

Lesson 99: Festivals in Japan

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

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

Yuki: The parade is starting, Graham. Get the camera out.

Graham: We're lucky to have a good view of everything. I didn't expect that **a throng of** tourists will be here for the parade.

Yuki: The Sanja Matsuri is one of the biggest festivals in Japan. Here comes the first "mikoshi".

Graham: Look at the elaborate crafting on that one. It must have cost a lot to build it.

Yuki: I heard that each "mikoshi" weighs a ton.

Graham: Why are the marchers bouncing up and down?

Yuki: Shaking the mikoshi is believed to increase the power of the god. They believe that it will bring more luck to the townspeople.

Graham: The people look very happy carrying the mikoshi. Can I join them?

Yuki: I don't think you can. You're not wearing a "yukata". And you're obviously not Japanese.

Graham: Can you tell me what they're shouting? I could at least join the chanting.

2. Today's Phrase

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

1. I was walking in Central Park when **a throng of** pigeons flew past my head.
2. Going back to my hometown brings back **a throng of** childhood memories.
3. **A throng of** fans pushed their way into the hotel lobby to get a glimpse of the Hollywood actor.

* a throng of ... / ...の群れ、大勢の...、多数の...

3. Your Task

You would like to have your picture taken with a "mikoshi" in the background but you came to the parade alone.

Ask one of the foreigners (=your tutor) to take your photo using your camera. And then, ask the foreigner if he would like his photo taken with the "mikoshi", too, using his camera this time.

4. Let's Talk

What is a famous festival in your area?

What happens during this festival?

What's so special about the event?

5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.

