



KCP eZasshi 雜誌 August 2010

August 2010

In this eZasshi

[Summer session 2010](#)

[Top Tokyo museums](#)

[Fun: what is chindogu?](#)

[Getting ready: kana](#)

Ah, August--the month that straddles the heart of summer and plans for the future. Enjoy the core of summer! and include KCP in plans for your future. Read on.

Summer session 2010, at the moment

The Summer 2010 session at KCP International is going on right now. Here are some shots of life at KCP in the summer--the academic side.



Class time-group work.



A one-on-one session really jump-starts this student's ability to speak Japanese. The luxury of a real, individual back-and-forth with a native speaker!



A gift from KCP students to the staff. Everyone there works very hard!



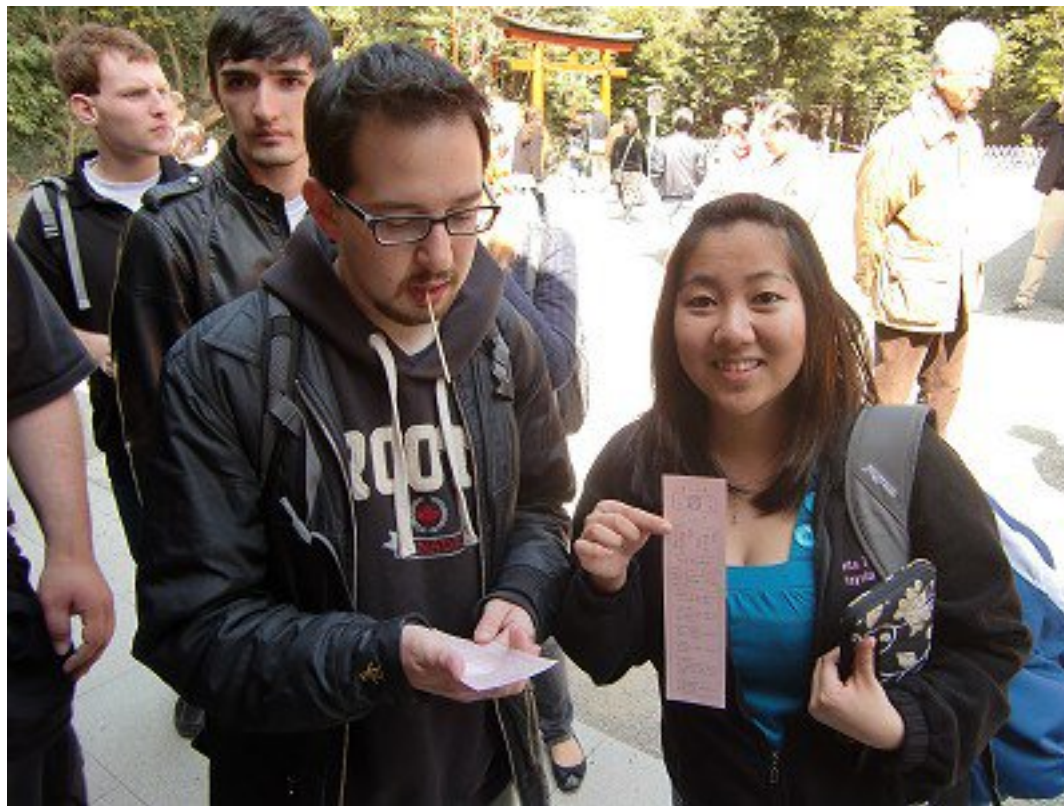
In the hotel during a KCP overnight trip. Even during a fun excursion like this, students study hard. When we're all together in a new place, though, it has a festive feeling--and we're often learning things we'll use right away.



No question: kanji is difficult. One of the bonuses is calligraphy class.



Every second works for you! On the bus during this KCP trip, teachers lead students in activities and games that use Japanese.



Omikuji, Japanese fortune telling paper. Students are usually interested in good luck in love and learning.

