

Rate the following types of information between 1 and 4 based on how often you might include the information in a 自己紹介 (1=seldom; 2=sometimes 3=often; 4 always):

between Japanese people      between western people

last name

first name

学部 / 学科

club, team, or circle

age / school year

hobbies and interests

name of zemi teacher

### Group-based Culture

- In a group-based culture, people tend to:
  - consider themselves to be \_\_\_\_\_ of several groups
  - value the \_\_\_\_\_ more than the \_\_\_\_\_
- Examples from Japanese culture:
  - self-introduction: group before the name
  - saying greetings to other parents of the same school group
  - 「出る杭は打たれる」
  - 指定校
- Impact on communication in group-based culture:
  - feelings of group are more important than feelings of individual
  - decisions are made by asking everyone for an opinion
  - solutions that everyone agrees with are sought after
  - people avoid expressing disagreement and personal opinion
  - high context communication is used more

### Individual-based culture

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### Group-based Culture around the World

Culture <sup>o</sup>	Group-based Culture Index Score <sup>o</sup>
United States <sup>o</sup>	9 <sup>o</sup>
Canada <sup>o</sup>	20 <sup>o</sup>
New Zealand <sup>o</sup>	22 <sup>o</sup>
Italy <sup>o</sup>	24 <sup>o</sup>
France <sup>o</sup>	29 <sup>o</sup>
Finland <sup>o</sup>	37 <sup>o</sup>
Israel <sup>o</sup>	46 <sup>o</sup>
India <sup>o</sup>	52 <sup>o</sup>
Japan <sup>o</sup>	54 <sup>o</sup>
Arab countries <sup>o</sup>	62 <sup>o</sup>
Philippines <sup>o</sup>	68 <sup>o</sup>
Thailand <sup>o</sup>	80 <sup>o</sup>
Korea <sup>o</sup>	82 <sup>o</sup>
Taiwan <sup>o</sup>	83 <sup>o</sup>
Indonesia <sup>o</sup>	86 <sup>o</sup>

(higher score = more important)

### Group-based Culture and Pronouns

- pronoun = \_\_\_\_\_; omission = \_\_\_\_\_
- many languages of the world allow pronoun omission
- What is the relationship between Pronoun Omission and Group-Based Culture? \_\_\_\_\_

Language	Pronoun Omission?	Group-based Culture Index Score
Arabic (Egypt)	yes	62
English (United States)	no	9
Finnish (Finland)	no	37
French (France)	no	29
German (Germany)	no	33
Greek (Greece)	yes	65
Japanese (Japan)	yes	54
Kikuyu (Kenya)	yes	73
Korean (South Korea)	yes	82
Mandarin (Taiwan)	yes	83

- What is the difference between 「私は食べた」 and 「はい、食べた」?

### Practice Question

Read the following and then answer the essay question.

The JET programme (語学指導等を行う外国青年招致事業) recruits young university graduates to work in Japan as English teachers in public schools. Many of these teachers do not have an understanding of Japanese society, and so they experience culture shock and cultural miscommunication. One example of cultural miscommunication is attendance at the school. The issue is days when classes are cancelled. There are many events throughout the school year such as

運動会 and 文化祭. Classes are cancelled for several days before these events so that students can prepare and practice. During this time, although classes are cancelled, JET teachers are still expected to come to the school even though there is no work for them to do. Many JET teachers are angry that they must waste a day doing nothing at the school.

Write an essay explaining the problem. Begin by introducing Hidden Culture. Then introduce Group-Based Culture as an example of Hidden Culture. Explain in your own words what Group-based Culture is. Contrast Japan with the West with regards to Group-Based Culture. Next, write this transition sentence: "These differences in culture often lead to difficulties for Westerners living in Japan." Next give an example of such a problem from the story. Explain what is expected from a Japanese point of view. Finally, conclude with what you think should be done in this situation (by either the Japanese staff at the school, the westerners, or both).

Note: In western culture, it is not unusual to go home early if there is no work to do. However, Japan culture is very different. For example, company workers are expected to stay at work until their boss goes home, even if there is no more work to do. This is an expression of group solidarity (集団の団結心).

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