

# Touching Times

## CONTENTS CULTURE

Page 1 Yuru-Character

Page 2 Eating at Izumi



## Why Yuru-Kyara are so popular

In Japan many Yuru-Kyara are so popular. A Yuru-Kyara is a character which is a mascot for a city government, prefecture, university, etc. YURU-KYARA means "loose characters, the reason why they are called "loose" is that these characters are usually designed to look somewhat silly or cute. So these characters make people relax and look friendly. Also these characters sometimes feature local special products or food. This makes them more attractive.

(continued on page 4)

Page 3 Get the Guys

## ENTERTAINMENT

Page 1 Frozen

Page 5 Puzdora



Page 6 My Music

## Anna or Elsa?

The movie "Frozen" is one of the most popular movies in the world recently. This movie was produced by Walt Disney Pictures and Walt Disney Animation Studios. In America, this movie was released on November 27<sup>th</sup> 2013, and in Japan, it was released on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2014. This movie has earned over 400 billion dollars in America, and 25.4 billion dollars in Japan. This is the first movie for Disney that has two heroines and the story is based on "the Queen of Snow" by Andersen.



(continued on page 7)

## NEWS

Page 1 Tokyo Olympics

Page 8 Rain!



Page 9 Crime

## THE OLYMPICS

From July 24 to August 9 2020, the Olympics games will be held around Tokyo. The host of the Olympics 2020 was decided on September 8, 2013 in Buenos Aires in Argentina. It will be the second time that the Olympics is held in Tokyo since 1964. The Japanese International Olympics Committee (JOC) announced a clear plan about how to hold 2020 Olympics on January 8, 2013 and now, the plan is under going.



(continued on page 10)

# CULTURE

## Where to Eat Lunch at Izumi?

There is a whole range of restaurants around Meiji University, Izumi campus. And, of course, Meiji University has its own student cafeteria and a school store on campus. But, where do Meiji university students actually go

to have lunch? Where do hungry students often go to most? To answer this question, a survey was taken of students participating on this summer intensive seminar.

The table below shows the results of the survey

Meiji Uni cafeteria	42	Momijiya	2
Meidai Mart	57	Mitsuyadou seimen	3
Nakau	11	Kohinu-ru	9
Matsuya	11	Eishinou	0
Yoshinoya	14	Ofukuro	1
Sutadon	9	Aisuya	1
Macdonald	15	Gattsu curry	1
Star Backs	20	Takahaba soba	0
Doutor	3	Gasuto	18
SUBWAY	16	Convenience store	23
Ippudo	12	HOKUO	10
Musashiya	8	Lunch box	21
Daiou	0	TOTAL STUDENTS	82

**No.1 “Meidai Mart”.** Meidai Mart has many kinds of food and compared with other stores, it is cheap above all. Since it is on campus, it is convenient for students not to need moving.



Meidai Mart

**No.2 “Meiji University cafeteria”.** This place is also on campus, so it’s easy to go there. The menu has many student-oriented foods, meals are cheap and large quantity. Yurinchi set meal and limited-time ramen are very popular. If you have confidence you can eat a lot, you can challenge triple curry.

**No.3 “convenience store”.** Circle K, Sunkus and FamilyMart are all near Izumi campus. In addition they may buy from a store near their house and eat for lunch.

**No.4 “lunch box”.** Most students who bring a lunch box do not live alone. Usually the lunch box is made by their mother, so the lunch box can have a nutritional balance.

**No. 5 “Starbucks”.** It is popular for female university students. It seems that there are also many students who eat lunch at Starbucks elegantly



Meiji Uni cafeteria



Lunch box

### Recommendation from Reporter!!

Although its ranking on this questionnaire was low, there is a restaurant to recommend. It is Kohinu-ru. This restaurant is an Indian restaurant where you can enjoy eating reasonable and genuine Indian curry including naan or rice and salad at lunchtime. In addition, you can choose level of spiciness of your food. The restaurant staff are kind and friendly. If you have a free service ticket that staff distribute near Meidaimae station, you can have a free cup of ‘cai’ or glass of ‘lassi’. On a more personal note, visiting on my last day at Izumi campus, I went there for lunch for the final time. The staff felt very sad and said thank you for my custom and even hugged me. You can’t help going Kohinu-ru!!

