

Lesson 94: Shichi-Go-San/ The Seven-Five-Three Festival

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

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

Billy: (looking at a picture) When was this photo taken?

Kazue: It was taken when I was seven years old.

Billy: Why were you in a “kimono”?

Kazue: It was for the “shichigosan”. Girls turning three or seven are taken to a shrine then. We usually wear a “kimono” on that occasion.

Billy: What about boys?

Kazue: Boys turning five years old are taken to the shrine. They’re also dressed in a “kimono”.

Billy: Interesting custom. We don’t have anything like that in America.

Kazue: It wasn’t a fun experience for me, though. I remember I couldn’t move in my “kimono” and my mother **made me wear makeup**.

2. Today’s Phrase

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

1. Jack **made me promise** to look after his dog while he’s on vacation.
2. When I was young, my mother **made me eat** vegetables every day.
3. My gym instructor **made me do** 100 sit ups.

* make me do ... / 私に...させる

3. Your Task

It’s your daughter’s “shichigosan”. While walking with your three-year-old to the shrine, a foreigner asks why your daughter is wearing a “kimono”. Tell the foreigner (=your tutor) why. You can also invite the foreigner to watch the “shichigosan” ceremony.

4. Let’s Talk

Tell your tutor what you can remember when you were taken to the shrine for your “shichigosan”.

Would you or did you follow the “shichigosan” tradition for your children?

Why or why not?

5. Today’s photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.



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