

Oral Introduction

Chapter 3 Wrapping in Japan

Do you like receiving gifts? Do you like giving other people presents? How often do you and your family give gifts? When you give someone a gift, how do you wrap it? Some Japanese people say that the wrapping is very important. The wrapping should be chosen wisely because it is part of the gift itself. In contrast, people from other cultures think the gift inside is the most important. The wrapping simply shows that there is a gift inside. Can the wrapping show the gift giver's feelings? Can the wrapping make a difference in the receiver's reaction? What do you think?

Part 1 (p. 31)

When you hear the word, *tsutsumu* how many related words can you think of? How is the word, mother, related to *tsutsumu*? Here is a hint: *kanji* characters can sometimes give information about word meanings. What do you know about how Japanese people wrapped gifts hundreds of years ago?

Chapter 全体, Part ごとの 2 種類を
用意しました。音声は学校用音声 CD
に収録されています。

Part 2 (pp. 20-21)

It is said that Japan learned about papermaking from China about 600 years ago. Are you surprised? Do you know how paper is made? Do you know how washi, paper, washi, is made? Is washi made from a tree? What kind of washi have you seen or used?

Part 3 (p. 22)

Why is the word, bath, (*furo*) part of the word, *furoshiki*? Can you explain? If you do not know, can you make a guess? Do you have a *furoshiki*? Have you ever used one? How did you use it? Do you like using the *furoshiki*? Are there any advantages of using a *furoshiki*?

Part 4 (p. 23)

Washi and *furoshiki* are thought to be part of Japanese traditional ways. Some people think they are old-fashioned. However, other people think they should be used more often in today's modern world. They think these can be very stylish. What do you think? Why do some people think they are eco-friendly and can help protect our environment? Do you think they will become more popular?