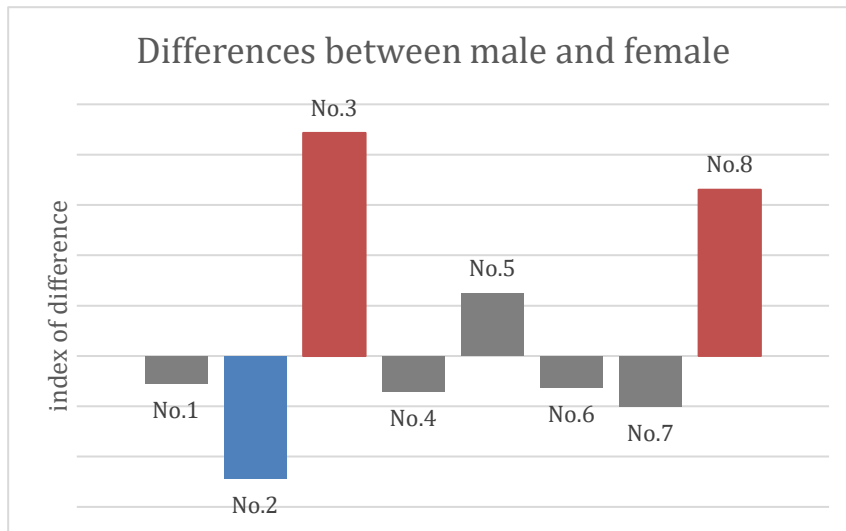
☆The set meal changes day to day but is ¥750



# How to Look Great to Catch a Guy

In Japanese University, students don't have uniforms. Therefore, it is hard to think what clothes to put on every day and they need information about fashion. Some 20-year-old female students at Meiji University were

interviewed about their interests in fashion or what they want to know about fashion. Their answers highlighted the differences in fashion between males and females.



The questionnaire asked students to assess the eight pictures (Fig.1) and separated the answers (male or female).

Fig.1 shows the wide differences; the higher the value of the vertical axis, the more the males liked the style than the females.

The first differences are No.3 and No.8. These styles are liked by males more than females. The fashion style is recognized as a gal and the noticeable

feature of these fashions is that the legs of the females are exposed.

The second difference is No.2. This picture is sports-style and this style is not liked by males as much as by females. (There were no significant differences in the other fashion styles.)

Males and females have differences in the styles of fashion that they like. From the results of this survey, around 20-years old males like mini-skirts or short-pants more than females, but they don't like the sports-style so much sadly for women for like playing

sports. For that reason, if you belong to the tennis club and you want to grab a guy's heart, you should go to the tennis court wearing a mini skirt and then change to sports wear and finally, you should go home in a mini-skirt.

## Why Yuru-Kara are so Popular

The name 'Yuru-Kyara' was coined by columnist JUN MIURA 2004. But Yuru-Kyara fever started in 2010. The first Yuru-Kyara competition was held in Hikone city in Shiga prefecture. The first winner was HIKONYAN

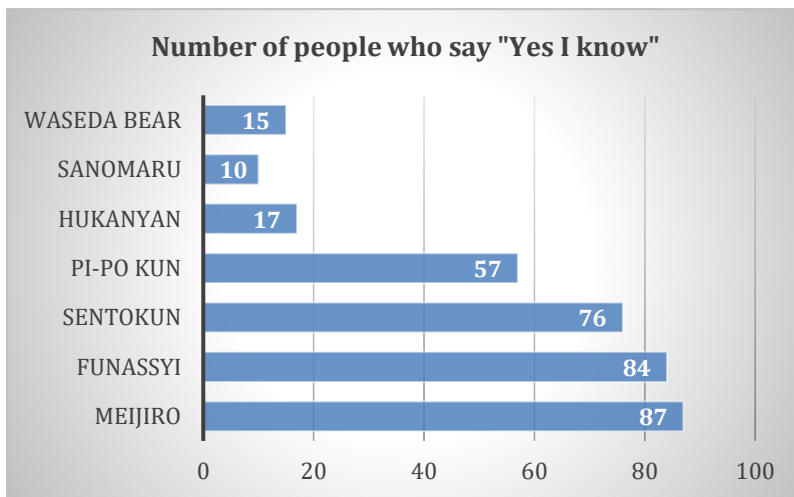


### KUMAMON – Success in the character business

In 2011 the winner was KUMAMON, the bear character of Kumamoto prefecture with big round eyes and red cheeks.

