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Tom Tom English (Kinshicho)
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TOM TOM ENGLISH



VOCABULARY

Equivalent =

A person or thing that
is equal to, or
corresponds to,
another person or
thing.

Moist =

Slightly wet

First-class =

Of the highest quality

Discussion questions

1. Which of these things would you miss the most if you left Japan? Why?
2. Are there any things on the list that you would not miss? Why not?
3. Can you think of any other unique Japanese words like “otsukaresamadeshita”? What do they mean? How often do you use them?
4. Why do you think Japanese people make such a big deal about the changing of the seasons?
5. What’s a “zakka” shop? How would you describe it to a foreign visitor?
6. What other things would you miss if you left Japan? Why?

VOCABULARY

Obligatory =

Required, compulsory

COD =

Cash-on-delivery

Jingle =

A short song, verse or
rhyme designed to be
easy to remember

Sometimes when foreigners return to their home countries from Japan, they miss some things. Here are some examples:

1. A phrase for thanking your colleagues for their hard work. English doesn't have an **equivalent** to Otsukaresamadeshita.
2. **Moist** towels in restaurants and cafes - this is not common in English speaking countries.
3. No tipping, but getting **first-class** service anyway. Even cheap places usually have excellent service.
4. Japanese home baths, which fill up automatically.
5. A greater feeling of personal safety
Crime does, of course, exist in Japan. But generally speaking it's very safe, even at night. Lost property is more often than not returned to its owner.
6. The little money trays in shops
7. Clean, crisp money - in some countries, money is circulated for a long time so becomes dirty.
9. The **obligatory** "kanpai" before drinking. In England we start drinking right away and don't wait until everyone has a drink.
10. The amazing postal service. In many countries, if you miss a delivery then you have to go to the post office to collect your parcel.

11. Paying for goods at the door - the **COD** system is not common for delivery in many countries.

12. The food - Japanese food is healthy, delicious and reasonably priced.

13. Complimentary glasses of water everywhere.

14. Everyone making a big deal of the seasons. Most countries have four seasons, but in Japan people seem more excited by this.

15. "Zakka" shops

16. Toilets and bathrooms being in separate rooms

17. Decent food at the convenience store - Japanese "combi" food is much better than in the West.

18. Sitting under a kotatsu

19. Onigiri

20. Shoes off in the house - in most Western countries, removing shoes is not common.

21. And finally... The "time to go home, kids" **jingle**

What would you miss if you left Japan?