

# Tsunagaaru: A Site for Secondary Students Worldwide



[www.tsunagaaru.com](http://www.tsunagaaru.com)

What is "Tsunagaaru"?

Tsunagaaru is an interactive communication website. Tsunagaaru is a space, for connecting secondary school students all over the world, no matter where they are and what language they speak.

Participants

Secondary students of Japanese all over the world, Japanese students of foreign languages (e.g., English, Chinese, and Korean), or students interested in international understanding.

What We Hope Tsunagaaru Will Achieve

### ***Mutual Understanding Among Junior and Senior High School Students Around the World***

Through exchange via the website and in direct exchange programs, Tsunagaaru will seek to transcend national boundaries and language barriers to promote mutual person-to-person understanding among junior and senior high school students around the world. It will make possible exchange among multiple countries and languages, and in multiple directions.

### ***Transmission of Culture via Individuals***

Tsunagaaru will transmit information about language, culture, and society from the viewpoint of individuals. This will provide opportunities for understanding of diverse cultures and social conditions through the experience of contemporaneous individuals.

### ***Foreign Language Study***

Tsunagaaru will make it possible for students to use the language skills they are learning in actual communication experiences, and we hope thereby to heighten their incentive to pursue foreign language study.

Main Content: A Registered Members-only Social Networking Site

### ***My Page***

Here each participant will have a personal page to post a profile, essays (diary-like messages), etc. This page gives each member the opportunity to give expression to his or her personal thoughts or discoveries in the form of text and photographs. Other members can post comments to these pages, promoting exchange of ideas and views about the content posted on these personal pages. From their My Page, participants can also access other members' essays and community postings.

### ***Community***

Here is the forum where participants can propose topics and discuss them in depth. This is also the base for class-wide research projects.

Features

### ***Multidirectional Exchange, Multiple-language Use***

As a common forum where junior and senior high school students of multiple countries and regions can engage in multi-directional exchange of ideas and information, Tsunagaaru goes beyond the kind of two-way exchange previously common between, for example, Japanese and British high school students or between Japanese and Chinese junior high school students.

To facilitate this exchange, the site enables viewers to freely view and post comments in Chinese, English, Japanese, and Korean. TJF will introduce Internet machine translation sites that might be of some help.

### ***Exchange in a Safe Environment***

In order to protect the privacy of members and secure the website, TJF will check the student status of those who register for the site and obtain the consent of their parents or guardians. Texts posted for the site will be checked to assure the content does not contain personal information or inappropriate expressions.

How to Participate

### ***Student Registration***

There are three steps to register your students.

- 1) Online registration from the top page of Tsunagaaru by the students themselves
- 2) Confirmation of their enrolment to the teacher.
- 3) Submission of an Agreement Form signed by the student's parent or guardian to TJF.

See "Details on how to register" :

[http://www.tsunagaaru.com/tjf\\_docs/download/Instruction01\\_en.pdf](http://www.tsunagaaru.com/tjf_docs/download/Instruction01_en.pdf)

### ***Note to Teachers***

Tsunagaaru is, in principle, a site open only to secondary school students, but TJF will provide open access for one week to teachers who contact us desiring to introduce it to their students.

A closed community feature is useful when teachers use Tsunagaaru for a class-wide research or a sister-school exchange, and want to write in their comment. Teachers who want to create a class-wide community on Tsunagaaru should contact us for details on how to proceed.

**For examination access, closed community and other queries,  
please contact us at : [tsunagaaru@tjf.or.jp](mailto:tsunagaaru@tjf.or.jp)**

The Japan Forum (TJF) <http://www.tjf.or.jp/> FAX +81-3-5981-5227 [tsunagaaru@tjf.or.jp](mailto:tsunagaaru@tjf.or.jp)

A resource website run by TJF

<http://www.tjf.or.jp/clicknippon/en/index.html>



This website provides information for both those interested in Japan and those involved in Japanese language education. There are plenty of materials that can be used for Japanese language and social studies, as well as education in international understanding. The materials are provided in Japanese, English, and Chinese, so they can be used as sources of information about Japan in those languages.

