

some facts about japan

Traditionally, Japanese was written vertically in columns starting from the right and moving to the left of the page. However, in the 20th century horizontal writing was introduced and today, both systems are used. In Japanese newspapers, magazines and other printed materials today you will find both ways of writing.

Horizontal writing tends to be more convenient for science, geography, music, history and mathematics, but vertical writing is still preferred for literature. Usually, Japanese people use Arabic numerals for horizontal writing and kanji numerals for vertical writing.

Kanji numerals do not include a symbol for 'zero'. There are individual symbols for 10 (十), 100 (百), 1,000 (千), and 10,000 (万).

1	ichi	一
2	ni	二
3	san	三
4	shi / yon	四
5	go	五
6	roku	六
7	shichi / nana	七
8	hachi	八
9	ku / kyu	九
10	ju	十
100	hyaku	百
1000	sen	千
10000	man	万



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4	3	2	1
<p>There are</p> <p>六 百</p> <p>volcanoes, and</p> <p>八 十</p> <p>of them are active. Japan experiences</p> <p>七 千</p> <p>earthquakes per year.</p>	<p>The capital of Japan is Tokyo with over</p> <p>十 二</p> <p>million inhabitants.</p>	<p>The population of Japan is</p> <p>百 二 十 七</p> <p>million which is now</p> <p>三</p> <p>times greater than</p> <p>百</p> <p>years ago.</p>	<p>Japan consists of</p> <p>四</p> <p>main islands (Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu) and over</p> <p>三 千</p> <p>tiny islands.</p> <p>七 十 五</p> <p>% of Japan is covered by mountains.</p>

Read the sentences in the table above and fill in the gaps.

1. Japan consists of ____ main islands (Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu) and over ____ tiny islands. Over ____ % of Japan is covered by mountains.
2. The population of Japan is ____ million which is now ____ times greater than ____ years ago.
3. The capital of Japan is Tokyo with over ____ million inhabitants.
4. There are ____ volcanoes, and ____ of them are active. Japan experiences _____ earthquakes per year.

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7	6	5
<p>It is</p> <p>一 万 二 百 三 十</p> <p>kilometres from London to Tokyo. The shortest journey takes</p> <p>十 一</p> <p>hours by air.</p>	<p>The length of the country from north to south is</p> <p>三 千</p> <p>kilometres. The widest point from east to west is</p> <p>四 百</p> <p>kilometres.</p>	<p>Mt. Fuji is the highest mountain in Japan, at</p> <p>三 千 七 百 七 十 六</p> <p>metres. It last erupted in</p> <p>千 七 百 七</p>

Read the sentences in the table above and fill in the gaps.

- Mt. Fuji is the highest mountain in Japan, at _____ metres. It last erupted in _____.
- The length of the country from north to south is _____ kilometres. The widest point from east to west is _____ kilometres.
- It is _____ kilometres from London to Tokyo. The shortest journey takes _____ hours by air.