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## **Man angry at English on Japanese TV**

**29th June, 2013**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

### **Contents**

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Multiple Choice)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

A Japanese man is angry with Japan's television company NHK. He is tired of hearing so many English words on TV. Mr Hoji Takahashi, 71, says he is stressed every time he hears an English loanword on NHK. He is taking NHK to court. He wants the TV company to pay him 1.4 million yen (\$14,300) for his "mental distress". Mr Takahashi's lawyer told the AFP news agency that Japanese TV is too "Americanised". Takahashi doesn't understand why NHK uses words borrowed from English instead of Japanese words. He said NHK should use Japanese and not loanwords for vocabulary such as "toraburu" (trouble), "risuku" (risk) and "shisutemu" (system). He said this would help protect Japanese culture.

Mr Takahashi started a small group called "The Treat Japanese as Important Association". He started it after he wrote to NHK but got no reply. He said NHK does not care about his opinions. Takahashi said older Japanese people often have problems with the many loanwords on NHK. He said they have trouble understanding what announcers on NHK say. He told reporters: "Young people can probably understand a lot of this stuff, but for older people like myself...I don't know what it means." The Japanese language has thousands of words borrowed from English and other languages. It uses a special alphabet called *katakana* to write them. It also changes the pronunciation to fit with Japanese phonics.

Sources: [http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/06/27/national/gifu-man-71-sues-nhk-for-distress-over-its-excess-use-of-foreign-words/#at\\_pco=cfd-1.0](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/06/27/national/gifu-man-71-sues-nhk-for-distress-over-its-excess-use-of-foreign-words/#at_pco=cfd-1.0)  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23079067>  
<http://www.japantoday.com/category/national/view/pensioner-sues-nhk-for-using-too-many-foreign-loanwords>

# WARM-UPS

**1. LOANWORDS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about loanwords. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*angry / tired of hearing something / loanword / mental distress / borrowed / culture / small group / no reply / have trouble / announcers / alphabet / pronunciation / phonics*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. STRESSED:** What advice do you have for people who get stressed about these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often.

	What do you stress about?	Advice for others
Speaking English		
Homework		
Television		
Computers		
Friends		
Transport		

**4. CHANGE:** Students A **strongly** believe it is good that languages change; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. LANGUAGE ANGER:** Rank these and share your rankings. Put the things that make you angry most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- English loanwords
- swearing
- texting abbreviations
- poor spelling
- bad grammar
- untidy handwriting
- new slang
- forgetting easy words

**6. VOCABULARY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'vocabulary'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. An Englishman is angry because of poor English on Japanese TV.        | T / F |
| b. A man is taking a Japanese TV company to court to get money.          | T / F |
| c. The man said Japanese is becoming too Americanised.                   | T / F |
| d. The man said he wants the TV company to talk about Japanese culture.  | T / F |
| e. The man wrote to the TV company but it didn't write back.             | T / F |
| f. The man said young people do not understand English loanwords.        | T / F |
| g. There is a special alphabet in Japanese just for borrowed words.      | T / F |
| h. The pronunciation of loanwords in Japanese is the same as in English. | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. angry      | a. pain        |
| 2. tired      | b. answer      |
| 3. distress   | c. presenters  |
| 4. instead of | d. fed up      |
| 5. protect    | e. views       |
| 6. reply      | f. mad         |
| 7. opinions   | g. match       |
| 8. trouble    | h. rather than |
| 9. announcers | i. preserve    |
| 10. fit       | j. problems    |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. He is tired                   | a. to court                         |
| 2. He is taking NHK              | b. and not loanwords                |
| 3. words borrowed                | c. announcers on NHK say            |
| 4. NHK should use Japanese       | d. fit with Japanese phonics        |
| 5. this would help protect       | e. alphabet called <i>katakana</i>  |
| 6. he wrote to NHK               | f. of hearing so many English words |
| 7. trouble understanding what    | g. understand a lot of this stuff   |
| 8. Young people can probably     | h. Japanese culture                 |
| 9. It uses a special             | i. but got no reply                 |
| 10. changes the pronunciation to | j. from English                     |

# GAP FILL

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

A Japanese man is angry with Japan's television company NHK. He is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of hearing so many English words on TV. Mr Hoji Takahashi, 71, says he is stressed every (2) \_\_\_\_\_ he hears an English loanword on NHK. He is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ NHK to court. He wants the TV company to pay him 1.4 million yen (\$14,300) for his "(4) \_\_\_\_\_ distress". Mr Takahashi's lawyer told the AFP news (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that Japanese TV is too "Americanised". Takahashi doesn't understand why NHK uses words (6) \_\_\_\_\_ from English instead of Japanese words. He said NHK should use Japanese and not loanwords for (7) \_\_\_\_\_ such as "toraburu" (trouble), "risuku" (risk) and "shisutemu" (system). He said this would help (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Japanese culture.