The website includes two sections:

**"Culture and People of Japan"** features Japan today. It posts the online version of the English-language newsletter Takarabako and the Chinese-language newsletter Hidamari, which TJF publishes for Japanese-language teachers in elementary and secondary schools abroad.

Each issue selects a topic that is currently popular in Japan and of interest to young readers around the world and introduces it from different perspectives, such as background, relevant history, connection in a world context, and personalities related to the topic.

In 2009, the articles covered topics such as daily life efforts to protect the environment, cell phone use, the go-tochi (local-specialties) boom, and Koshien-style competitions as a big stage for high school students.

The articles on the website are enhanced with data and photographs not included in the printed newsletters because of limited space. Currently, audio clips of the actual Japanese young people featured in the articles were also added.

**"Class Ideas for Japanese Language Study"** introduces class ideas that use articles from "Culture and People of Japan" as resources. These ideas are contributed by Japanese-language teachers and experts on Japanese-language education from various parts of the world, and are available in Japanese, English, and Chinese.

www.tsunagaaru.com

What you can do at "Tsunagaaru"  
 —"My Page" and "Community"

My Page

Each member has his/her own "My Page."



What you can do at your "My Page" 1. Introduce yourself



What you can do at your "My Page" 2. Post essays.

Feel free to write about yourself, your daily goings-on, and your thoughts!

**Essay by Kitty**

はじめまして !

こんにちは、kittyです  
日本の横浜に住んでいて、現役高校1年生です。・  
高校では英語を主に勉強してます!  
ここではいろんな人とトークをしたいと  
思っています。  
よろしくお願いします

Hi!

I am kitty.  
I am 15 years old.  
I live in Yokomaha,Japan.  
I study English almost every day.  
I want to talk something with you!  
Please give me comments



You can receive comments on your own essays from other members and write replies to these comments.

If you are studying Japanese, Korean, or Chinese, you may want to use one of these three languages to post messages on Tsunagaaru.

Of course, feel free to use English whenever you have trouble in those languages!

Using only English for your posts is fine, too!!

**Comment by Jenny**



今日は!:]  
私はジェニーです。  
同じ高校一年生です。  
今オーストラリアにすんでいます。  
学校で日本語を勉強しています。  
私と一緒にトークをしませんか?

Hello :]  
my name is Jenny.  
im in 1st grade of high school like you.  
and im living in Australia now.  
im studying japanese at shool.  
lets talk together! :)

Essay by SAM

オーストラリアの文化- ANZAC DAY

SAM



今日(4月25日)はオーストラリアとニュージーランドのANZAC DAYについてです。  
ANZAC DAYはさいじつで、第一次世界大戦にガリポリでたたかったオーストラリアとニュージーランドのへいしを思い出す日です。

ANZAC DAYにたくさんの人々は夜明けにせんそうのついでにれいはいに行きます。  
れいはいの間、みんなは2分間もくとうをしなければなりません。それをオードを言います。  
そして、ANZAC DAYパレードを見に行きます。

また、オーストラリアでANZAC DAYにフットボールのしあいがあります。でも、ある人はしんだへいしにけいいをあらわしていないともいます。

オーストラリアとニュージーランドのでんとうではANZACビスケットを作って、食べます。  
これは第一次世界大戦中にオーストラリアとニュージーランドからへいしにビスケットをおくったことから、はじまりました。  
オーストラリア人にとって、ANZAC DAYはとくべつな日です。



Today, it is Anzac Day in Australian and New Zealand.  
It is a public holiday and is in memory of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought in Gallipoli in World War.  
On Anzac day, many people go to the war memorial service at dawn.  
During the service everyone must be quite for 2 minutes and an ode is said.  
Then people go to see the Anzac day parades.  
Also, in Australia there is an Anzac day football match.  
However, some people think this is disrespectful to the soldiers.  
It is Australian and New Zealand tradition to make and eat Anzac biscuits.  
The tradition started when soldiers received biscuits from Australia and New Zealand.  
Anzac day is a special day for Australians.

You can post photographs and illustrations!

Tell everyone about your country, city, school, and everyday life.

