

Melody Flushes in Toilet (音が流れるトイレ) *oto ga nagareru toilet*



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Let me tell you what happened when I went to a restroom in a restaurant! I used a toilet and I wanted to flush it when I was done. But I couldn't find the lever! Instead, I found many buttons with explanations in Japanese, so I couldn't understand what they meant. While puzzling over which button to push, someone knocked on the door. So, I took a chance and pushed a button. Then, suddenly, water sprayed out like a fountain from the toilet. I pushed another button to stop the water, but the toilet began to play a melody instead. I panicked and pushed another button, but this time a warm breeze drifted out of the toilet! The Japanese man who was waiting for me to come out asked, "daijo bu desu ka" (Are you OK?). When I said, "suimasen, tasukete kudasai" (Sorry to bother you. Please help me), he helped me to flush the toilet. Ms. Hirayama, please help me use the toilet!

Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

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I can imagine how surprised you were! There is a Japanese proverb, which says, "Different places, different customs." There are many kinds of toilets. Recently, I had an opportunity to see a very surprising toilet. When I opened the door of the restroom, the toilet lid lifted automatically. When I stood up after I was done, the toilet flushed automatically. (I heard that a computer checks what is in the bowl, and calculates how strong a flush it needs.) Afterward, the cover closed automatically. It's getting more and more complicated to use the latest toilets, so let me explain the basic phrases you will find on them.

Some of the following **kanji** are used in instruction manuals of toilets and other electric appliances, so it will be useful for you to remember these **kanji**. You feel relaxed using a toilet if you at least remember No. ⑦ and ⑧ in squares up! Why not take this column with you when you get into toilet?

If you press either button, you can operate one of functions ③ to ⑥

- ① On **入** *iri*
- ② Off **切** *kiri*

Japanese do not want to be heard the noise they make in a restroom. So, a melody is played to hide this. This tune lasts for about 20 seconds.

- ③ melody or sound of flushing **音姫** *otohime*
- ④ Volume **音量** *onryō*

This runs automatically, but press the button if there is a pungent odor.

- ⑤ Deodorize **脱臭** *dasshū*

To heat up the toilet seat in the winter

- ⑥ heating **暖房** *danbō*

Press the stop button if you are confused about what the toilet is doing or you want to stop one of its functions.

- ⑦ Stop **止** *tomeru*

The water flushes when you press either button.

- ⑧ feces **大** *dai*
- ⑨ urine **小** *shō*

Press this button if you want to wash your buttocks. There may be a symbol for "buttocks."

- ⑩ buttocks wash **おしり洗浄** *oshiri senjō*

Water pressure

- ⑪ strong **強** *kyō*

Water pressure

- ⑫ weak **弱** *jaku*

A nozzle moves forward and backward to wash your buttocks.

- ⑬ Washing to & fro **ムーブ洗浄** *move senjō*

⑭ Bidet for women



This allows you to adjust the location that you want washed.

- ⑮ Adjusting the washing location **洗浄位置調節** *senjō ichi chōsetsu*

⑯ Warm water



If you say "bathroom," Japanese people imagine a bathtub. So, it is better to use the following words. Look for the following kanji when looking for a restroom.

「toile」 or 「otearai」 → A word for "toilet" in general. It is better for foreigners to say "toile(t)." 「keshōshitsu」 is a word that is used in a hotel or a restaurant, etc. It is better for men to say "toile(t)."

お手洗い	化粧室	女	男	女	男
otearai	keshōshitsu	onna	otoko	onna	otoko

Excuse me, but (I would like to use) the bathroom.

すいません、トイレ ... (をお借りしたいのですが) **suimasen, toile(t) ... (o okari-shitai no desu ga)**

you do not need to say this part.

When you get a checkup in a hospital or clinic, a nurse may say "ben" for feces and "nyō" for urine.



stop **止** *shi / do(me) / to(meru)*

Let's make a complete sentence below by matching the kanji above and one of the following words 1) to 7) !

- 1) prevention, check
- 2) prohibition
- 3) halt
- 4) painkiller

- 防** (bō)
- 禁** (kin)
- 停** (tē)
- 痛** (ita [mi])

- 5) keep quiet
- 6) cancellation
- 7) abolition

- 口** (kuchi)
- 中** (chū)
- 廃** (hai)

1) The accident occurred because they could not see the Stop sign. **事故の原因は** **の文字が見えなかったようです。jiko no genin wa** **no moji ga mienakatta yoo desu.** (accident) (cause) (letter) (couldn't see)

2) The baseball game was canceled because of heavy rain. **大雨で野球の試合は** **になりました。ōame de yakyū no shiai wa** **ni narimashita** (heavy rain) (baseball) (game)

3) I took a painkiller, but it was no help at all. So I decided to go to hospital. **を飲んだが全然効かないので病院に行きました。o nonda ga zenzen kikanai node byōin ni ikimashita** (took) (not at all) (hospital)

4) This railway line was shut down because it went into the red. **赤字でこの路線は** **されました。akaji de kono rosen wa** **saremashita** (the red) (line)

5) The campaign against crime prevention continues until the end of this month. **犯罪** **キャンペーンは今月末までです。hanzai** **campain wa kongetsu-matsu made desu** (crime) (end of this month)

6) I parked in a no-parking area and had to pay a fine. **駐車** **のところに止めてしまい罰金を払いました。chūsha** **no tokoro ni tometeshimai bakkin o haraimashita** (parking) (park) (pay a fine)

7) My little sister is a blabbermouth. She can't keep a secret even if you ask her not to tell anybody. **妹は おしゃべりなので** **しても すぐしゃべってしまいます。imōto wa oshaberi nanode** **shitemo sugu shabette-shimaimasu** (young sister) (chatter)

Answers

1) - 3) 停止 tēshi	2) - 6) 中止 chūshi	3) - 4) 痛み止め itamidome	4) - 7) 廃止 haishi
5) - 1) 防止 bōshi	6) - 2) 禁止 kinshi	7) - 5) 口止め kuchidome	