Mr Takahashi started a small (9) \_\_\_\_\_ called "The Treat Japanese as Important Association". He started it after he wrote to NHK but got no (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He said NHK does not care about his (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Takahashi said older Japanese people often have problems with the many loanwords on NHK. He said they have (12) \_\_\_\_\_ understanding what announcers on NHK say. He told reporters: "Young people can probably understand a lot of this (13) \_\_\_\_\_, but for older people like myself...I don't know what it means." The Japanese language has (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of words borrowed from English and other languages. It uses a special (15) \_\_\_\_\_ called *katakana* to write them. It also changes the pronunciation to (16) \_\_\_\_\_ with Japanese phonics.

*agency*  
*vocabulary*  
*time*  
*mental*  
*tired*  
*protect*  
*borrowed*  
*taking*

*trouble*  
*alphabet*  
*reply*  
*thousands*  
*fit*  
*group*  
*stuff*  
*opinions*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

- 1) He is \_\_\_\_\_ so many English words on TV.
  - a. tired of hearing
  - b. tired if hearing
  - c. tired for hearing
  - d. tired on hearing
- 2) He is taking NHK \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. to quart
  - b. to coat
  - c. to court
  - d. to caught
- 3) He wants the TV company to pay him 1.4 million yen (\$14,300) for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. his "mental this dress"
  - b. his "mental this tress"
  - c. his "mental distressed"
  - d. his "mental distress"
- 4) He said NHK should use Japanese \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. and no loanwords
  - b. and non-loanwords
  - c. and not loanwords
  - d. and note loanwords
- 5) He said this would help protect \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Japanese cultures
  - b. Japanese culture
  - c. Japanese cultured
  - d. Japanese cultural
- 6) a small group called "The Treat Japanese \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. as Important as so see action
  - b. as Important Associates
  - c. as Important Associate shun
  - d. as Important Association
- 7) he wrote to NHK but \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. got no replies
  - b. got no replied
  - c. got no reply
  - d. got no replying
- 8) they have trouble understanding \_\_\_\_\_ NHK say
  - a. what announces on
  - b. what announcers on
  - c. what announced on
  - d. what announce is on
- 9) Young people can probably understand a lot \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. of this stuff
  - b. of this staff
  - c. of this stiff
  - d. of this stuffs
- 10) It also changes the pronunciation to fit with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Japanese comics
  - b. Japanese phonic
  - c. Japanese comic
  - d. Japanese phonics

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

A Japanese man is angry with Japan's television company NHK. He is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ many English words on TV. Mr Hoji Takahashi, 71, says he is stressed every time he hears an English loanword on NHK. He is (2) \_\_\_\_\_. He wants the TV company to pay him 1.4 million yen (\$14,300) for his "mental distress". Mr Takahashi's lawyer (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that Japanese TV is too "Americanised". Takahashi doesn't (4) \_\_\_\_\_ words borrowed from English instead of Japanese words. He said NHK should use Japanese and not loanwords (5) \_\_\_\_\_ "toraburu" (trouble), "risuku" (risk) and "shisutemu" (system). He said this would help (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Mr Takahashi (7) \_\_\_\_\_ called "The Treat Japanese as Important Association". He started it after he wrote to NHK but got no reply. He said NHK does not (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Takahashi said older Japanese people often have (9) \_\_\_\_\_ loanwords on NHK. He said they have trouble understanding what announcers on NHK say. He told reporters: "Young people can probably understand (10) \_\_\_\_\_, but for older people like myself...I don't know what it means." The Japanese language has thousands of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and other languages. It uses a special alphabet called *katakana* to write them. It also changes the pronunciation to (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

