

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

便利なリンク集	
<a href="#">Student Resources</a>	各クラスの動画・プリント
<a href="#">Let's Go Videos</a>	小学生用の動画・単語
<a href="#">Quizlet</a>	フラッシュカード
<a href="#">Oxford Owl</a>	絵本多読サイト
ID: thompsonacademy PW: english	

## Opposite Approaches

As my son considers the many university options around the world, it has been interesting to see the different application methods taken by different countries - but one thing is for certain - Japan has the most cumbersome, expensive, stress-inducing, unnecessarily competitive entrance system of perhaps any country on earth.

So what are some of the differences between Japan and Australia?

### Difference 1: University Entrance Tests

#### Australia

In Australia if you want to go to university you [register on-line](#), type in your student number, choose up to 5 programs or universities you are interested in attending, add any extra-curricular things you may have done, pay a small fee (in our case \$80) and wait. Your school results are automatically sent to the universities, who then process your application and send you your result.

- *There are no external tests.*
- *There are no interviews.*
- *There are no exorbitant application fees to pay to each university.*
- *There are no entrance fees costing thousands of dollars.*

Ahh, but doesn't that promote mediocrity? Since Japanese students that want to go to a national university or elite private university have to perform exceptionally well on the tests in basically every subject, doesn't that make them smarter than Australian students?

The short answer is no. The long answer is that in reality, standardized tests are [NOT a good measure of a student's ability](#), nor more importantly a person's *motivation, curiosity or creativity*.

In Australia, we believe [education is a human right](#) that should be available to all. It doesn't matter what high school you went to or how remote your town is. You will be given a chance to attend a good university and prove yourself.

## *Japan*

In Japan, it often seems that entering a decent university is a competition that starts well before high school. Rather than being a fundamental human right that should be available to all, universities are elitist institutions that require significant financial investment to enter (via cram schools). In Okayama, for example, if you aren't lucky enough to enter one of Okayama's 五校 (or Joto, Saidaiji), then the public education system will with high probability [not prepare you](#) to be able enter a national university, meaning your only chance to perhaps enter university is attend a private school. For an Australian it is shocking, scandalous and unbelievable that the majority of public high schools fail students so badly that very few of the students can get the chance to attend pursue tertiary education.

A lot of very talented youth are being shut out of Japan's top universities because of the university entrance system. The ultra-selective universities think they are implementing "quality control" by filtering out students with lower grades, but in reality they often find themselves burdened with students who are good at memorizing for tests, but [lacking critical thinking skills](#). Not all students learn the same, so implementing primarily only one, rigid university entrance method that favors "cram-school trained" students is elitist and the opposite of what a fair, public education should be. What results is that *very* "book-smart" high school students become mediocre university students, and everybody else isn't really given a chance to prove themselves.

## **Difference 2: The Hensachi - "Brand vs Reality"**

### *Australia*

In Australia there is no such thing as "hensachi" because - bluntly speaking from a Westerner's viewpoint - it is a creation of cram schools and an illogical yardstick by which to measure the quality of a university.

### *Japan*

The "hensachi" system [is a uniquely east-Asian phenomenon](#). Basically Japan ranks universities by how hard they are to enter - the logic being that everyone attending the university has passed a demanding entrance exam and must therefore become great university students. As mentioned above, the reality is quite different, since good results on tests are only one measure of a person's potential. Furthermore this system is prone to abuse by universities which artificially inflate their hensachi score by increasing [指定校推薦](#) and [内部進学](#) and limiting the amount of external students that can apply. All the major private universities do this, and as this report shows, [on average about half](#) the students at private universities are riding the escalator from high school or recommendations from schools. *A high hensachi does not necessarily mean a university is academically superior to another university with a lower hensachi.*

In Japan it seems however, that people are judged by what university they entered and HOW they entered it. What they actually studied or achieved at university is often irrelevant.

### **Difference 3: "Elite" Versus "Elitist"**

#### *Australia*

Australian universities (and in other countries) don't rank themselves by how hard they are to enter. They are ranked using generally accepted world standards such as QS University Rankings. Ranks are determined by a [number of factors](#) including academic reputation, research output, citations, faculty/student ratio, graduate outcomes to name just a few.

#### *Japan*

Japanese often dismiss world rankings as [meaningless or flawed](#) when the results of Japanese universities are poor, but are [only too happy to accept them](#) when they perform well. Because Japanese universities generally rank poorly in world rankings, Japan decides to ignore what is happening in the rest of the world and rely on the aforementioned "hensachi" to rank universities instead.

