

CEFR-J レベル

B1.2

技能

Reading

Can Do descriptor

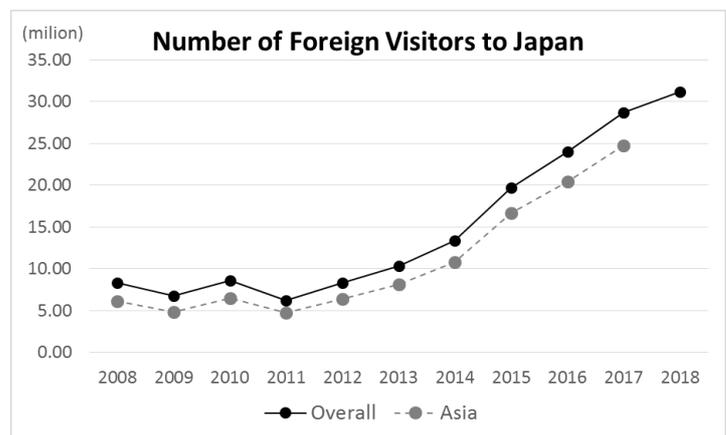
インターネットや参考図書などを調べて、文章の構成を意識ながら、学業や仕事に関係ある情報を手に入れることができる。必要であれば時に辞書を用いて、図表と関連づけながら理解することができる。

テスト・タスク

You are going to travel Japan with your friend from abroad and are thinking about staying at Minpaku (民泊). You found the following article on the web about the pros and cons of Minpaku. You got an email from your friend asking some questions about staying at Minpaku and you are now writing a reply. *Please choose the best answer to fill in each blanks on the email. (You may have a look at the dictionary entries following the article.)*

### The Bright and Dark Sides of Minpaku

By 2020, the year of the Tokyo Olympics, the Japanese government is aiming to achieve the goal of attracting 40 million foreign visitors to Japan. This is double the initial target of 20 million announced in 2008, which was already close to being achieved in 2015, five years before the initial target year. When you look back to 2008 to 2012, the number was consistently below 10 million. It is very surprising to see this rapid growth over the past few years and, as a result, there is no wonder



that Japan has a shortage of accommodations for visitors. This is due to the increase of travelers visiting Japan. These visitors are mostly from Asia, which consists of around 75% of the total number of visitors before 2012 which has increased to over 85% in 2017.

To respond to this unexpected demand for rooms, private lodgings services, or *Minpaku*, such as Airbnb were launched in Japan. The owner of a house or apartment let, in most of the cases, foreign visitors stay in a spare room at a more reasonable price than hotels. This type of the service was approved to fill the gap of the lodging demands. However, unlike a homestay, the *Minpaku* owner often does not stay together with the guests and attend to them. This can result in problems between the visitors and local residents. As one may imagine, neighbors claim that visitors will get drunk and behave noisily as if they were staying at a guest house apart from a residential area. Some neighbors feel insecure and uneasy that strangers are walking around their neighborhood and disturbing their lives.

At the same time, without *Minpaku* Japan may have the problem of having nowhere for foreign visitors to stay as most hotels are fully booked a few months ahead especially in large cities. To control the situation, the government created a new accommodations law and it became legal to operate *Minpaku* with proper registration from June 2016. Obtaining the proper registration is not easy and it requires that the *Minpaku* owner prove their ability to keep a safe and clean lodging environment. This new law is beneficial for foreign travelers as they are sure to be provided with cleaner, safer and more comfortable places for accommodation.

Curiously, nearly 80% of *Minpaku* are taken out of the list of Airbnb Japan site after that, which suggests there were some rooms that did not meet the governmental standards. There may be some *Minpaku* you can book from overseas sites which may be illegal in Japan as they did not obtain proper registration. Even so, the use of *Minpaku* is getting more and more convenient as many travel agencies in Japan entered this market. Some have even started partnerships with foreign reservation sites to add to their listings. Now you can get a key to a room at a convenience store and use *Minpaku* without ever meeting the owner. Or, on the contrary, you can participate in a local program on Japanese culture for a rich cultural experience. Such a choice may also be attractive for Japanese travelers who may find themselves lost among the stream of inbound travelers and can't find a hotel.

**[Dictionary Entries]**

\*accommodation: a place to live or stay, especially on holiday or for students at college

\*resident: a person who lives or has their home in a place

\*registration: the act of recording a name or information on an official list

\*inbound: travelling towards a particular point; coming from another country

\*insecure: not safe or not protected

Hi, Bob,

Thanks for your email. Did you have a look at the article? Looking at the graph in the article, the number of foreign visitors to Japan is increasing a lot these days.

> What is the background of *Minpaku*?

. It looks like there is a shortage of hotels and that's why *Minpaku* is recently getting more popular in Japan.

I will try to answer your questions based on the information I read in the article.

> Are there any potential problems with *Minpaku*?

. So we have to be careful to avoid that type of situation.

> What are the benefits of staying at *Minpaku*?

I don't know if you see these points as attractive, but we could see some benefits.

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So what do you think? Do you feel like staying at *Minpaku*? Let's chat later and decide!

1. Choose the best answer to fill in the box (1) above.

- The number of visitors from Asian countries dramatically dropped after 2014.
- The original estimate of the growth of foreign visitors to Japan was too low.

- c) The announcement of Tokyo Olympics attracted many foreign travelers to Japan.
- d) The new target to be achieved by 2020 are twice the number of visitors in 2008.

2. Choose the best answer to fill in the box (2) above.

- a) You may have a trouble with the neighbors around the house or apartment.
- b) You will be surrounded by noisy local neighbors who live there.
- c) You may sometimes find it difficult to choose a safe place to stay at.
- d) You may book a *Minpaku* which is illegal when you use an overseas site.

3. Choose the ALL answers which are appropriate to fill in the box (3) above.

- a) You have to meet and interact with the owner of the place.
- b) You may find a deep cultural exchange program with local people.
- c) You can share a room with Japanese travelers and get along with them.
- d) You may find a comfortable accommodation when other hotels are full

正答・採点基準 正答： 1. b)      2. d)      3. a), b), d)

開発段階

第1期（作成） 第1期（実施） ✓ 第1期（分析）

第2期（改訂） 第2期（実施） 第2期（分析）

メモ

グラフデータ出典：日本政府観光局（JNTO）

<https://statistics.jnto.go.jp/>

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