Shioriのエッセイ

~ my school life ~

Shiori



私は学校がだいすきです♪  
do you like going to school?  
私のコースは音楽科なので、普通科とちょっと違います  
for example most of the subjects i learn at school are many kinds of music subjects such as playing the piano, music history, playing the viola, music theory, singing, an ensemble, music dictation, chorus... and others are normal subjects such as English, Japanese, old Japanese, politics and economics, PE,...  
last two years, i also learned playing, the "koto", one of the Japanese Traditional instruments.  
Do you know how its like?^^ it was fun^^  
私はたいてい朝5時すぎに起きます! 早起きは苦手なので、よく疲れてしまうけど、でも、朝、ピアノの練習をするために早く行きます  
家をたいてい6時までに出て、学校に7時までに着きます  
朝、学校に来てから練習するまでの間は、みんなで学校で朝ごはんを食べたり、しゃべったり、宿題をしたりしています  
楽しいです



Essay by ゆう

Difficult Exam

Today, I had exam.  
Todays subject are math and chemical.  
I dont like both subjects,  
so I worry my points...

Tomorrow, Im going to have  
English and Japanese!

今日はテストでした。  
今日は数学と化学！  
両方とも嫌いだから  
点数が心配ですX(

明日は現代国語と英語  
ワーク覚えないと！！  
英語は単語と...  
本文やっとな！

他の国のテストってどんな感じかなあ??  
What kind of feeling is exam in your coutry?



Comment by 甘甘 (China)



こんにちは！  
私の学校は忙しいね！  
毎週の月、火、木曜日にテストが  
あることになっています。大変な～！  
私の数学は下手ですが、いつも不合格を取ります。  
でも、また興味を持っています。  
一緒に頑張りましょう～！

Comment by Jeff



In our Country Exams are  
very difficult also.  
でも、ぼくは かがくと Math が すきです。  
そして、Basketball が だいすきです。  
よねんまえに Basketball をあそびました。  
でも、いま すいえいとすいきゅう(water polo) を  
します。ぼくは すいえいのチーム大尉。

Enjoy a wide range of interactions, from conversations about the little things that happen in your everyday life to in-depth discussions about your opinions and ideas.

Essay by Justin

みんなと同じ

みんなと同じ。大体にこの考え方は正しい。  
この考え方は色々な差別を消そうとがんばっているんです。  
でもこの考え方は正しいかどうか人によってと思います。

たとえば「五体不満足」にあしとうがありません人はあります  
オトタケヒロタダと言います。

かれは二人の先生がいてオカ先生と タカギ先生といます。  
二人はまったくぎゃくの考え方はあります。

タカギ先生は「みんなと同じ」考え方がありました。  
タカギ先生はオトタケに「できる限り のことはみんなと同じよう  
に」と言いました。  
これはちがう選択だとおもいます。

でもオカ先生はオトタケに「みんなと同じようにすることができ  
なければ、その他のことで補えばいい」といいました。  
これは正しい選択だと思います。  
タカギ先生の考え方でオトタケは周囲に引け目を感じているかも  
知りません。オカ先生の考え方でオトタケは胸を張れる。

人はけして同じじゃないです。  
でも差別を消す為にみんなと同じと考えてほしい。  
それから理想的な世界を見えるきっと。



Comment by cocco



私もオトタケさん  
のこと、して  
いますよ～\*。

これはオトタケさんの言葉では  
なかったと思いますが、【しょう  
がいは個性】という言葉聞いた  
ことがあります。

一人ひとりに個性があつてみんな  
違う。  
しょうがいもその個性の一つな  
んですね +

# Community

What you can do in "Communities":

In "Communities," you can participate in discussions of various themes with members from many different countries.

Ask members from different countries about things you want to learn more about, and answer any questions they have.

Within each "Community," discussions are conducted under specific "Topics."

Community	Osaka Lovers
osaka is big city in japan! it is my home town.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>・大阪に住んでいる人</li> <li>・大阪を知っている、知りたい人</li> <li>・大阪に来たことがある人</li> <li>・大阪が好きな人</li> </ul>	
ちょっとでも あてはまったら please join me! 写真! osaka-castle	



Ask native-speaking members for help with languages that you are studying, and answer questions others have about your own language and country.

