rice auction was from March 10 to 12. The second one was from March 26 to 28. Now, rice is sold in supermarkets.
- 6
- Japan started saving rice in 1995. In 1993, a cold summer made a bad harvest. Japan had to buy rice from other countries. Later, reserve rice was used after the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, and the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake.

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crisis 危機	face 直面する	shortage 不足	price 値段	happen 起こる	farmer 農家の人
enough 十分な	foreign 外国の	tourist 観光客	extra 余分な	disaster 災害	warning 警告
government 政府	save 貯蓄する	harvest 収穫	reserve rice 備蓄米	★(	)

- Q1 2024 年から、日本のお米に、どのような問題が起こっていますか？ 2 つ書きましょう。
- Q2 What was the weather like in the summer of 2023? (Do you agree with this report?)
- Q3 なぜ外国人観光客が増えると、お米が不足するのですか？説明しましょう。
- Q4 What did people do after typhoon warnings last September?
- Q5 今年の 3 月、日本政府は、「米不足対策」として何をしましたか。
- Q6 Why did Japan start saving rice in 1995?
- Q7 Name two times Japan used its reserve rice before 2024.
- Q8 Do you think Japanese people should eat more local rice instead of imported food?  
(日本は、輸入食品の代わりに、国産のお米をもっと食べるべきだと思いますか？)
- Q9 Should we save rice at home for emergencies? (非常時のために、家庭で米を備蓄すべきですか？)

Q10 [E-mail Writing] アメリカ人の友人 Emma からの E メールに返信して下さい。

Subject: Questions about Rice in Japan

Hi, how have you been?

I've heard news about rice shortage in Japan.

I have two questions: Do you eat rice every day?

What kind of food do you eat when there is not enough rice?

In my house, we usually eat bread or pasta.

Sometimes we eat rice, but not every day.

Best wishes,

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

Best wishes,

★次の文を3回以上読んで、暗唱しましょう。

- ☐ 1. Japan has faced a rice shortage.
- ☐ 2. Rice prices have gone up.
- ☐ 3. The Japanese have eaten rice for a long time.



Japan rice shortage poses big challenges—NHK WORLD-JAPAN NEWS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oN0iqiLBrGE&t=42s>



Did Foreigners Eat ALL of Japan's Rice?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjX2lL8A-D4&t=29s>

## 今日の文法：現在完了形 have(has) + 過去分詞

- 意味 (1) 継続 ずっと～してきた  
(2) 完了 ～したばかり、～してしまった  
(3) 経験 ～したことがある

1 ( )内の動詞を完了形に変えましょう。

1. Rice prices \_\_\_\_\_ (go) up by 55% since summer 2024. ( )
2. Japan \_\_\_\_\_ (face) a rice shortage since last year. ( )
3. Many tourists \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) Japan recently. ( )
4. The government \_\_\_\_\_ (release) rice from its reserves. ( )
5. Farmers \_\_\_\_\_ (not/grow) enough rice because of the heat. ( )

2 Fill in the blanks.

1. 日本人は長い間、お米を食べてきました。  
Japanese people ( ) ( ) rice for a long time.
2. 人々は、台風警報の後で、余分なお米を貯蓄してきました。  
People ( ) ( ) extra rice after the typhoon warning.
3. コロナ禍終了以降、外国人観光客たちは、たくさんのお寿司やおにぎりを買ってきました。  
Foreign tourists ( ) ( ) a lot of sushi and onigiri since the end of Covid-19 pandemic.
4. 備蓄米は、大規模な地震の後、人々を助けてきました。  
Reserve rice ( ) ( ) people after big earthquakes.
5. 多くのスーパーマーケットが、備蓄米を売り始めたばかりです。  
Many supermarkets ( ) just ( ) selling reserve rice.
6. 多くのスーパーマーケットが、すでに米を売っています。  
Many supermarkets ( ) ( ) ( ) rice.
7. 私たちはたくさんの気候変動のニュースを聞いてきました。  
We ( ) ( ) a lot of news about climate change.