Let's compare the Japanese and Australian universities in the 2024 QS University Rankings.

#### **Top 100 Universities (QS)**

- 14 位 : University of Melbourne
- 19 位 : University of Sydney
- 19 位 : University of New South Wales
- 28 位 : 東京大学
- 34 位 : Australian National University
- 42 位 : Monash University
- 43 位 : University of Queensland
- 46 位 : 京都大学
- 72 位 : University of Western Australia
- 80 位 : 大阪大学
- 89 位 : University of Adelaide
- 90 位 : University of Technology, Sydney
- 91 位 : 東京工業大学

For a country with 783 universities, only 4 ranking in the top 100 is nothing short of a terrible result. There are many reasons for this including the [cutting of research funding](#) which led to a drastic decline in research output, and yes - lack of English skills.

The global reputation of Japanese universities and the amount and quality of research they produce does NOT require such difficult entrance procedures. There seems to be no correlation to the difficulty of entrance to the quality of output. Australian universities - which are arguably easier to enter - consistently and emphatically outperform the vast majority of Japanese universities. Put simply,

Australian universities are elite. Japanese are elitist.

My purpose is not to belittle the quality of Japanese universities, but to point out that *excessive competition to enter university does not necessarily equal a better quality of education compared to universities that are less selective*. It's fair to say that the four Japanese universities ranked in the top 100 are extremely difficult to enter. However Australian universities consistently outperform them. Why?

I believe it's because Australian universities are willing to give young people a chance to develop their talents, even if they didn't get the highest grades in high school. Like Australia, *I think we should give Japanese kids more chances to shine*, instead of making the process of entering university as difficult and as expensive as possible - inevitable leaving out a large number of youth who, given the chance, could have pursued their dreams of studying something they are truly passionate about.

# Animals

[ここで発音を確認!](#)

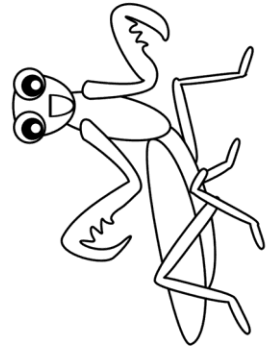


## Vocabulary 単語

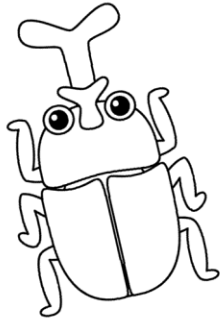
<b>Kangaroo</b>	• Dog いぬ • Pig ぶた	• Cat ねこ
<b>Koala / Step 1</b>	• Monkey もんきー • Rabbit うさぎ • Sheep ひつじ • Horse うま	• Lion らいおん • Bear くま • Cow うし • Roly poly だんご虫
<b>Step 2</b>	• Bee はち • Spider くも • Ladybug てんとうむし	• Butterfly ちょう • Ant あり
<b>Step 3</b>	• Dragonfly トンボ • Grasshopper バッタ	• Beetle かぶと虫/くわがた虫 • Praying Mantis かまきり

## Animal Noises 動物の鳴き声

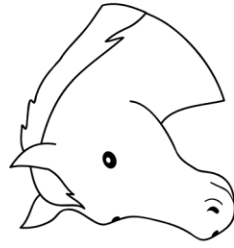
Dog	Woof woof
Cat	Meow
Frog	Ribbit, ribbit
Cow	Moo moo
Sheep	Baa baa
Horse	Neigh
Pig	Oink oink



