

# Tips for living

Sei katsu no Hi n to  
生活のヒント

5

Japanese used at <sup>Nen shi</sup>年始

<sup>Nen shi</sup>年始 (January 1st to 7th) means  
the beginning of a new year

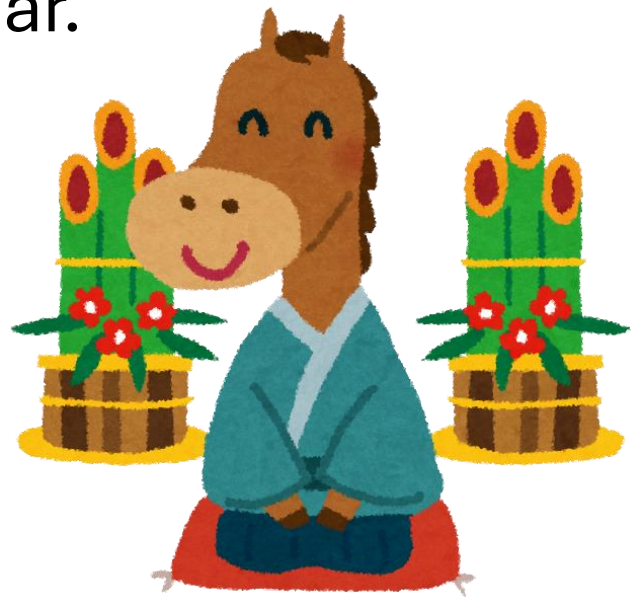


# Happy new year !

We'll share more useful tips in 2026.

We look forward to working with you this year.

## Commonly used words for New Year



A ke mashi te o me de to u go za I ma su

あけましておめでとうございます

It is a greeting used at the beginning of the year, on New Year's Day.

Akemashite" means "A new year has begun"

“Akemashite Omedetougozaimasu" means "We glad you made it into the new year safely."

Hatsu moude

初詣

"Hatsumode" is the first visit  
of the year to a shrine or temple  
to pray for a great year ahead.



Many people go during the three days of the year (January 1st to 3rd) or during the New Year period (January 1st to 7th).

You can buy a new charm or return the old charm you bought a year ago to the shrine or temple.

Famous shrines and temples are popular, so you often have to wait in line. People also go to shrines and temples near their houses.

O mi ku ji  
おみくじ



It is a "lottery" for fortune-telling your wishes and future. It says “<sup>kichi</sup>吉” or “<sup>kyou</sup>凶”. “<sup>kichi</sup>吉” means good and “<sup>kyou</sup>凶” means bad. There are also omikuji available that cover various aspects like money, studies, love ,life, travel, and health. There are also shrines and temples where you can tie your own fortune slip to a tree. You can also take your fortune slip home with you.

O toshi dama  
お年玉



It is the giving of money or things to celebrate the new year. Otoshidama used to be rice cakes in the past. "Money is handed out in small, decorated envelopes called 'Pochi-bukuro". Parents, grandparents, and relatives often give children money called 'Otoshidama' for the New Year. You can change the amount of New Year's money you give depending on the child's age.

# New Year's greetings using

<sup>Ta me guchi</sup>  
ため口 (casual Japanese language)

<sup>A ke o me</sup>  
あけおめ！

A shortened version of

<sup>A ke ma shi te o me de to u</sup>  
あけましておめでとう (Happy New Year)

<sup>Ko to yo ro</sup>  
ことよろ

A shortened version of <sup>ko toshi mo yo ro shi ku</sup> 今年もよろしく (We look forward to working with you this year.)

These are used when meeting friends or sending messages to close friends.

<sup>Ta me guchi</sup>  
ため口 (casual Japanese language)

It refers to casual, plain speech used among friends or people of the same age, as opposed to “<sup>Kei go</sup>敬語” which is formal and polite language. It is a shortened version of words and a way of speaking that is popular mainly among young people.



<sup>Ga i ko ku se ki shi mi n sou dan ma do gu chi</sup>  
外国籍市民相談窓口

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Monday～Friday 8:30～17:00

