

Tips for living

Sei katsu no Hinto
生活 の ヒント

5

Nen shi
Japanese used at 年始

Nen shi
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 “吉” or “凶”. “吉” means good and “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 ため口 (casual Japanese language)

A ke o me

あけおめ！

A shortened version of

A ke ma shi te o me de to u

あけましておめでとう (Happy New Year)

Ko to yo ro

ことよろ

ko toshi mo yo ro shi ku

A shortened version of 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.

Ta me guchi

ため口 (casual Japanese language)

It refers to casual, plain speech used among friends or people of the same age, as opposed to "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.

Gai ko ku se ki shi mi n sou dan ma do gu chi

外国籍市民相談窓口

Foreign Citizens Consultation Desk

Shiojiri city hall 1 F counter2

Monday～Friday 8:30～17:00

