



## Reference words and information

- festivals and place of note





# **Class Objective**

I am able to understand the reference words, useful information and do practices based on the grammar taught.



Gion Matsuri is one of the most famous festivals in Japan. It takes place during the entire month of July, but the highlight is the grand procession of floats called "Yamaboko Junko" on the 17th and 24th. It takes place on the Kawaramachi and Oike Street of Kyoto.

. Awa Odori (Tokushima)This is the largest traditional dance festival in Japan. Men, women and children dance on almost all of the streets in Tokushima City, from the 12th to the 15th of August. They wear summer cotton kimono and straw hats. More than a million people get together for this festival, and it is a spectacular sight. You can even join them to dance with the rhythmic music!



3. Kanda Myojin Shrine. The main action happens during the middle of May. The portable shrines, called Mikoshi, are accompanied by about a thousand people, and after they leave the Kanda Myojin Shrine in the morning, the parade continues through the Kanda district, Nihonbashi and Akihabara and returns to the shrine in the evening.

4. Sapporo's Yuki Matsuri takes place in February. The origin of this festival was six snow statues built by local high school students in 1950, and now it has become an international contest of gigantic snow sculptures.



5. The Nebuta Matsuri takes place from the 2nd to the 7th of August in Aomori City.

Nebuta are lantern floats which depict human figures and are accompanied by thousands of chanting dancers. The parade starts at sunset and continues for hours.

6. Kishiwada Danjiri Matsuri takes place in Kishiwada City, Osaka, during the middle of September. Danjiri are wooden floats, many of which are heavier than 3000 kg. The Kishiwada Danjiri Matsuri is one of the most thrilling festivals in Japan. People pull their huge floats at breakneck speeds, with the team leaders hopping and dancing on top of the floats.



7. Tenjin Matsuri is a festival supported by the Tenmangu Shrine in Osaka, and is held on the 24th and the 25th of July. The highlights are on the second day with both a land procession and a river procession. At the river procession, the illuminated boats reflect off the river and the fireworks go off in the sky.

8. Kochi Yosakoi festival began in 1954 after local people created the Yosakoi Naruko Dance. The dance is based on their old folk song, called "Yosakoi Bushi." People dance passionately with the uptempo music, carrying clappers called "Naruko" which make a click-clack sound. It takes place during the middle of August.