1. What TV company is the man angry with?

---

2. Where is he taking the TV company?

---

3. How much money does he want in yen?

---

4. What did the man's lawyer say he felt about Japanese TV?

---

5. What would using Japanese words only protect?

---

6. What kind of answer did he get after he wrote to the TV company?

---

7. Who did he say has problems with loanwords?

---

8. Who did he say could understand loanwords?

---

9. How many loanwords are there in Japanese?

---

10. What changes to fit with Japanese phonics?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

1. What TV company is the man angry with?
  - a) Japan Today
  - b) BBC
  - c) NHK
  - d) CNN
2. Where is he taking the TV company?
  - a) to court
  - b) to the USA
  - c) to dinner
  - d) to a language school
3. How much money does he want in yen?
  - a) 4.1 million
  - b) 14,300
  - c) 13,400
  - d) 1.4 million
4. What did the man's lawyer say he felt about Japanese TV?
  - a) there aren't enough Japanese actors
  - b) it's too Americanised
  - c) there should be more news
  - d) it's boring
5. What would using only Japanese words protect?
  - a) English
  - b) systems
  - c) Japanese culture
  - d) loanwords
6. What kind of answer did he get after he wrote to the TV company?
  - a) an angry reply
  - b) no answer
  - c) one full of loanwords
  - d) a long one
7. Who did he say has problems with loanwords?
  - a) Americans
  - b) announcers at the TV company
  - c) everyone
  - d) older people
8. Who did he say could understand loanwords?
  - a) British people
  - b) young people
  - c) everyone
  - d) announcers at the TV company
9. How many loanwords are there in Japanese?
  - a) thousands
  - b) fewer than the Japanese loanwords in English
  - c) 17,873
  - d) a few
10. What changes to fit with Japanese phonics?
  - a) TV announcers
  - b) dictionaries
  - c) spelling
  - d) the pronunciation of loanwords

# ROLE PLAY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

## **Role A – Mr Takahashi**

You are angry that TV companies use so many loanwords. Tell the others three reasons why. You are worried young people will not speak Japanese properly. You think the bosses of TV companies don't care about Japanese. You want people to stop watching TV until the companies stop using loanwords.

## **Role B – TV company boss**

You think loanwords are great on TV. Tell the others three reasons why. Mr Takahashi is old and does not understand the modern world and new vocabulary. Tell Mr Takahashi that loanwords are Japanese words now. Tell him you will pay for him to study loanwords.

## **Role C – Young Japanese person**

You don't like TV companies using so many loanwords. Tell the others three reasons why. You don't understand many of the words. You would understand the news better if there were no loanwords. You think your Japanese is poorer because of loanwords. Agree with everything Mr Takahashi says.

## **Role D – Japanese language expert**

You think loanwords are totally normal. Tell the others three reasons why. Every language uses loanwords. Many Japanese words are used in English. Loanwords make Japanese more interesting. They can also help Japanese students learn English. TV is important to teach people new loanwords.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'loan' and 'word'.

<b>loan</b>	<b>word</b>
-------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• tired</li><li>• hears</li><li>• pay</li><li>• agency</li><li>• vocabulary</li><li>• culture</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• small</li><li>• reply</li><li>• older</li><li>• stuff</li><li>• thousands</li><li>• fit</li></ul>
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# LOANWORDS SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

Write five GOOD questions about loanwords in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# LOANWORDS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'vocabulary'?
- c) What do you think of English words being used in your language?
- d) What do you think of Mr Takahashi's feelings?
- e) What makes you stressed about your language?
- f) Are you worried your culture is becoming Americanised?
- g) Why do you think Japanese TV chooses loanwords instead of Japanese?
- h) Are there any English loanwords in your language you love or hate?
- i) Is NHK helping to damage Japanese culture by using loanwords?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Mr Takahashi?

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# LOANWORDS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you love about your language?
- c) What are your favourite words in your language and why?
- d) Why do you think NHK did not reply to Mr Takahashi's letter?
- e) Should older people just understand that language changes?
- f) What do you think it's like to listen to the news in your own language and not understand many loanwords?
- g) Can loanwords help you understand more English words?
- h) Many languages might be half English in the future. Is this good or bad?
- i) What do you think NHK will say to Mr Takahashi?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the boss of NHK?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

A Japanese man is angry with Japan's television company NHK. He is (1) \_\_\_\_ of hearing so many English words on TV. Mr Hoji Takahashi, 71, says he is stressed every time he (2) \_\_\_\_ an English loanword on NHK. He is (3) \_\_\_\_ NHK to court. He wants the TV company to (4) \_\_\_\_ him 1.4 million yen (\$14,300) for his "mental distress". Mr Takahashi's lawyer told the AFP news agency that Japanese TV is too "Americanised". Takahashi doesn't understand why NHK uses words borrowed from English (5) \_\_\_\_ of Japanese words. He said NHK should use Japanese and not loanwords for vocabulary such as "toraburu" (trouble), "risuku" (risk) and "shisutemu" (system). He said this would help (6) \_\_\_\_ Japanese culture.

