

GLOBAL TALK

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Topic of this month: 日本と海外のイベントの違いを学ぶ!



アメリカ、イギリス、オーストラリアなどの国々ではホワイトデーがないって知ってましたか？今回は福島校のイアン先生が2月や3月のイベントを中心にお話してくれます。

F ebruary is a busy month in Japan for celebrating traditional events such as Risshun on the 3rd, Foundation Day on the 11th plus Valentine`s Day which is, of course, on the 14th. This February has one extra day on the 29th and so we have a **Leap Year** to celebrate; quite a busy month indeed.

Let`s talk a little about the different ways that Valentine`s Day is celebrated in some different countries around the globe. In the U.K., or the U.S.A., or in my native Australia it is not only a lady who gives a present to **her intended beau**, but also a man gives a present to **his intended belle** on the same day, **namely** February 14th. Here in Japan however there are two celebratory days - Valentine`s Day as well as White Day, which is celebrated on March 14th.

This **double-edged sword** appears to be unique to Japan and is especially expensive for men, where the value of the return gift should be twice or even three times the value of the original gift given by the woman. Ouch!



– cont. from the left

Sending cards, flowers, chocolates and some other gift to a love interest is traditional in Australia however what is not traditional there is to give giri-choko to one`s coworkers, or really even to give tomo-choko to one`s friends either.

*There, it is more a day for people who are in love, or who want to be in love, than a day for gift-giving to friends or coworkers. Sometimes, though not always, such Valentine`s gifts are sent **anonymously** to either the lady or the man, which means that the name of the sender is not on the attached card. So the recipient has to try and guess the name of their **secret admirer**, which all just adds to the fun and mystery of the day itself. The type of the present that you give is a yardstick, or a measure, of just how much you admire the other person. For example, if a young man is totally **besotted** by a young lady he might want to secretly give her an expensive diamond solitaire pendant.*

読み解きのヒント

leap year	うるう年	secret admirer	隠れファン
namely	つまり	besotted	酔った、夢中になった
her intended beau	お目当ての男性		
his intended belle	お目当ての女性		
anonymously	匿名で		
double-edged sword	2枚刃の→2回あるイベント		



Leap Year

Ian David West –James English School/Fukushima

Since the 1980's in Australia giving a diamond to a lady has become increasingly popularit is a sure sign of true affection by the man and of course it would, or should, make the lady smile, and maybe a little curious.

A little cheaper though, and also very popular, is for a man to send a dozen (12) roses to a lucky lady. Florist shops in Australia are always crazy busy on February 14th. The various colors of the roses have many different possible meanings, and **indicate** or show how much you like, really like, or even love the recipient. In other words, the color of the flowers can display your true feeling to her. Different people have different **points of view** about the **meanings** of color, however generally speaking:

Color	Meaning
Red	Love
White	Romantic Love, I Love You
Red & White	Heavenly, Innocence
Pink	Unity, Together
Yellow	Please Believe Me
Orange	Friendship, I Care
	Desire



Which color roses would you send to your beloved?
 And **instead of** sending a dozen roses, if just one, single, **long-stemmed** red rose is sent to her then it means You are the only one; that there is no other person I want to be with. The long stem is symbolic of you both sharing a long life together.
 My good friend, Leena who lives in Helsinki, Finland told me that Valentine's Day there is different to Australia and Japan. It is called Ystävänpäivä which translates into "Friend's Day". This day is more about remembering all your friends, not only those you have **romantic intentions** for, than about gift giving. Couples of course might share a romantic, candlelit dinner together, however many people just join together as good friends to eat dinner and drink wine.

– cont. from the left

As I mentioned above, this February is a Leap Year. But what does this really mean in terms of romantic celebrations? British tradition, and therefore Australian tradition, is that women may propose marriage instead of the usual custom of a man proposing to a woman. This can only occur on the day of February 29th. Historically, it seems that a 1288 law by Queen Margaret of Scotland required that some sort of fine or penalty must be paid if a marriage proposal was **refused** by the man concerned with **compensation** ranging from a kiss, to payment of £1, to a silk gown. Personally I would be happy to pay the fine with a kiss. British tradition has changed over the years and **now the light-hearted custom** is to compensate a woman with a pair of white gloves if her offer is rejected. The gloves have a purpose - they are intended to hide the fact that the woman is not wearing a diamond engagement ring. I don't know any women who have ever received a pair of white gloves, though. So it seems that February is a busy month for the **lovelorn** – those amongst us who are sad because we don't have a beau or a belle to call our own, or those who suffer with unrequited (one-sided) love. Maybe these different customs can give you some fun opportunity to make a catch soon.
 Good Luck !

読み解きのヒント

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
| indicate | 示す、意味する | romantic intentions | 恋心を持つこと |
| points of view | 見解 | compensation | 埋め合わせ、償い |
| meanings | 意味 | refuse | を拒む |
| instead of | ～の代わりに | lovelorn | 恋人がいない人 |
| long-stemmed | 茎の長い | | |
| now the light-hearted custom | 今ではあまり行われていない慣習 | | |

