

The 7 Steps - August



1. CONTEXT

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.

Employment Trends in Japan (Part 2)

2. QUESTIONS

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

Listening Questions 1

1. What is "Keidanren" called in English?
_____.
2. What are two of the guidelines Keidanren cover?
_____.
3. Roughly how many companies are Keidanren members?
_____.
4. Who will be affected by the changes and when will they be graduating?
_____.
5. What concerns have universities raised?
_____.

Listening Questions 2

1. What is one reason driving the changes to Keidanren's policy?
_____.
2. What have more and more companies been doing recently?
_____.
3. What percentage of university students who graduated in 2019 found a job?
_____.
4. In 2018 what was the employment rate for 15-24-year-olds and how does it compare to the G7 average?
_____.
5. Is Japan's working age population higher or lower than the G7 average?
_____.

3. LISTEN

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

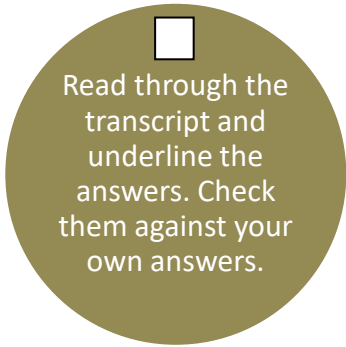
Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

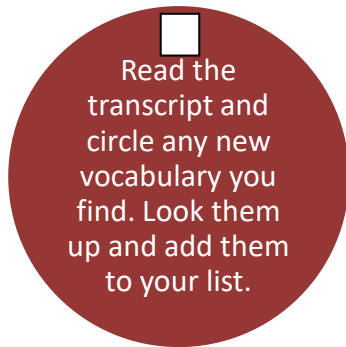
Discussion Questions

1. What do you remember about your job hunting experience? What was challenging and what surprised you?
2. What should Japanese companies do to remain competitive in a global economy when it comes to hiring new graduates?

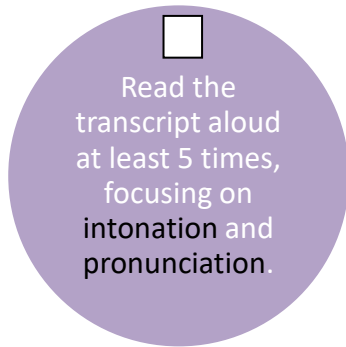
4. CHECK ANSWERS



5. CHECK VOCABULARY

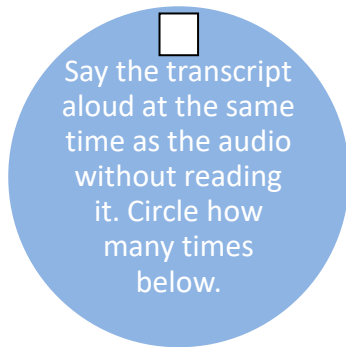


6. READ ALOUD



1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

7. SHADOWING



1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

TRANSCRIPT 1

The way companies in Japan recruit university students is set to undergo a significant change. In 2018, Keidanren – also known as the Japan Business Federation – announced they would be **doing away with** the guidelines that many companies have been following for years. These guidelines have determined the schedule member companies **observe** for such things as recruitment information seminars, conducting job interviews, and making job offers. In Japan, the majority of university graduates start their careers in April, but this may be about to change.

Keidanren is a business association incorporating over 1,400 member companies, including recently joined Facebook, Asahi and Amazon. Keidanren has met with representatives from a number of universities to discuss transitioning to a more **flexible** and inclusive system for recruiting university students. The changes would make the hiring process more open and create more opportunities for both employers and future employees.

The changes could make year-round recruiting possible and would affect young people who will graduate in 2021. Universities have **voiced** concerns that the changes could potentially have a negative impact on students' studies as they may feel the need to shift more time from their academic commitments to job hunting.

MATCH THE ANTONYMS BY DRAWING LINES BELOW:

Do away with	Rigid
Observe	Keep
Flexible	Weak / Sluggish
Voice	Ignore
Be in good shape	Keep secret

TRANSCRIPT 2

These changes appear to be an attempt to respond to a changing job market, in part driven by global forces, as well as non-member companies that don't follow Keidanren's guidelines. In December 2018, Reuters reported that more companies, especially Japanese IT and e-commerce businesses, are taking a different approach to recruiting, including when employees are hired and how much they earn.

When it comes to young people finding jobs, the data suggest that Japan is **in good shape**. For university students in the 2019 graduating class, close to 98% of them found employment.

According to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) data, in 2018, the employment rate in Japan for the 15-24 year-old age group was 46% compared to just over 85% for the people aged 25-54 and roughly 75% for 55-64 year-olds. The G7 average for the same age brackets was approximately 43%, 81% and 63% respectively. When it comes to the entire working age population among G7 countries in 2018, just under 77% of Japan's workers were employed compared to the G7 average of almost 71%.