



# Activities


## Let's learn and create onomatopoeia!\*

Purpose: To imagine scenes evoked by Japanese onomatopoeic words and understand their meaning.

1. Examine the onomatopoeic words related to rain below. What characteristics of rain do you think they express? Link the word to the appropriate picture.

ぼつぼつ *Potsu-potsu* . 

しとしと *Shito-shito* . 

ザーザー *Zā-zā* . 

2. What other onomatopoeic words could we use? Try imagining various natural phenomena and creating onomatopoeia to describe them.

### Answers

ぼつぼつ: the dripping sound and appearance of scattered drops of rain falling, such as when it begins to rain.  
 しとしと: sound of the long, steady rains that fall all day; continuous, fine precipitation almost without sound. A cloaking, enveloping quiet rain.  
 ザーザー: Rain that beats down with a fierce pounding sound. Downpour.

\*The naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (as buzz, hiss).

## Weather report

Purpose: To enable students to understand features of their local climate and talk about them in Japanese.

Using the weather symbols below, describe the climate of your area, or use them to describe an event or feeling associated with a certain kind of weather.

### Sample sentences:

今日ははれです。とだちとサッカーをします。うれしいです。  
 今日（きょう）もはれです。毎日（まいにち）とてもあついです。つかれます。いやです。  
 今日ははれとときどき雨（あめ）です。かさをもっていきます。  
 今日（きょう）はかみなりです。大きな音がします。こわいです。



## Simulation

Purpose: To make students aware of the way climate influences people's lives.

What would you do in the following situations:

\* Times when you want it to be good weather tomorrow

\* When it suddenly begins to rain

\* When you want to know what the weather will be the following day

## Q & A

1. Study the diagram on page 1 and answer the questions.

(1) In each city, during what month of the year is precipitation highest? What month is it lowest?

	雨や雪がおおい月 Month of highest precipitation	雨や雪がすくない月 Month of lowest precipitation
とうきょう	_____	_____
さっぽろ	_____	_____
シドニー	_____	_____
サンフランシスコ	_____	_____
ロンドン	_____	_____
カイロ	_____	_____
シンガポール	_____	_____
あなたのまち	_____	_____

(2) In Tokyo, it rains a great deal in June. どうしてですか。 Why is that? (see page 2).

2. Answer the following questions:

- (1) What kind of umbrella do you use most often, a large umbrella or a folding umbrella? Why do you think folding umbrellas are used so often in Japan?
- (2) What is a common color of umbrellas and raincoats for small children in Japan? What do you think is the reason for that?
- (3) List some of the words used to express rain in English. List words used to describe other kinds of weather.
- (4) List the names of some products/items of daily use that are related to the particular climate of your country or region. Why are such items used so often?
- (5) Explain some of the customs related to the weather that are part of your daily life. What kind of customs are they? When are they practiced? Where? What do you think the reasons are for such customs?