

Discussion Vocabulary

¹ **consider** = think about carefully

² **into** = interested in

³ **computer geek** = a person who is obsessed with computers

⁴ **tech-savvy** = good at using technology



Discussion Questions *Think about what you'll say in English. Write some notes for your ideas.*

Notes

- Do you **consider**¹ the word "otaku" to be a positive word or negative word?
Why do you think so?
- Do you like to read *manga*, books or magazines? What kind?
- Do you like to watch *anime*, movies or TV **dramas***? Which ones?
- What do you like to do in your free time?
- What kind of music are you **into**²? Are you a fan of any idol group?
- Have you ever been to a concert? If no, whose would you like to go to?
- Do you have a favorite sports team or **athlete***?
If so, why do you like them/him/her?
- What do you think of maid cafés? Have you ever been to a **theme***
restaurant or theme café? (i.e. ninja restaurant, cat café)
- Would you consider yourself to be a **computer geek**³? Do you think you're
very **tech-savvy**⁴?
- What do you think of *cosplay*? Have you ever done *cosplay* yourself?

Pronunciation Practice

dramas* athlete* theme*

What's Wrong? *Correct these sentences.*

1. **X** I became to like *manga* when I was in junior high school.
2. **X** What do you like sports?
3. **X** On Saturday, I will go to a heavy metal live. I love loud music!



Discussion Question Responses

1. *Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words. Check your answers with a classmate.*
2. *Practice reading the discussion questions and the example responses below with a classmate.*
3. *Use the discussion questions as conversation starters. Take brief notes of your partner's answers. Try to give long answers, make comments, have reactions, and ask follow-up questions.*

costume	games	interested	someday	used
fan	Hollywood	riding	technology	waitresses

Partner's Name
()
Notes

1. I think that the word () to be negative, but not so much these days.
2. I prefer to read novels. I usually read while () the train.
3. I like watching movies, especially () action movies.
4. In my free time I like to play () or read *manga*.
5. I like to listen to heavy metal. I'm not () in idol groups so much.
6. I have never been to a concert. I'd like to go to a big summer concert ().
7. My favorite baseball team is the Hanshin Tigers. I grew up in Osaka, so of course, I'm a Tiger's ().
8. I went to a maid café once. The () were very cute, but it was very expensive.
9. I don't consider myself to be a computer geek, but I am pretty good with using ().
10. *Cosplay* might be fun, but I've never done it. I only dress up in a () on Halloween.



A Japanese university student is talking about his weekend plans with an exchange student from America.

Zoe: Hey, Takuya. What's going on?

Takuya: Oh, hi Zoe! I was just checking on the **overnight bus**⁵ schedule.

Z: Oh, are you going on a trip?

T: Yeah, I'm traveling to Tokyo this weekend.

Z: Uh-huh. What are you going to do in Tokyo?

T: Actually, I have a few things planned. First, I'm going to a handshake event on Friday in Akihabara.

Z: A handshake event? What's that?

T: It's an event where you get to shake hands and talk to Japanese idols.

Z: Oh, like pop stars? That's cool. Who are you going to shake hands with?

T: My favorite idol group, The Shibuya Sisters!

Z: The Shibuya Sisters! Oh, yeah, I like them. I love their song, "Shibuya Shake Down".

T: That's my favorite, too.

Z: What **else**⁶ are you going to do?

T: Well, on Saturday, I'm going to a *manga* and *cosplay* convention at Tokyo Big Site.

Z: Tokyo Big Site?

T: It's a **huge**⁷ convention hall.

Z: I see. So, are you into *cosplay*? Are you going to **dress up**⁸?

T: I love *manga*, but I'm not so into *cosplay*. I'll take a lot of pictures, though. It's really fun. Some of the people have **awesome**⁹ costumes.

Z: That sounds like an amazing weekend!

T: That's not all. There's a gaming convention as well. I'll go to that on Sunday.

Z: **Are you kidding me?**¹⁰ First, you're going to meet and shake hands with your favorite pop stars, then you're going to a *manga* and *cosplay* event, and then you're going to a gaming convention! How is that possible?

T: Easy. I'm a super *otaku*! (ha ha)

Z: (ha ha) Super *otaku*? What do you mean?

T: I think in English you might say **nerd**¹¹ or geek. But in Japanese we say, *otaku*. Some people have a negative image of us, but I don't. I think it's ok.

Z: So, if you are really into *anime*, you're an *anime otaku*?

T: Yeah, that's right. You'd be an "*ani-ota*".

Z: "*Ani-ota*" ... *anime otaku*, I see. Just like "*cosplay*" is short for costume and play!

T: **Yep**¹². **You got it!**¹³

Main Text Vocabulary

⁵ **overnight bus** = a type of bus service that typically departs late at night and arrives early the next morning

⁶ **else** = other (things)

⁷ **huge** = very large

⁸ **dress up** = wear special clothes, e.g., evening gown, tuxedo, costume

⁹ **awesome** = amazing, wonderful

¹⁰ **Are you kidding me?** = Are you joking? Are you serious?

¹¹ **nerd** = typically a person who is obsessed with studying

¹² **Yep** = casual form of "yes"

¹³ **You got it!** = That's right!

Main Text Questions

1. What is Takuya planning to do on Friday?

- drive to Tokyo
- sing his favorite song, "Shibuya Shake Down"
- shake hands with members of the idol group, The Shibuya Sisters
- attend a convention

2. Is Takuya planning to dress up in a costume at the *manga* and *cosplay* convention?

- No, he isn't. He will take pictures, though.
- Unfortunately, he can't. His costume is too huge to fit on the bus.
- Yes, he is. He will also take a lot of pictures.
- Yes, he is. He will dress up as one of The Shibuya Sisters.

3. What will Takuya do on Sunday?

- play a game called, Super *Otaku*
- take pictures of people at the *manga* and *cosplay* convention
- watch an *anime* about The Shibuya Sisters
- attend a gaming convention

4. What English words are closest in meaning to, "*otaku*"?

- a pop star
- a nerd or geek
- a negative image
- an animator



Further Discussion

Group Members:

Work with a group. Talk about the following questions. Take notes for yourself and the other members.

#1 Do you spend a lot of time or money on your hobbies or interests?
Can you give us some examples or details?

Notes:

#2 What would be an ideal weekend for you? What would you do? Who would you be with?

Notes:

#3 If you had a choice to go to a maid café, zombie restaurant or cat café, which would you choose and why?

Notes:

Writing

Choose one of the questions below. Write 100 to 150 words. Write on pages 000 to 000.

- Do you have a favorite *anime* or *manga*? Can you tell us about the story? Why is it interesting to you?
- Who is one of your favorite singers? Why do you like him/her so much? What is special about him/her?
- What are some good points about having a hobby or special interest? Can you tell us how they are beneficial?