Mr Takahashi started a small group called "The Treat Japanese as Important Association". He started it after he wrote to NHK but got no (7) \_\_\_\_\_. He said NHK does not care about his (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Takahashi said older Japanese people often have problems with the many loanwords on NHK. He said they have (9) \_\_\_\_ understanding what announcers on NHK say. He told reporters: "Young people can probably understand a lot of this (10) \_\_\_\_\_, but for older people like myself...I don't know what it means." The Japanese language has thousands of words borrowed (11) \_\_\_\_\_ English and other languages. It uses a special alphabet called *katakana* to write them. It also changes the pronunciation to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with Japanese phonics.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |                |               |                |
|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) tire       | (b) tired      | (c) tiredness | (d) tires      |
| 2.  | (a) listens    | (b) hears      | (c) hearing   | (d) listening  |
| 3.  | (a) raking     | (b) faking     | (c) making    | (d) taking     |
| 4.  | (a) loan       | (b) pay        | (c) borrow    | (d) spend      |
| 5.  | (a) place      | (b) rather     | (c) prefer    | (d) instead    |
| 6.  | (a) protection | (b) protecting | (c) protect   | (d) protective |
| 7.  | (a) reply      | (b) comply     | (c) apply     | (d) supply     |
| 8.  | (a) opinions   | (b) bunions    | (c) opinions  | (d) reunions   |
| 9.  | (a) concern    | (b) headache   | (c) worry     | (d) trouble    |
| 10. | (a) stuff      | (b) stuffed    | (c) stuffing  | (d) stuffs     |
| 11. | (a) from       | (b) of         | (c) for       | (d) if         |
| 12. | (a) fit        | (b) bit        | (c) pit       | (d) wit        |

# SPELLING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. he is dsetessr
2. He is taking NHK to rutoc
3. Japanese TV is too "iercmdsaeinA"
4. English sitdena of Japanese
5. vyabalcuro such as "toraburu" (trouble)
6. Japanese lecurtu

## Paragraph 2

7. "The Treat Japanese as Important ssaitcinAoo"
8. NHK does not care about his snnooipi
9. what unresnacno on NHK say
10. tudhsason of words
11. a special lhptbeaa
12. It also changes the auioicnprtno



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) of Japanese words. He said NHK should use Japanese and not loanwords for vocabulary such
- ( ) an English loanword on NHK. He is taking NHK to court. He wants the TV company to pay him 1.4 million yen (\$14,300) for
- ( ) "Americanised". Takahashi doesn't understand why NHK uses words borrowed from English instead
- ( ) Mr Takahashi started a small group called "The Treat Japanese as Important Association". He started it after he wrote
- ( ) problems with the many loanwords on NHK. He said they have trouble understanding what
- ( ) announcers on NHK say. He told reporters: "Young people can probably understand a lot of this
- ( ) as "toraburu" (trouble), "risuku" (risk) and "shisutemu" (system). He said this would help protect Japanese culture.
- ( ) to NHK but got no reply. He said NHK does not care about his opinions. Takahashi said older Japanese people often have
- ( ) hearing so many English words on TV. Mr Hoji Takahashi, 71, says he is stressed every time he hears
- ( ) his "mental distress". Mr Takahashi's lawyer told the AFP news agency that Japanese TV is too
- ( ) called katakana to write them. It also changes the pronunciation to fit with Japanese phonics.
- ( **1** ) A Japanese man is angry with Japan's television company NHK. He is tired of
- ( ) stuff, but for older people like myself...I don't know what it means." The Japanese language has
- ( ) thousands of words borrowed from English and other languages. It uses a special alphabet

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

1. is Japan's man with company Japanese angry television A.

---

2. of tired is He TV on words English many so hearing.

---

3. hears an English loanword He is stressed every time he.

---

4. from words English instead Words of borrowed Japanese.

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5. Japanese this culture would help He protect said.

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6. but wrote it got to after He no NHK he started reply.

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7. not his He does about NHK care opinions said.

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8. trouble NHK understanding say what announcers Have on.

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9. people can probably understand a lot of this stuff Young.

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10. Japanese also pronunciation with It the fit changes to.