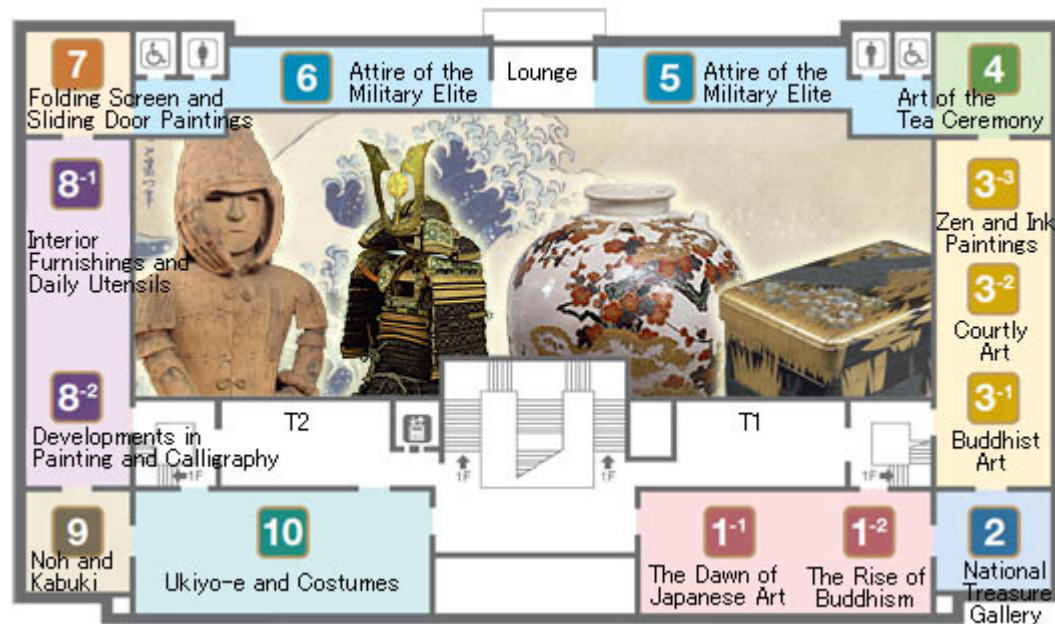
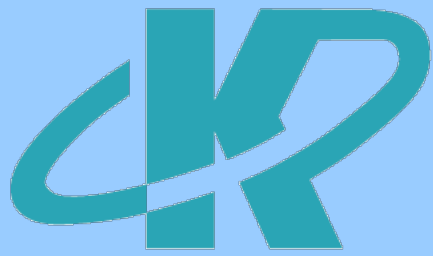
[What KCP students say](#)

KCP International USA
PO Box 28028
Bellingham, Washington 98228-0028

Top Tokyo museums

Here's a short list of must-see museums in Tokyo. Note that most museums are closed Mondays.

Tokyo National Museum



The world's largest collection of Japanese art. Comprehensive collection of the invaluable cultural properties of Japan and other Asian countries.

Transportation Museum

Trains are the big feature. Real life exhibits include Imperial carriages and Japan's first steam locomotive. Nautical, automotive, and aerial exhibits as well.

Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum



Collections by contemporary Japanese artists' groups whose works include oil paintings, traditional-style Japanese paintings, sculptures, crafts, graphic designs, and calligraphy. Special exhibitions as well.

National Museum of Western Art

An impressive collection of Western art. The main building was designed by Le Corbusier. Focus on Rodin and the French Impressionists.

Kanto Earthquake Museum



Housed in a temple, this museum holds exhibits that survived the disastrous 1923 Tokyo earthquake and charts the occurrence of earthquakes in the Tokyo area. Free! (photo August Kengelbacher)

Fukagawa Edo Museum



A hauntingly authentic recreation of a whole block of Edo's waterfront neighborhood, several hundred years ago. Leave your shoes at the door and step up into 17th-century Japanese life. It feels as if the people had just stepped outside for a minute.

Natural Science Museum

General scientific displays plus origin of Japanese people and technology.

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography



Largely contemporary photography collections; includes computer generated graphics.

Meiji Jingu Treasure Museum

Near the Meiji Jingu Shrine and Gardens. Displays items that belonged to Emperor Meiji, who laid the foundations of modern day Japan.

For more on these top museums (hours, directions, contact info), check upcoming entries into the KCP [weblog](#).

