

## ■ 文章の種類 Text types

As in all languages, Japanese spoken and written text occurs in many different genres. These genres, or text types, have particular styles and conventions; one example of this is the あいさつ (greetings) and 季節の言葉 (seasonal comments) usually used in a letter.

Senior students of Japanese are expected to produce a number of text types, and one of their concerns is whether a particular text type requires plain or polite language. But rather than text type, level of politeness depends on the purpose of the text, and the target audience.

## ■ 記事 Articles

These could be found in a 新聞 (newspaper), 雑誌 (magazine), 学校の新聞 (school magazine) or a 壁新聞 (news poster, lit. wall newspaper). The topic could be a news item, a review, or a report. 記事 are usually written in plain form, but a more personal report could be written in polite form (です/～ます) to create a rapport with the reader.

Also found in a 新聞 is a 投書欄 (letter-to-the-editor column). In the 朝日新聞 you will find 投書 in the 読者のページ (Readers' page) and オピニオン sessions, and both plain and polite forms are used.

## ■ 広告 Advertisements

The purpose of an ad is to catch the readers' interest and persuade them to buy, so they often start with a catch phrase rather than a full sentence, e.g. 「早めのご注文で、待たずにお持ち帰り！」 In this case 敬語 (respect language) is used in deference to a potential customer.



## ■スピーチの原稿 げんこう Speech script

The purpose of a speech is to engage with and appeal to an audience (アピールする!), so the polite form is used, although quotations in the speech would be in the form appropriate to the situation.

## ■メール email

The popularity of email is increasing and gradually replacing てがみ 手紙 and はがき 葉書. Some 'shortcut' words used in emails (but not found in dictionaries) are:

(≥▽≤) うれしい

\ (^\_^) (^\_^) / みなさんこんにちわ

\ (^◇^)/ \ (^◇^)/ \ (^◇^)/ おめでとう

(^o^)\* なげキス

( \_ \_ ) zzz ねむい

## ■機能 きのう Functions

Here are some of the things we ask our students to do in the various text types!

はなし  
話をする to tell a story

せつめい  
説明する to explain

いけん い  
意見を言う to give your opinion

かんそう  
感想を言う to give your impressions

せんでん  
宣伝する to publicise, promote

ねが たの  
お願いする、頼む to request

## ■クイズ Quiz

Know your text type! Is the following the beginning of a <sup>ばなし</sup>むかし話、<sup>にっき</sup>日記、<sup>てがみ</sup>スピーチ、手紙 or

<sup>こうこく</sup>広告? [Answers below.](#)

1. <sup>うけつけ</sup>受付アルバイト募集! ★<sup>がくせい</sup>学生<sup>かんげい</sup>歓迎
2. <sup>きょう</sup>「今日は、オーストラリアの<sup>こうこうせい</sup>高校生活について<sup>はな</sup>話したいと思<sup>おも</sup>います。」
3. <sup>みなさん</sup>、お<sup>げんき</sup>元気ですか。こちらは、<sup>あつ</sup>暑くな<sup>て</sup>ってきて、<sup>いろいろな</sup>いろいろな花が<sup>はな</sup>咲<sup>さ</sup>いています。
4. <sup>むかし</sup>、<sup>むかし</sup>、あるところに、おじいさんとおばあさんがいました。
5. <sup>しちがつよつか</sup>7月4日: <sup>さい</sup>17歳<sup>な</sup>になった。田中<sup>たなか</sup>くんが今日<sup>きょう</sup>プレゼントをくれるらしい。何<sup>なん</sup>だろう? <sup>たの</sup>楽しみ。

## ■<sup>かんじ</sup>漢字 Kanji

Many of you know 「文」, the kanji for 'text'. But did you know that it came from the picture of a pattern found on earthenware pots, and originally meant 'beautiful pattern'? From that it came to mean 'written character' and then 'sentence', written text'. Try matching the following words to their meanings!

<sup>もじ</sup>文字、<sup>ぶんがく</sup>文学、<sup>ぶんか</sup>文化、<sup>てんもん</sup>天文 (culture, astronomy, letter/character, literature)



Answers: 1.<sup>こうこく</sup>広告、2.<sup>スピーチ</sup>スピーチ、3.<sup>てがみ</sup>手紙、4.<sup>むかし</sup>むかし話、5.<sup>にっき</sup>日記