KUMAMON worked hard to publicize the attractions of Kumamoto prefecture in many events in different areas and also on the internet to bring more tourists to Kumamoto and recognize Kumamoto's

special products. The campaign was successful. Kumamoto spokesperson said that "The effect of advertising for 2010 was estimated around ¥640 million for Kumamoto and the sales of related products for 2011 were more than ¥2,500 million."



Some Yuru-Kyara are very popular all over Japan but many other characters are known by only local people. A survey of Meiji students shows that nearly everybody knows MEIJIRO [Meiji University's official mascot] but only 10 people know SANOMARU, SANO city's local character, and the winner of the YURU-KYARA competition 2013. Yuru-Kyara' role is advertising the local area, but many Yuru-Kyara don't succeed in their role.

# We-Tube

[youtube.com/meijistudents](https://youtube.com/meijistudents)

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Popularity of Puzzle & Dragons

“Puzzle and Dragons” is one of the most popular smartphone games in Japan. This game can be downloaded at Apple store and Play store.

The basic strategy of the game is to solve puzzles and beat opposing monsters. You can erase the colored blocks by moving them with your fingers and matching three blocks of the same color. And you can damage the opposing monster’s strength and skills. And you can select five supporting monsters. Supporting monsters have five attributions,

these are fire, water, tree, light and dark. And by arranging and dropping hearts, you can recover the HP of your supporting monsters. Moreover, administration gives a stone every day for free. If you collect five stones, you can play “gachapon” to get a rare monster.



The survey about “Puzzle and Dragons” was held for the students. These are the questions;

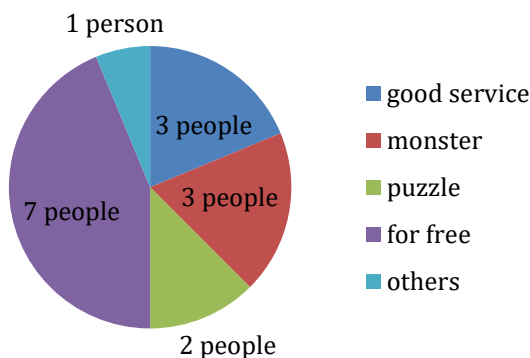
### Questions

1. Have you ever played “Puzzle and Dragons”?
2. Why do you think that it is interesting?
3. How long do you play a day?
4. Are you strong in “Puzzle and Dragons”?
5. What rank do you have now?

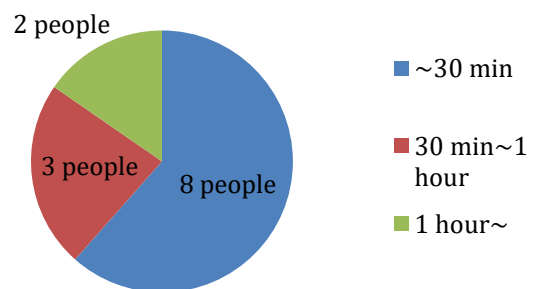
### Answers

1. 13 answered Yes, 75 No
3. The people who play Puzzle and Dragons play this game less thirty minutes a day.
4. Almost of the people who play Puzzle and Dragons don’t think they are strong. So they are modest.

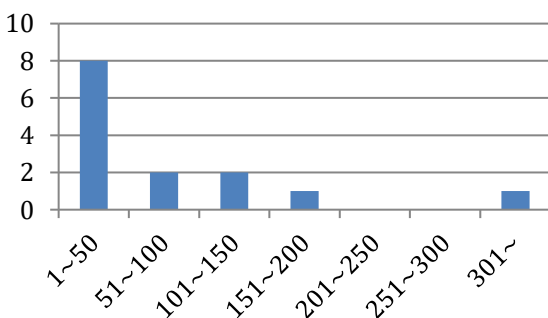
### Answer 2



### Answer 3



### Answer 5



Puzzle and Dragons achieved 10 million downloads in 2012. Then this game made top sales among smartphone games because people can play for free and it is pleasant for players to make many combos and damage to the opposing monsters. And the player will not be bored because many kinds of monsters and developed monsters are often released.