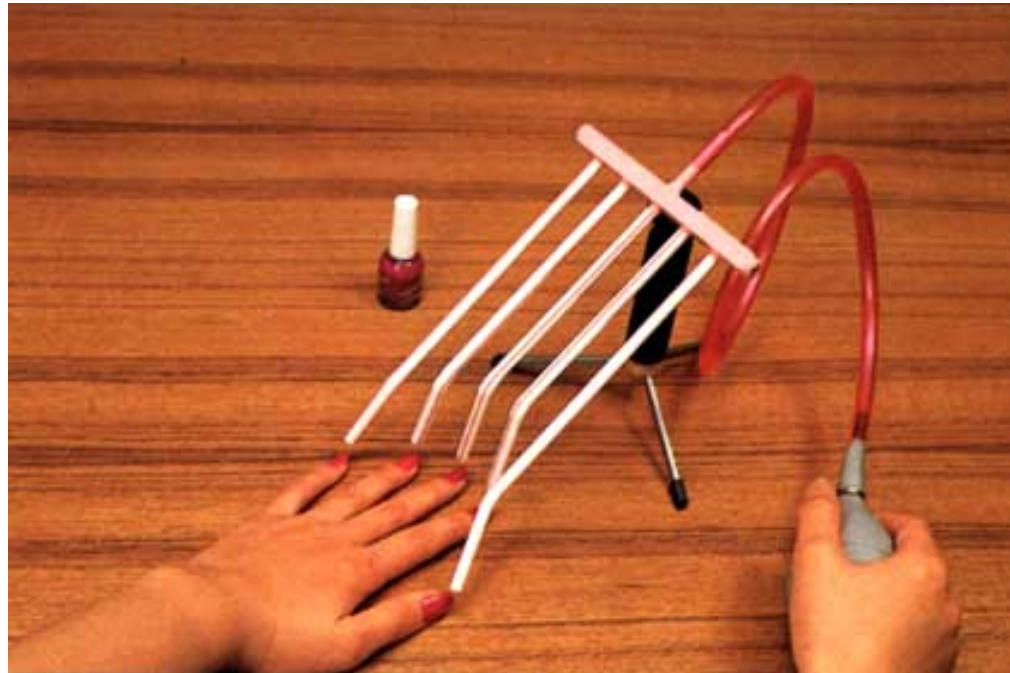
For more on living in Japan, see our [website](#).

A little fun: what is chindogu?

Wikipedia calls chindogu (珍道具-literally, chin dogu, unusual tool) the Japanese art of inventing ingenious everyday gadgets that, on the face of it, seem like an ideal solution to a certain problem.



Anyone using these gadgets, however, would find even more problems. So chindogu are sometimes called un-useless.



Since the coining of the word in 1997 by Kenji Kawakami (a Japanese inventor and publisher of the magazine Mail Order Life), it's taken off like a . . . well, like a funny,

pseudo-useful, frivolous thing.



A few finer points of Chindogu--

People can't actually use them habitually. If they do, the gadgets are not chindogu.



They can't be sold or patented.



They are not meant just to be funny, though they usually are. The humor is incidental.



They are something of an antidote to practical consumerism and an ode to the spirit of anarchy.



Chindogu do not convey a commentary on society, nor are they of a sexual nature. They are innocent, anti-functional, and grass-roots.



More info--

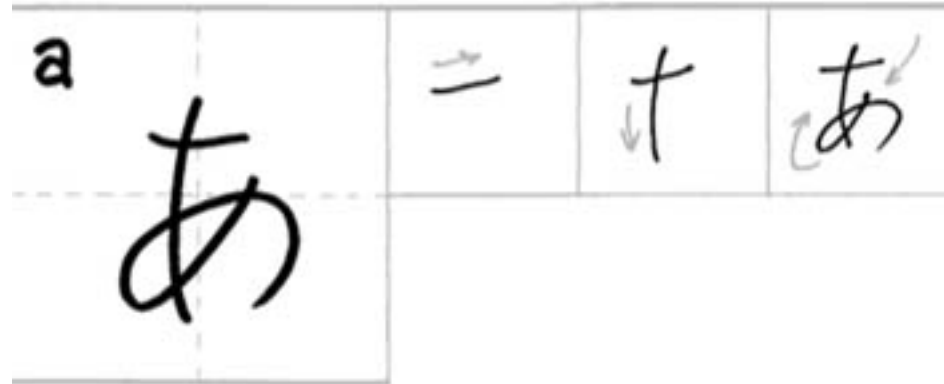
[Are you Chindogu? By Harley L Sachs](#)

[wikipedia chindogu](#)

Getting ready

How can I prepare for this marvelous opportunity?

One way is to practice your hiragana and katakana. Learning Japanese involves "growing" your memory skills, and it's never too early to start! The link below directs you to printable PDF files of the most common hiragana and katakana (over 80 in all), with the sequence and direction of each stroke. A great way to start.



Learning resources: Hiragana and Katakana [practice sheets](#).

Upcoming program deadlines



Always think ahead!

For the **2011 Winter semester program**, you have until **September 8** to apply. The winter session itself runs January 8 to May 26.

Happy August,
Mike and the KCP International team

***KCP Japanese Language School . . .
full immersion for the motivated student.***

www.kcpinternational.com

Email Marketing by

