



White Day: Payback Time

Listening Questions 1:

1. What happens on Valentine's Day in the US?
2. What happens on Valentine's Day in Japan?
3. What organization created White Day?
4. Other than Japan, where is White Day celebrated?

Listening Questions 2:

1. In Japan, what are the 2 types of gifts related to Valentine's Day and White Day called?
2. In Japan, what do department stores typically have in the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day and White Day?
3. When is Black Day?
4. Who celebrates Black Day?

Transcript 1:

In early February every year in the US, it is common to see men and women rushing to find a Valentine's Day gift for their significant other. February 14th is a popular occasion for gift giving, particularly for romantic reasons. It is also common for couples to go on a date that night.

This is quite different from the Valentine's Day custom in Japan, where women give men gifts and not vice versa. Typically, the gifts are some kind of chocolate treat and women give them not only to romantic partners. They also give them to male family members, co-workers, and classmates.

One month later, on March 14th, men are expected to give a gift in return to any woman who gave them a gift on Valentine's Day. That day is called White Day and it was created in the late 70s by the National Confectionery Industry Association in Japan. Typical gifts on White Day include candy, cookies, and chocolate. Flowers, jewelry, and clothing are more special gifts for men who are returning a gift from romantic partners.

White Day is also celebrated in South Korea, China, and Taiwan.



Transcript 2:

In Japan, the main types of gifts given on Valentine's Day and White Day are 'honmei-choco' and 'giri-choco'. Honmei-choco are gifts for romantic partners and giri-choco are gifts that people feel obligated to give to people such as co-workers, classmates, and friends.

If you live in Japan, there is not much danger of forgetting about either day as department stores, supermarkets, and convenience stores typically have large displays promoting products that would make good gifts in the weeks leading up to each day.

In South Korea, in addition to Valentine's Day and White Day, there is a Black Day on April 14th, which is a day for single people who did not receive any gifts on either of the previous days. On Black Day, it is common for those people to go out to eat jajangmyeon, a Chinese-style noodle dish that is served with a thick sauce made from a black soybean paste.