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Lesson 1 Anime Pilgrimages

Listening

Television anime programs are very popular around the world. So, anime fans are everywhere. They want to visit places where stories were set. However, they can cause problems. Sometimes, anime fan behavior annoys local people. It is important that anime fans and local people understand each other.

Part 1 Oral Introduction

There are many television anime programs in Japan. For example, *Lucky Star* and *The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya*. Have you seen them on TV? Many fans visit places where the stories are set. These places are called “holy” places. And the visits to such sites are called “Anime Pilgrimages.”

Part 2 Oral Introduction

Washinomiya Shrine is an example of a “holy” place. A shrine in one anime was modeled on it. Soon fans noticed this. After the anime was broadcast, the number of visitors to the shrine increased. It remained at high levels for several years. The effect on the local economy has been very big.

Part 3 Oral Introduction

Many anime fans visit “holy” places to buy souvenirs and to take photos. It is good for the local economy. However, there are some problems. Some fans do not respect local customs and lifestyles, and their behavior annoys local people sometimes. It is important for anime fans to communicate with the local people.

Part 4 Oral Introduction

Now we know that “Anime Pilgrims” can cause problems. However, they have great potential. They usually become fans of the local area. So they play an important role in promoting regional development in Japan.