



KCP eZasshi 雜誌 December 2010

December 2010

In this eZasshi

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Ah, December. End-of-tem rush, finals, and then holidays! Lots to do, but don't stop thinking about Japan. Read on.

Zach Zapata looks back

I was ready to work hard to improve all of my Japanese skills. And KCP *is* hard--but it's what you make of it. The grading system is generous, and taking it for credit is easily one of the best forms of education you can get in the language.



I found the main text and the translation notes far superior to Genki, which my home university uses. Being forced to read Japanese for everything is extremely valuable--the example sentences in this text are very relevant!

My instructors were stellar--very engaging, understandable, and effective. The student support staff--especially Utami-san and Tanaka-san--were beyond great.

I found drill practice, answering the teacher, and conversations in class most effective and helpful. I was a huge fan of the small group session, where the teacher was able to dip into English if we were very confused, and the extra time was really valuable.

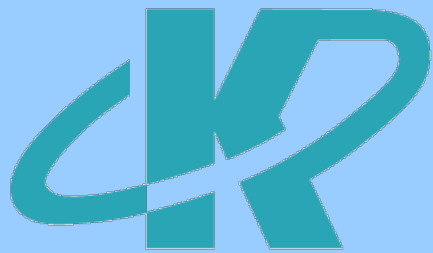
When not in class, I spent my time making friends in general, something I love to do. Experiencing Tokyo with new people was a great way to get to know them--very rewarding.

I also traveled a lot after the term ended--Roppongi, museums in Ueno, Yoyogi Park, Fuji-Q, climbed some of Mt. Fuji.

A detailed list of everything I did is on my [blog](#)!

[What KCP students say](#)

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A great tool: KCP Virtual Hiragana Class in One Week

A new book, *KCP Virtual Hiragana Course in One Week*, was written by KCP faculty as a great boost to your Japanese ability. Want to prepare for a trip to Tokyo? Start with this book.





It comes with a DVD. Cost is \$31.50 + tax and shipping. It's available from Books Kunokuniya, through an American distributor. Jump-start your Japanese today!

[Virtual Hiragana Course in One Week](#)

An introduction to sumo

Since 3 of the big 6 yearly Sumo tournaments are held in Tokyo, it's a prime item of interest to anyone staying there. Here's the skinny on sumo.



Sumo wrestler Somagahana Fuchiemon, c. 1850

Sumo (相撲, *sumō*?) is a competitive full-contact sport where a wrestler (*rikishi*) tries to force another wrestler out of a circular ring (*dohyō*) or to touch the ground with anything other than the soles of the feet. The sport originated many centuries ago in Japan, the only country where it is practiced professionally.

Sumo is full of rituals from when it was part of the Shinto religion. First is a ring-entering ceremony, with all wrestlers dressed in ornate silk "aprons." A leg-stomping *shiko* exercise drives evil spirits from the referee.

[More on Sumo](#)

[KCP Language and Culture Courses](#)

Upcoming program deadlines



Plan your journey well.

For the **2011 Fall extended semester program**, you have until **January 6** to apply.
The session itself runs July 5 to December 22, 2011--two semesters' worth of Japanese in Tokyo.

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Happy, Holidays
Mike and the KCP International team

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