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# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

A Japanese man is [*angry / anger*] with Japan's television company NHK. He is tired of [*listening / hearing*] so many English words on TV. Mr Hoji Takahashi, 71, says he is [*stressed / stress*] every time he hears an English loanword on NHK. He is taking NHK to [*caught / court*]. He wants the TV company to pay him 1.4 million yen (\$14,300) for his "[*mentally / mental*] distress". Mr Takahashi's [*lawyer / law*] told the AFP news agency that Japanese TV is too "Americanised". Takahashi doesn't understand [*why / what*] NHK uses words borrowed from English [*instead / rather*] of Japanese words. He said NHK should use Japanese and not loanwords for vocabulary such [*has / as*] "toraburu" (trouble), "risuku" (risk) and "shisutemu" (system). He said this would help [*protect / protection*] Japanese culture.

Mr Takahashi started a small [*group / groups*] called "The Treat Japanese as Important Association". He started it after he [*writes / wrote*] to NHK but got no [*reply / replay*]. He said NHK does not care about his [*opinions / onions*]. Takahashi said older Japanese people often have [*problem / problems*] with the many loanwords on NHK. He said they have [*trouble / troubles*] understanding what announcers [*on / in*] NHK say. He told reporters: "Young people can probably understand a lot of this [*stuff / staff*], but for older people like myself...I don't know what it means." The Japanese language has thousands of words borrowed [*for / from*] English and other languages. It uses a special alphabet called *katakana* to write them. It also changes the [*pronunciation / pronounced*] to fit with Japanese phonics.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

\_ J\_p\_n\_s\_ \_ m\_n \_s\_ \_ngry w\_th J\_p\_n's t\_l\_v\_s\_ \_n  
c\_m\_p\_ny NHK. H\_ \_s t\_r\_d \_f h\_\_r\_n\_g s\_ \_m\_ny \_ngl\_sh  
w\_rds \_n TV. Mr H\_j\_ T\_k\_h\_sh\_, 71, s\_ys h\_ \_s  
str\_ss\_d \_v\_ry t\_m\_ h\_ h\_\_rs \_n \_ngl\_sh l\_\_nw\_rd \_n  
NHK. H\_ \_s t\_k\_n\_g NHK t\_ c\_\_rt. H\_ w\_nts th\_ TV  
c\_m\_p\_ny t\_ p\_y h\_m 1.4 m\_ll\_\_n y\_n (\$14,300) f\_r h\_s  
"m\_nt\_l\_d\_str\_ss". Mr T\_k\_h\_sh\_'s l\_wy\_r t\_ld th\_ \_FP  
n\_ws \_g\_ncy th\_t J\_p\_n\_s\_ TV \_s t\_\_ "\_m\_r\_c\_n\_s\_d".  
T\_k\_h\_sh\_ d\_\_sn't \_nd\_rst\_nd why NHK \_s\_s w\_rds  
b\_rr\_w\_d fr\_m \_ngl\_sh \_nst\_\_d \_f J\_p\_n\_s\_ w\_rds. H\_  
s\_\_d NHK sh\_\_ld \_s\_ J\_p\_n\_s\_ \_nd n\_t l\_\_nw\_rds f\_r  
v\_c\_b\_l\_ry s\_ch \_s "t\_r\_b\_r\_" (tr\_\_bl\_), "r\_s\_k\_"  
(r\_sk) \_nd "sh\_s\_t\_m\_" (syst\_m). H\_ s\_\_d th\_s w\_\_ld  
h\_lp pr\_t\_ct J\_p\_n\_s\_ c\_lt\_r\_.