Also, “Puzzle and Dragons Z”, for 3DS, was released on December 12th 2013. Its sales exceeded one million yen in only two weeks. That also tells a great success of “Puzzle and Dragons

# HOW TO ENJOY MUSIC

## Ikimonogakari

A student who is a member of a music circle was interviewed. She likes the Japanese pop group “Ikimonogakari” because she likes their songs and lyrics. She said “when she feels sad, she listens to their songs, their songs make her cheerful”.

She likes up-tempo kinds of songs and cheerful songs. She likes “Itsudattebokuraha” the best of all their songs. This song gives her power. She has liked “Ikimonogakari” since she was 14-year-old. She has the Best album of “Ikimonogakari”, but she has never gone to their concert. So, she wants to go to their concert someday.



## “Ikimonogakari” Profile

The members of “Ikimonogakari” are Kiyoe Yoshioka(vocals), Yoshiaki Mizuno(electric guitar & vocals) and Hotaka Yamashita(acoustic guitar, harmonica & vocals). They released “Sakura” in 2006 and debuted in major. Their masterpiece songs are “Blue Bird”, “YELL”, “Arigatou” and “Kazega Fuiteiru”.

“Ikimonogakari” is a Japanese pop group and the violin is an instrument. “Ikimonogakari” has released many CDs. The violin makes comfortable sounds. They are enjoyed as music genres for a long time. Music is not only a means of enjoyment, but also healing of cheering up or encouraging people. So music is one of the pleasant types of entertainment close to people.

## Violin

A student who is a member of the orchestra circle was interviewed. Her favorite point of the violin is the sound. For example, the trumpet is too noisy, but the violin is sweet and soft. If she plays another instrument, she wants to play the cello because the cello has from high tone to low tone.

She has played the violin since she was 3-year-old. She practices the violin for two hours a day but, she wants to practice more. Her most impressive experience related to the violin is a concert during her junior high school days. She played with circle members and it was last concert. She was moved by its experience.



## The Violin’s Profile

The violin is a stringed instrument. It can be played by vibrating the strings. It was invented at the end of the sixteenth century. It related to the viola, the cello, the contrabass. The bow was semicircle at first, but it became sharp of curve. To play the violin, first, put it on your left shoulder and put your jaw on holder for a jaw. Next, hold the violin’s neck in your left hand. The different with the guitar, because the violin doesn’t have frets so it is difficult to put fingers up in the right space.

# Anna or Elsa

The movie tells the story of Anna and Elsa. Anna and Elsa are close sisters. Elsa has magic to make snow. But when Anna was a child, Elsa hurt her sister Anna by her magic. Then Elsa came to avoid Anna and stayed indoors. The more time passed, the stronger Elsa's magic became. One day, Elsa's

coronation ceremony was held. The door of kingdom that had been closed opened and Elsa and Anna met after a long time. Anna fell in love with the prince of Hance on that day. She wanted to marry him, but Elsa didn't permit it and she became angry. Then Anna and Elsa started quarrelling.

## Questions

A survey was held of students.

The questions of the survey were.

1. Have you ever watched "Frozen"?
2. Which character do you like, Anna or Elsa?
3. Why do you think Anna or Elsa is better?
4. Which singer of the Japanese version of "Let it go" do you like, Takako Matsu or May.J?