Topic: "The Osaka Dialect":  
 Comment by Shiori

i love to say めっちゃ (meccha) .  
 it means "very"

i think its very useful word and i cant count  
 how many times i say in a day=D lol  
 and i think most of the Osaka people too =P

for example,  
 めっちゃ おいしい  
 (meccha oishii) = very delicious  
 めっちゃ かわいい  
 (meccha kawaii) = very lovely(cute,or pretty...)

めっちゃ いい  
 (meccha ii) = very good

hope you like this word too ^^

"Osaka Lovers" Community  
 Topic: "The Osaka Dialect"

By akane

みんなの好きな大阪弁は  
 なんですか？

日本の人にも  
 外国の人にも  
 大阪弁を知ってもらおう！

知ってる大阪弁を  
 書いていくのもいいよ！



"Tsunagaaru" is also useful for class research projects.

You can also create "Closed Communities" in which access is given only to designated members. Such "Communities" are ideal for sister school exchanges or other types of projects.

## Tsunagaaru Membership Registration (For Students)

1. Have an e-mail account ready.

\* If you do not already have an e-mail account, please create one before you register for Tsunagaaru. (Gmail, Hotmail, and Yahoo are some of the free e-mail services that are available on the Internet.)

2. Choose a nickname that you would like to use for yourself.

\*To guarantee your security and privacy, we suggest you use a nickname or your first name only instead of your full name.

3. Create a password (8-12 letters or numbers).

\*No one else will know your password. Keep a record of it in case you forget what it is.

4. If you would like to upload pictures onto your profile page, have them ready. (Maximum of three pictures).

\* Tsunagaaru accepts images in JPEG, GIF, or PNG formats up to 500KB.

\* Please make sure that you have cleared copyright and portrait rights of the images you wish to upload. If you do not have the copyrights to the images, please obtain permission from the copyright holder(s). If people's faces are clearly visible in the photos, you must obtain their permission to use their photos.

5. Go to <http://www.tsunagaaru.com>  
( Be careful! )

6. Click "Member Registration" in the center of the page.

Fill out the form and click on "Confirm." Once you have confirmed that the information you have provided is correct, click on "Submit."

7. Download the Agreement Form.

The following message will appear on the screen: "Next, please send the Agreement Form (be sure it is signed by you and your parent or guardian) to TJF by fax or post". Click on "Agreement Form" and print out the document. The Agreement Form can also be downloaded at [http://www.tsunagaaru.com/doc/consent\\_en.pdf](http://www.tsunagaaru.com/doc/consent_en.pdf)

8. Send your signed Agreement Form by post or fax to TJF.

**Tsunagaaru staff**

**The Japan Forum**

**3F, Otowa YK Building, 1-17-14 Otowa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0013, Japan**

**FAX + 81-3-5981-5227**

When your registration information has been confirmed, you will receive an email message from Tsunagaaru staff. Once you receive this email, you will be able to log in to Tsunagaaru.

## After logging in:

### 1. Write an essay about yourself

Without an introductory essay from you, other members are unable to leave you any comments. So once you are logged in, first write an essay about yourself.

If you do not receive any comments even after you have written essays, think of creative ways of writing them. You may want to explore topics that other members will find interesting or easy to respond to, or ask questions. You may want to upload photos or pictures that are related to what you've written. In this case, however, make sure you have cleared copyrights and portrait rights first.

### 2. Leave comments on other members' pages

If you do not receive any comments even after you have written essays, try leaving comments in response to other members' essays. Leaving comments for those who have been writing numerous essays, or those who have logged in recently may increase your chances of receiving responses right away.

Indicated on the top right hand corner of each member's page under "Last Login" is the last time that member logged into his or her account. You can use this to check whether or not that member is an active participant in Tsunagaaru.

### 3. Add members to "Favorite Members"

If you find certain members particularly interesting after reading their profiles or essays, add them to "Favorite Members" by clicking on the green "Add to Favorites" box at the top of their pages.

Once you have added someone to "Favorite Members," their new essays will automatically appear on your "My Page" whenever you log in, allowing you to avoid the hassle of searching for them.

### 4. Create a "Community"

In "Communities," you can participate in discussions of various themes of common interest along with members from many different countries. It can also be useful when you are trying to do research.

If you have any questions or problems, contact the Tsunagaaru staff at [tsunakanri@tjf.or.jp](mailto:tsunakanri@tjf.or.jp)