

The 7 Steps -
March



1. CONTEXT



White Day

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

2. QUESTIONS

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

Listening Questions 1

1. What happens on Valentine's Day in North America?
_____.
2. How is Valentine's Day different in Japan?
_____.
3. When was White Day created?
_____.
4. Where was the company that created White Day located?
_____.
5. Other than Japan, where is White Day celebrated?
_____.

Listening Questions 2

1. What are two types of gifts related to Valentine's Day and White Day called in Japan?
_____.
2. Which of the two gifts would a woman give her brother?
_____.
3. In Japan, what do stores typically have in the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day and White Day?
_____.
4. When is Black Day and where is it celebrated?
_____.
5. By how much did White Day spending in Japan fall in 2018?
_____.

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 are some other unique and important dates in the Japanese calendar?
2. Do you think these events are overly commercialized these days?

4. CHECK ANSWERS

□

Read through the transcript and underline the answers. Check them against your own answers.

5. CHECK VOCABULARY

□

Read the transcript and circle any new vocabulary you find. Look them up and add them to your list.

6. READ ALOUD

□

Read the transcript aloud at least 5 times, focusing on intonation and pronunciation.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

7. SHADOWING

□

Say the transcript aloud at the same time as the audio without reading it. Circle how many times below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

TRANSCRIPT 1

In early February every year in North America, 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, and 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 **typically** give men gifts and not **vice versa**. Usually the gifts are some kind of chocolate treat and women give them not only to their romantic partners, but also 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 according to a Forbes article, it was created by a confectionary company in Fukuoka Prefecture in the 1970s. Some of the most common 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. Another country that celebrates White Day is South Korea.

MATCH THE SYNONYMS BY DRAWING LINES BELOW:

Significant other	Compelled
Typically	Hurry
Vice versa	Epecially
Particularly	Usually
Obligated	Partner / Wife / Husband
Rush	The other way around

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 while 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 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. On Black Day, it is common for singles to eat a Chinese-style noodle dish served with a thick sauce made from black bean paste.

White Day has been an important date on the calendar for several decades now, but recent reports suggest that perhaps it is becoming less popular. In a 2019 article, BBC reported that White Day spending dropped 10% in Japan in 2018 compared to the previous year.