

Part 3 Activities around onomatopoeias

It is said that there are hundreds of onomatopoeias in Japanese. Onomatopoeias help the listener or reader imagine the details of situations you describe. Also, onomatopoeias give rhythmic sense to the sentences you utter so they are easier on the ear of the listener. In manga, of course, they appear often. Students may be familiar with Pikachu from the Pokémon franchise. The name “Pikachu” consists of two onomatopoeias: ピカッ (flash of light) and チュー (squeaky noise that a mouse makes).

Activity A

Watch the “Onomatopoeia Song” video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5fXKOd2qNw>

What kind of onomatopoeias were in the song? Which ones did you like? What are their meanings? Discuss with your classmates.



Here is a list of the onomatopoeias used in the song. Match the Japanese to its English meaning.

しとしと		Smiling
ぽろぽろ		Fizzy drink bubbling up
チクタク		Raining softly
コツコツ		Sleeping soundly
シュワシュワ		Eating with good appetite
ニコニコ		A clock's ticking sound
クルクル		Turning again and again
ぱくぱく		Tears rolling down the cheek
ぐーぐー		High-heeled shoes on the floor

Activity B

Watch the video explaining onomatopoeias and try answering the quizzes in the video.

オノマトペ【Japanese Onomatopoeia】#24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1z4dq72x83I>

Share what you learned from this video with your group.



Activity C

Match the English onomatopoeias to their Japanese equivalent.

bow-wow		ピカピカ
meow		バン
clap		ワンワン
bang		さらさら
bling-bling		パチパチ
murmur		ニャーニャー

Activity D

Make a list of onomatopoeias for laughter in your language.

Make a list of popular onomatopoeias in your language. When are they used? What kinds of effects do you think they have? Discuss in your group.

Websites related to onomatopoeias

- Japanese Onomatopoeia: Laughter/オノマトペ！笑う！ニコニコ？ヘラヘラ？
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ladhSwONfrk>
- 感情を言葉で表現してみよう！感情別【オノマトペ（擬態語）】一覧
<https://karens8.com/emotions-onomatopoeia/#toc3>
- 4500 種類のオノマトペで文章を装飾する 3 つの技術
<https://xn--3kq3hlnz13dlw7bzic.jp/onomatopoeia/#2>
- 76 Must-Know Japanese Onomatopoeia Words
<https://www.japanesepod101.com/japanese-onomatopoeia/>