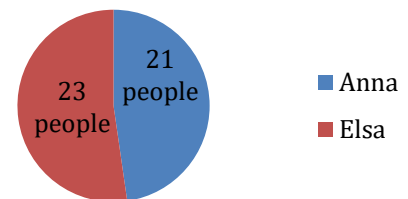
## Answers

**Answer 1.** Yes 42. No 46

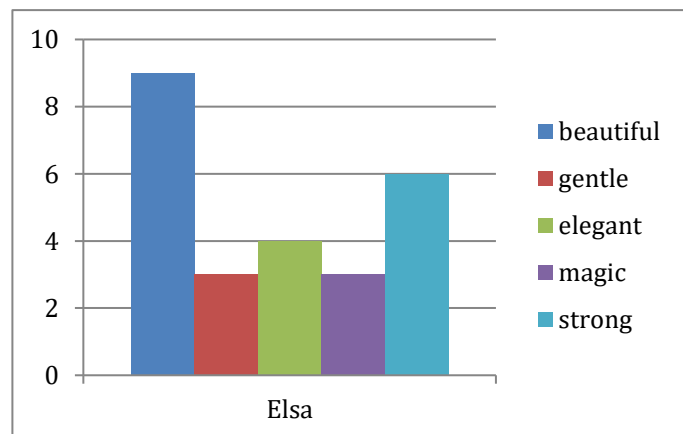
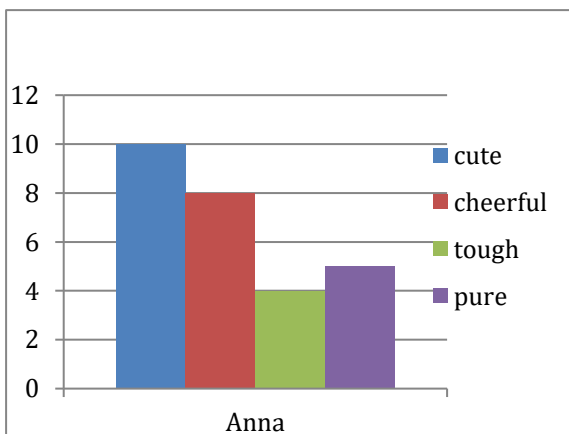
**Answer 4.** Takako Matsu got about three times as many as votes as May.J.



**Answer 2**



**Answer 3.**



"Frozen" has double heroin. Why did this movie become so popular? It may be because the audience can sympathize with Anna, Elsa or with other characters. Though this story is an animation, the characters are very sensitive like a documentary. So people can be moved by Anna and Elsa. Moreover, the music of this movie has good appreciation. In particular, the song "Let it go" is very popular. In Japan, both Takako Matsu and May.J sing "Let it go" and there is disagreement over which is better, Takako Matsu or May.J. Signs which the popularity of "Frozen" declines is not seen. This fever will continue for the time being.

## Record Heavy Rain Hits Japan

In August, Typhoon No. 12 and No. 11 landed or approached Japan one after another. At that time a warm front stagnated over Japan, and warm air and humidity continued. Then it

began to rain heavily mainly in western Japan. As a result, the monthly precipitation of the West Pacific Ocean side was the highest since the start of the statistics in 1946.

### August 2014 was hit by heavy rain

Rank	Prefecture	City	Precipitation August 2014	Average yearly precipitation
1	Kochi	Kochi	1561.0	282.2
2	Tokushima	Tokushima	1065.5	172.9
3	Saga	Saga	671.0	196.7
4	Ishikawa	Kanazawa	497.5	139.3
5	Kyoto	Kyoto	487.0	131.9
6	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	483.0	195.5
7	Fukuoka	Fukuoka	462.5	171.9
8	Miyazaki	Miyazaki	455.0	289.8
9	Wakayama	Wakayama	449.5	85.9
10	Kagoshima	Kagoshima	445.0	222.5

The table shows, the city in western Japan has accounted for most of the highest rankings. There was heavy rain record rainfall exceeds 1000 mm in Kochi and Tokushima in particular. There was also a place where 6 times the average yearly rainfall fell.

In addition there were a lot of clouds and rain so there was a lack of sunlight in the west of Japan. There was only 54% of the average sunlight for August in the Western Pacific side of Japan – the lowest since statistics started in 1946.

### The Pattern of Weather

#### • Early August

Warm air and humidity under the influence of the typhoon continued to flow into the beginning of August. Under the influence of typhoon No. 12, the total rainfall over 5 days was greater than 1000 mm on the Pacific Ocean side of Shikoku. In addition, when typhoon No. 11 landed in Shikoku, the total rainfall over 4 days reached 1000 mm from 500 mm between the Tokai region and Shikoku. A special heavy rain warning was issued in Mie Prefecture at this time.

