

FESTIVALS

Here's the list of major autumn festivals in Japan which are held in September through November. As is said in [in the All About article](#), most of them are related to the harvest and colorful foliages.

Festivals of Kakudate (Kakudate Town, Akita)
Kishiwada Danjiri Festival (Kishiwada-city, Osaka)
Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Grand Festival (Kamakura-city, Kanagawa)
Aizu Matsuri (Aizuwakamatsu-city, Fukushima)
Nihonmatsu Lantern Festival (Nihonmatsu-city, Fukushima)
Nagasaki Kunchi (Nagasaki-city, Nagasaki)
Takayama Fall Festival (Takayama-city, Gifu)
Nagoya Festival (Nagoya-city, Aichi)
Nikko Toshogu Fall Festival in Nikko-city, Tochigi
Kawagoe Festival (Kawagoe-city, Saitama)
Jidai Matsuri (Kyoto-city)
Shuri Castle Festival in Naha-city, Okinawa
Karatsu Kunchi (Karatsu-city, Saga)
Meiji Jingu Shrine Fall Grand Festival (Tokyo)
Hakone Daimyo Procession (Hakone, Kanagawa)

★ Ask your partner if he/she knows about (and if he/she is interested in) some of the listed festivals. You can use the phrases:

- Do you know any of these festivals ?
- Have you ever heard of ... ?
- Have you ever joined in ... ?
- How many of these festivals do you ?
- How many of these festivals have you ... ?
- Are you interested in ... ?

SCHOOL FESTIVALS

1. Are you going to join in Mizuho-sai? Why or why not?

Your answer: _____

Partner's answer: _____

2. Did you have a school festival when you were in high school or junior high school? Did you like it? What did you do? When was it held? How long did it last?

Your answer: _____

Partner's answer: _____

Vocabulary: homeroom class, club members, parents, friends from other schools, prepare (+ for X), activity or event for the festival, perform a play, hold a music performance (concert), put on a display, turn the classroom into a haunted house, turn the classroom into a cafe, sell items (crafts, food, drinks, donated items), hold a bazaar, earn money, a "job well done" party

THE GAKUENSAI: ANNUAL JAPANESE SCHOOL FESTIVALS

<http://blog.thejapanesetutor.com/the-gakuensai-annual-japanese-school-festivals-2010-10/>

In a few weeks, schools across Japan are going to hold their annual gakuensai (“school festival”), also often known as the bunkasai (“cultural festival”). The aim of this festival is to show parents and members of the community what the students can do to express their creativity and demonstrate their talents. It also allows the community and students from other schools to explore the campus grounds. Extracurricular groups, which are more important to school life than in American schools, can also earn money for activity funding.

Most schools throughout Japan hold such a festival sometime in late October to early November, which, if you remember, is about two-thirds into the Japanese school year. The festival tends to last for somewhere between one and three days over a weekend, but the preparation lasts a week or more. Students in elementary through high school are typically required to participate, since the preparation extends into school time, but college students do not have to participate and will usually only participate if they’re members of an extracurricular group.

Each individual homeroom class (and there are usually several classes per grade) must decide on an activity or event to produce for the cultural festival. Common activities include producing a play (even if it’s not a drama class), turning their classroom into a haunted house, turning their classroom into a themed cafe, selling items, or putting on an educational display. Extracurricular groups also tend to participate, usually by showing off something to do with their activity, such as selling crafts for an arts and crafts club or holding a music performance for a music club, or for something purely to earn money for their club, such as selling food for a sports group. Most students—since most students participate in an extracurricular club—participate in shifts in their homeroom class activity, their extracurricular group activity and just some time off enjoying what other groups and classes have to offer at the festival.

After each class decides on their activity, they tend to be given an entire week off from classes in order to prepare. They must still go to school, for that’s where they’re expected to prepare. But the students practice leadership and can do what’s necessary for a week to get their activity ready, whether it’s rehearsing a performance, making costumes, building sets, making items to sell, building a stand at which to sell food, or turning their entire classrooms into themed areas. Many students, especially those in middle school and older, are even allowed to spend the nights at school (with teacher chaperones) during this week in order to have extra time to prepare.

Vocabulary

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| ①(イベントなどを)開く | ②地域社会 | ③課外グループ |
| ④(イベントなどが)続く | ⑤準備 | ⑥参加する |
| ⑦ホームルームクラス | ⑧演劇 | ⑨教室をお化け屋敷にする |
| ⑩手作り作品を売る | ⑪展示を行う | |
| ⑫屋台 | ⑬学校で夜を過ごす | |