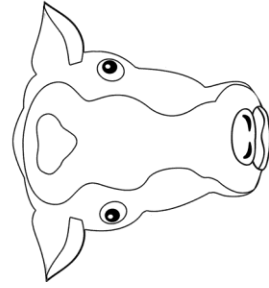
Praying Mantis



Beetle



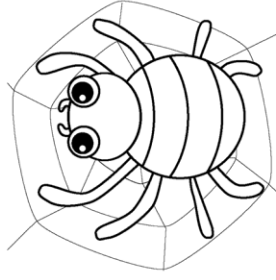
Horse



Cow



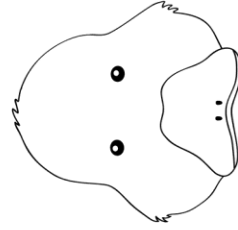
Grasshopper



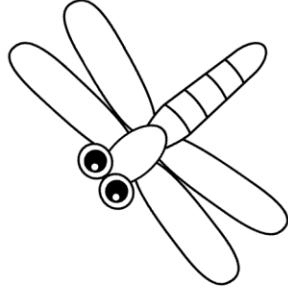
Spider



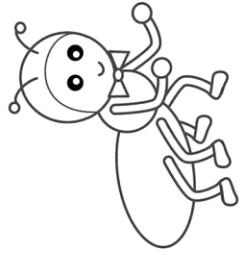
Sheep



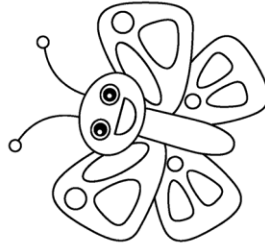
Duck



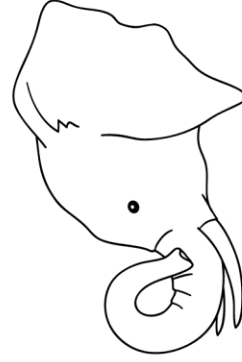
Dragonfly



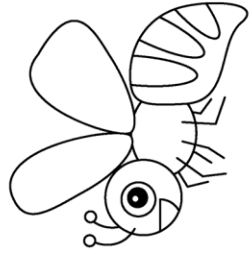
Ant



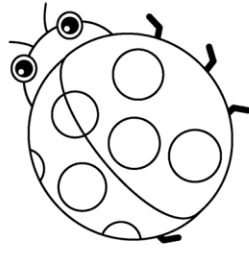
Butterfly



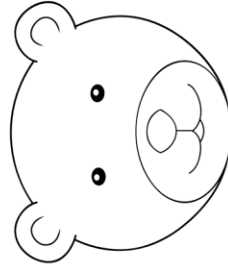
Elephant



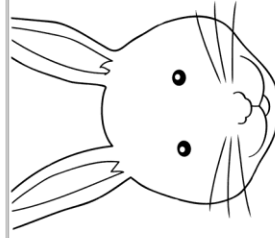
Bee



Ladybug



Bear



Rabbit

# 6月の手遊び

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## Mummy and Me, Step 1

### One and One Makes a Mountain

One and one, makes a mountain

Two and two, makes a crab

Three and three, makes a cat

Four and four, makes a jellyfish

Five and five, makes a butterfly

## Step 2-3

### Twinkle Twinkle Little Star [動画はこちら](#)

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

How I wonder what you are

Up above the world so high

Like a diamond in the sky

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

How I wonder what you are

# 6月の歌

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## Mummy and Me 1 Kangaroo

### Come on Let's Jump [動画はこちら](#)

Come on let's jump.

It's fun to do.

Like a Kangaroo!

Come on let's jump.

It's fun to do.

Like a Kangaroo!

## Mummy and Me 2 Koala

### Hop Rabbit

Hop, father rabbit hop. Hop hop hop

Father rabbit hop. Hop hop hop

Hippety hoppety, hippety hoppety...

Hop, mother rabbit hop. Hop hop hop

Mother rabbit hop. Hop hop

Hippety hoppety, hippety hoppety...

Hop, baby rabbit hop. Hop hop hop

Baby rabbit hop. Hop hop hop

Hippety hoppety, hippety hoppety...

## Preschool Step 1

### Rain Rain Go Away [動画はこちら](#)

Rain, Rain.

Go away.

Come again another day.

DADDY wants to play.

Rain, rain, go away.

1. Daddy    2. Mummy    3. Brother    4. Sister    5. Baby    6. All the family



## Preschool Step 2

### One Little Finger [動画はこちら](#)

One little finger, one little finger, one little finger.

Tap tap tap.

Point your finger up.

Point your finger down.

Put it on your head. Head!

1. Head    2. Nose    3. Chin    4. Arm    5. Leg    6. Foot

## Preschool Step 3

### Old MacDonald had a Farm [動画はこちら](#)

Old McDonald had a farm. E-I-E-I-O. (Pretend like you are a farmer holding on to your overall straps.)

And on that farm he had a COW. E-I-E-I-O. (Make a cow gesture.)

What does a COW say?

1. Cow            2. Horse            3. Pig  
4. Sheep        5. Duck            6. Rooster

## Elementary 低学年

### Do you like broccoli ice-cream? [動画はこちら](#)

Do you like broccoli (1)?        Yes, I do!

Do you like ice cream (2)?        Yes, I do!

Do you like brocolli ice cream (1 + 2)?    No, I don't. Yucky!

1. Broccoli            2. Ice-cream  
Donuts                Juice  
Popcorn                Pizza  
Banana                 Soup