#### • Mid to Late August

In mid to late August, a warm front was stagnant in the Sea of Japan near to the coast, the moist air was warm and flowed towards land. As a result, the state of the atmosphere became unstable over a wide range of western Japan from northern Japan, and heavy rain fell in many places. At dawn on the 20th from 19 day night, there was torrential rain in Hiroshima city, Hiroshima Prefecture, and caused a landslide on a large scale. Japan Meteorological Agency concluded that the heavy rain was abnormal weather.



Landslide in Hiroshima prefecture

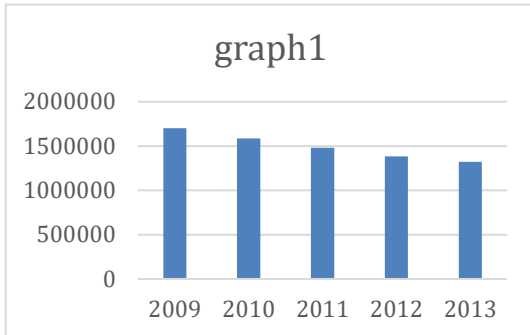
Heavy rain is an imminent disaster, damage was greater in August of this year in particular. Given the possibility of rain in the future, individuals and national and local governments must prepare for disasters. What we do will be able to confront the disaster? Importantly, we should have a sense of crisis to natural disasters.



# Recent Crime in Japan

Recently, many crimes happen every day in Japan. There are many kinds of crimes from minor offenses to felony offenses. For the last five years there have been more than a million cases every year recognized by the police. And arrest rate is about 30%.

## Statistics of Crime



Graph1 shows the number of cases police recognized over the last 5 years (from 2009 to 2013).

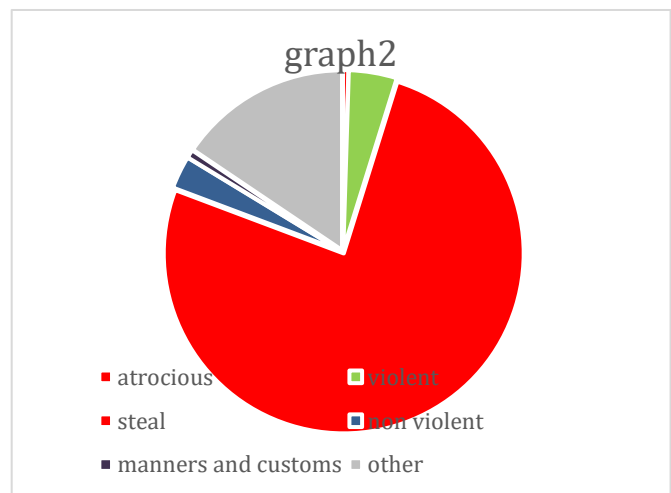
The number of cases is decreasing year by year. The number of cases in 2013 decreased by 4.4% in comparison with 2012.

The graph2 shows what kind of cases that happen many times in the last 5 years (from 2009 to 2013).

Atrocious crimes include murder, robbery, arson and so on. Violent crimes include violence, injury, threat and so on. Non-violent crimes include fraud, embezzlement, forgery and so on. Manners and customs crimes include obscenity and gambling.

Theft is highest every year in 5 years. Atrocious crime is lowest every year in 5 years.

Theft makes up 76% of all cases. Violent crime makes up 4.3% of all cases. Non-violent crime makes up 3.0% of all cases. Manners and customs criminal makes up 0.7% of all cases. Atrocious crime makes up 0.5% of all cases.



The average number of cases in 5 years is about 1,500,000 cases a year. This shows that there are about 4,100 cases a day in Japan. About 7,300 cases of atrocious crime happen in a year, about 20 cases a day.

## Recent Cases

### Atrocious Crime: Ikebukuro

In 2014, June 24<sup>th</sup>, in Ikebukuro, a car crashed into the pavement and run over seven people. In the accident, one person died and the others were injured either slightly or seriously. Because the driver in the car used illegal drug just before driving, the criminal was only half conscious. After the case, a legislation was passed to wipe out illegal drugs.

### Violent Crime: Fujimi City

In 2014, May, in Saitama, Fujimi city, 2 babies were abused by a man. The man called himself a baby-sitter. He took care of the babies. The

babies are the first son and the second son of a client. The first son died and the second son was hospitalized of hypothermia.