Mr T\_k\_h\_sh\_ st\_rt\_d \_ sm\_ll gr\_\_p c\_ll\_d "Th\_ Tr\_\_t  
J\_p\_n\_s\_ \_s\_ \_mp\_r\_t\_n\_t \_ss\_c\_\_t\_n". H\_ st\_rt\_d \_t  
\_ft\_r h\_ wr\_t\_ t\_ NHK b\_t g\_t n\_r\_ply. H\_ s\_\_d NHK  
d\_\_s n\_t c\_r\_ \_b\_\_t h\_s \_p\_n\_\_ns. T\_k\_h\_sh\_ s\_\_d  
\_ld\_r J\_p\_n\_s\_ p\_\_pl\_ \_ft\_n h\_v\_ pr\_bl\_ms w\_th th\_  
m\_ny l\_\_nw\_rds \_n NHK. H\_ s\_\_d th\_y h\_v\_ tr\_\_bl\_  
\_nd\_rst\_nd\_ng wh\_t \_nn\_\_nc\_rs \_n NHK s\_y. H\_ t\_ld  
r\_p\_r\_t\_rs: "Y\_\_ng p\_\_pl\_ c\_n pr\_b\_bly \_nd\_rst\_nd \_l\_t  
\_f th\_s st\_ff, b\_t f\_r \_ld\_r p\_\_pl\_ l\_k\_ mys\_lf... \_d\_n't  
kn\_w wh\_t \_t m\_\_ns." Th\_ J\_p\_n\_s\_ l\_ng\_\_g\_ h\_s  
th\_\_s\_nds \_f w\_rds b\_rr\_w\_d fr\_m \_ngl\_sh \_nd \_th\_r  
l\_ng\_\_g\_s. \_t \_s\_s \_sp\_c\_\_l\_lph\_b\_t c\_ll\_d k\_t\_k\_n\_  
t\_ wr\_t\_ th\_m. \_t \_ls\_ ch\_ng\_s th\_ pr\_n\_nc\_\_t\_\_n t\_  
f\_t w\_th J\_p\_n\_s\_ ph\_n\_cs.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

a japanese man is angry with japan's television company nhk he is tired of hearing so many english words on tv mr hoji takahashi 71 says he is stressed every time he hears an english loanword on nhk he is taking nhk to court he wants the tv company to pay him 14 million yen (\$14300) for his "mental distress" mr takahashi's lawyer told the afp news agency that japanese tv is too "americanised" takahashi doesn't understand why nhk uses words borrowed from english instead of japanese words he said nhk should use japanese and not loanwords for vocabulary such as "toraburu" (trouble) "risuku" (risk) and "shisutemu" (system) he said this would help protect japanese culture

mr takahashi started a small group called "the treat japanese as important association" he started it after he wrote to nhk but got no reply he said nhk does not care about his opinions takahashi said older japanese people often have problems with the many loanwords on nhk he said they have trouble understanding what announcers on nhk say he told reporters "young people can probably understand a lot of this stuff but for older people like myself...i don't know what it means" the japanese language has thousands of words borrowed from english and other languages it uses a special alphabet called *katakana* to write them it also changes the pronunciation to fit with japanese phonics

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

A Japanese man is angry with Japan's television company NHK. He is tired of hearing so many English words on TV. Mr Hoji Takahashi, 71, says he is stressed every time he hears an English loan word on NHK. He is taking NHK to court. He wants the TV company to pay him 1.4 million yen (\$14,300) for his "mental distress". Mr Takahashi's lawyer told the AFP news agency that Japanese TV is too "Americanised". Takahashi doesn't understand why NHK uses words borrowed from English instead of Japanese words. He said NHK should use Japanese and not loan words for vocabulary such as "toraburu" (trouble), "risuku" (risk) and "shisutemu" (system). He said this would help protect Japanese culture. Mr Takahashi started a small group called "The Treat Japanese as Important Association". He started it after he wrote to NHK but got no reply. He said NHK does not care about his opinions. Takahashi said older Japanese people often have problems with the many loan words on NHK. He said they have trouble understanding what announcers on NHK say. He told reporters: "Young people can probably understand a lot of this stuff, but for older people like myself... I don't know what it means." The Japanese language has thousands of words borrowed from English and other languages. It uses a special alphabet called *katakana* to write them. It also changes the pronunciation to fit with Japanese phonics.

# FREE WRITING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese\\_language.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130629-japanese_language.html)

Write about **loanwords** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about loanwords. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. LOANWORDS:** Make a poster about loanwords. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. MR TAKAHASHI:** Write a magazine article about Mr Takahashi and his problem. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against English loanwords being in other languages.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to NHK's boss. Ask him/her three questions about loanwords on its programmes. Give him/her three ideas on how to make Mr Takahashi happy. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b T    c T    d F    e T    f F    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. angry      | a. mad         |
| 2. tired      | b. fed up      |
| 3. distress   | c. pain        |
| 4. instead of | d. rather than |
| 5. protect    | e. preserve    |
| 6. reply      | f. answer      |
| 7. opinions   | g. views       |
| 8. trouble    | h. problems    |
| 9. announcers | i. presenters  |
| 10. fit       | j. match       |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. NHK
2. To court
3. 1.4 million yen
4. It's too Americanised
5. Japanese culture
6. No answer (no reply)
7. Older people
8. Young people
9. Thousands
10. The pronunciation of loanwords

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c    2. a    3. d    4. b    5. c    6. d    7. b    8. d    9. a    10. d

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)