

Lesson 93: Obon/ Special Event in the Summer

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, practice each role.

Bart: (Just woke up) Where are you going with a broom and a bucket of soapy water at six o'clock in the morning?

Masako: I'm going to the family grave. It's grave-cleaning day.

Bart: Can I go with you?

Masako: You should stay with my mother. She could use a hand in weeding out the garden. Part of welcoming the spirits is tidying up the ancestors' home.

Bart: I see. Well, I'd better start working in the garden before it gets too hot.

Masako: Oh, and after the garden, you've got to hang the curtains and wipe the altar clean.

Bart: (nodding) Curtains and altar.... got it. You guys sure have a lot of cleaning in your culture.

Masako: If you're going to be a part of a Japanese family, you've got to be clean **first and foremost**.

Bart: (smelling food in the air) Is your mother cooking a traditional "obon" breakfast?

Masako: (laughing) She's preparing food for the "obon" festival. Maybe she'll let you have some fried squid or takoyaki for breakfast.

2. Today's Phrase

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, make a few sentences using Today's phrase.

1. **First and foremost**, I want to express my gratitude to my mother. Without her support, I wouldn't have won this award.
2. A: I'm going to my first job interview. Can you give me some tips? B: **First and foremost**, you have to look presentable.
3. Jack's success is due to hard work and dedication. Even when he's on vacation, he remains **first and foremost** a businessman.

* First and foremost / まず第一に

3. Your Task

Your foreign friend saw a photo of the floating lanterns and would like to know about it. Tell him/her (=your tutor) what this is all about.

4. Let's Talk

How does your family celebrate the "obon" festival?

Do you participate in the "bon" dance? Why or why not?

Should the Japanese preserve this kind of tradition?

Why do you say so?

5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.



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