

# JANUARY

Vol. 9 LANGUAGE CENTER NEWSLETTER

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

At the stroke of midnight on the first of January, were you at a shrine or temple to welcome the new year? Were you perhaps at home enjoying good food with your family? Or were you at a countdown party with some friends?

How did many parts of the world celebrate the new year? One word—FIREWORKS. While they are a summer staple in Japan, fireworks have long been a part of New Year celebrations across the globe. From Australia to America, the midnight skies turn bright when the countdown ends.



Sydney, Australia Photograph: AFP/Getty

Images



Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines Photograph:

Eloisa Lopez/Reuters



San Francisco, USA Photograph: Cedric Letsch on

Unsplash

## TERRIBLE START

At 16:10 on New Year's Day, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Ishikawa Prefecture, causing extensive damage and over a hundred deaths. The following day, a Japan Coast Guard plane carrying earthquake relief collided with a Japan Airlines plane carrying 379 people. While 5 of the relief plane crew members died, all of the JAL passengers were safe. Japan just had the worst start of the year. We can all hope for brighter days ahead.



## INSPIRING QUOTES TO START THE NEW YEAR



“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.”

-Vern McLellan

“Although no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending.”

-Carl Bard

## NEW YEAR TRIVIA

**Question:** "January" gets its name from what Roman god?

*Answer: Janus, the god of beginnings, doors and gates*

**Question:** In what year was New Year's Day celebrated on January 1 for the first time in history?

*Answer: 45 B.C.*

**Question:** In Scottish traditions, who do you kiss at midnight on New Year's Eve?

*Answer: Everyone in the room*

**Question:** The Dutch believe eating what on New Year's Day will bring good luck?

*Answer: Donuts*

**Question:** In Spain, 12 of what type of food is eaten at midnight on New Year's Eve for good luck?

*Answer: Grapes*

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION (新年の抱負)

Every year, people make a promise (or a list of promises) to do something better or to stop doing something bad in the new year.

Have you made yours yet?

It's important to have them written down so you have a daily reminder of your goals this year.

Here are some common New Year resolutions:

***Eat healthier, Drink more water, Learn something new,  
Study more, Volunteer***

What are yours?



## RIDDLE TIME



The day before yesterday, Ann was 7 years old. Next year, she'll turn 10. How is this possible?

**ANSWER:** Today is January 1. Yesterday, December 31, was Ann's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. On December 30, she was still 7. This year she will turn 9, and next year, she'll turn 10.