

# Mascot Characters for Towns

## Introduction and Retelling



- ① many Japanese towns
- ② mascot characters



- ① Hikonyan, Hikone City
- ② red helmet, Hikone Castle

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- ① Unarikun, Narita City
- ② eel dishes, airport



- ① see a mascot character
- ② become interested in its hometown

## Words

mascot /mæskɑ:t/  
 especially /ɪspɛʃəli/  
 eel /i:l/  
 helmet /hélmət/  
 proud /praʊd/

## Expressions

I.4  
 be famous for ~  
 I.11  
 be proud of ~  
 I.16  
 What is ~ like?

## Comprehension Questions

- Q1** Where is Unarikun from?  
 He is from Narita [ Airport, City, dishes ].
- Q2** What does Hikonyan have on his head?  
 He has a [ bell, castle, helmet ] on it.
- Q3** What can people learn about through a mascot character?  
 They can learn a lot about the mascot's [ hometown, interests, life ].



Let's Listen



Many Japanese towns have their own mascot characters. Two of them are here today in our class. They're going to talk about their hometowns.

"Hello! I'm Unarikun. I come from Narita City. Narita is especially famous for two things: its eel dishes and its airport. The eel dishes are delicious. From the airport, you can travel to many different countries. I hope many of you will visit Narita."

"Hi, everyone! I'm Hikonyan. If you like traditional culture and history, you should visit Hikone City. Look at my red helmet. A long time ago, this kind of helmet was worn by samurai. People of Hikone are proud of the helmets. They are proud of Hikone Castle, too. I hope many of you will visit our city."

When you see a mascot character, you may become interested in its hometown. In fact, you can learn a lot about a town through its mascot character. Does your hometown have a mascot character? What is it like?

## Final Task

- 1 Find one mascot character on the Internet and write about it in English. (With two sentences or more.)

### Sample

Unarikun is from Narita City. The city is famous for its eel dishes and its airport. So, Unarikun looks like an eel and an airplane.

- 2 Choose some good points of your town.

My town has ...

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> delicious local foods.   | <input type="checkbox"/> an interesting festival.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a famous zoo or museum.  | <input type="checkbox"/> a beautiful mountain or the sea. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an interesting building. | <input type="checkbox"/> a place for film or drama.       |

- 3 Use good points about your town to create a new mascot. Write about it in English.