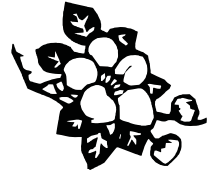


Observations



All videos, instructions, printed materials, etc. at the Tokyo Stock Exchange are in Japanese and English. One can manage quite well in Japan with either of these languages, but you are in big trouble if you don't know one or the other.

The animated Disney-like figures at the Stock Exchange Visitor's Center look more Caucasian than Japanese.

Many models used in photos in ads on billboards or in magazines have round eyes rather than the slanted eyes characteristic of the Japanese.

Everyone shopping in downtown Tokyo is dressed up.

When using a hand signal to indicate the number three, the Japanese hold up the small finger and two middle fingers while holding down the index finger and thumb. An American generally holds down the little finger and thumb and holds up the three middle fingers.

The value of the American dollar as compared to the yen changes from day to day. It's hard to know from one day to the next how much things actually cost!

In the bathroom at the airport, there are printed directions in English and in Japanese explaining how to use the western-style toilet: 1) Lift cover; 2) Sit on seat; 3) Flush.

The label on the blow dryer for hands in the bathroom says "Air Towel."

In schools, there are yellow footprints beside the toilet (Japanese style) so that the children will know where to place their feet.

In one restaurant, one had to walk through the men's room to get to the women's room. Japanese women tend to wait until there are no men around. The women in our group walked right through.

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