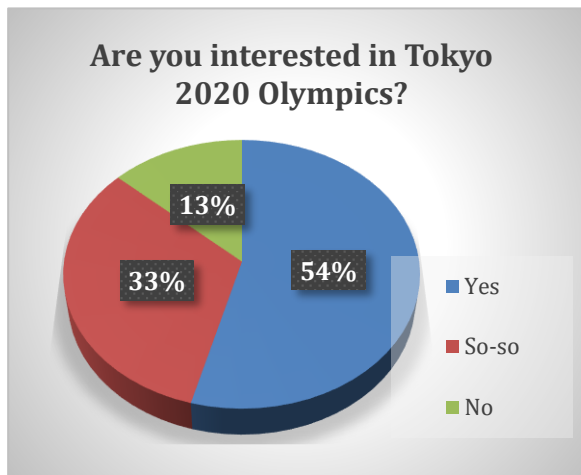
### Manners and Culture Crime; Hirano Ward

In 2014, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Osaka, Hirano Ward, a stalker killed a woman who he had been stalking. The woman had about ten cuts and stab wounds at her abdomen and her neck. The reason the stalker killed the woman is that he loved her but he was forbidden to visit her shop.

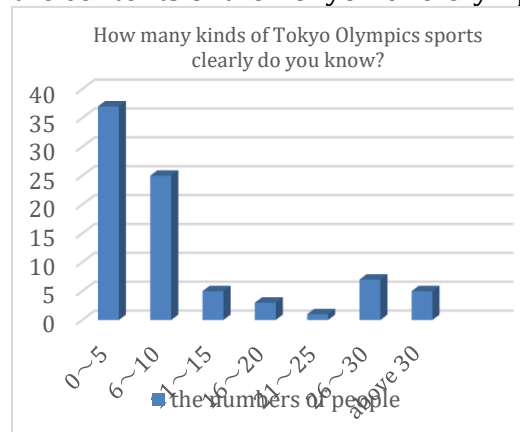
# TOKYO 2020

83 Japanese Meiji students who joined the intensive English course were surveyed. They were asked, "Are you interested in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics?"

As the chart shows, about 87 percent of the students think the 2020 Olympics is very interesting (or interesting). It looks like the 2020 Olympics is popular among almost all the Japanese younger generation. However, do they have knowledge about it?



The Meiji students were asked how many kinds of sports clearly they knew. As the chart shows about half of the students clearly knows 0~5 sports held in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics though some know as many as 28 sports. It seems that the Japanese younger generation haven't got much knowledge about the contents of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



Some questions were sent to JOC. However, they failed to answer. Then, some people in Meiji University were interviewed to find out their attitude towards Tokyo 2020. 3 questions (1, Are you interested in Tokyo Olympics 2020? 2, What problems can you see before the Olympics 2020 begin? 3, What problems can you see during the Olympics 2020 begin?) were asked.

### English Professor

Really interesting because it will make people excited, the country advanced, the people's jobs increase and the economies active but I think there're some people who might protest against the Olympics because of usage of a lot of money. I feel that a big problem would be construction because of Japanese small land. Also, it would be too crowded and fear of terrorism but I think there're more merits than demerits.

### Meiji students

Interesting but I'm fear for money, construction, lack of hotels and vehicles, terrorism and so on. Of course, interesting but I'm anxious about the nuclear issue, the crowds, security and so on. Interesting though I worry about our relationships with other countries and crowds. Very interesting but I wonder if there're problems such as lack of land in Japan. I think there could be a problem that Japanese can't speak English well with foreigners or tourists!

### Ms. T in Meiji office

Of course, interested because it will be my first Olympics and also because I think it will be more exciting than the World Cup because there are more kinds of sports. However, I wonder if Japanese can talk with foreigners if they are spoken to by them. Also, I'm worried about how crowded Tokyo will be when the Olympics begin although Tokyo is already crowded!

### Japanese Professor

Very interested because I remember Tokyo Olympics 1964 and was very impressed. I think various problems may happen. There would be problems of land, security and maybe the environment. However, you have to think of solution positively, not negatively. Tokyo is more advanced than ever in reclaiming land from the sea and solving land problems.

There may be far more problems than we can imagine. However, everything's going to be all right because Japan has overcome a lot of difficulties or disasters recently.