

36th ANNUAL BRITISH COLUMBIA JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST (2024)

The 36th Annual British Columbia Japanese Speech Contest is open to British Columbia and Yukon residents who speak **Japanese as a foreign or second language**. The 2024 Contest will be held on **Saturday, March 2 2024** at the [Asian Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Campus](#).

The High School Division is scheduled to start at 10:00 am and the University/Open Division at 1:00 pm. The program will be available before the event day on the BC Japanese Speech Contest [website](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Each contest applicant must satisfy all of the following criteria:

1. Is living, studying, or working in British Columbia or Yukon;
2. Speaks Japanese as a foreign or second language;
3. For the High School Division: Grades 10 - 12 students under 18 years of age, for the University and Open Divisions: 18 or over 18 years of age;
4. Has previously not won the 1st prize in the category for which the applicant is entering this time.

DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

Each applicant is allowed to enter in one category only.

Division	Category	Maximum Total Class Hours	Example of Course in progress or completed	Maximum Stay in Japan	Speech Length
High School	Beginner	200 h.	Up to Japanese 11	3 months	3 min.
	Intermediate	400 h.	Japanese 12	12 months	3 min.
	Open	Unlimited	-	Unlimited	4 min.
University/ Open	Beginner	250 h.	Langara 1217 UVIC 150 UBC 200/260 SFU/CAPU/VIU 201 KPU 2201 UNBC 222 DOUG 2272	3 months	4 min.
	Intermediate	450 h.	UVIC 200's UBC/SFU 300's	12 months	4 min.
	Advanced	Unlimited	UVIC 300's/400's UBC 400's	36 months	5 min.
	Open	Unlimited	-	Unlimited	5 min.

Note: In the application form, you are required to indicate if you are living/have lived with a family member who speaks Japanese as a first language. Based on the information, you may be recommended to participate in a category that is different from the one you have applied for at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

SPEECH TOPIC

Speech topics may be drawn from *any* field.

For reference, past winning speeches are posted on the BC Japanese Speech Contest [website](#).

APPLICATION

1. **Online application form**

To enter the contest, please fill out an online [Application Form](#).

2-1. **Speech draft**

Submit an editable file (e.g. Microsoft Word) of your speech: 12pt font size. Please use [the template](#).
Send to: bcjapanese@gmail.com

2-2. **Audio recording of speech**

Submit an audio file (in mp3/wav/m4a format) via email together with your speech draft.
Audio file should **not exceed 10MB**. Please include the reading of your full name (in English only) and speech title (in Japanese) at the beginning of the audio file.
Send to: bcjapanese@gmail.com

When naming your speech draft and audio recording, please include the following:

- 1) Your *name* (last name first), 2) *division* and 3) *category of entry*
e.g. Doe_Jane_University_Intermediate

NOTE: The copyright of your speech will remain with the BC Japanese Speech Contest Organizing Committee.

Application deadline is 5 pm, Friday, February 9, 2024.

PRELIMINARY SCREENING PROCESS

The Organizing Committee will review all the applications and select qualified applicants to proceed to the final contest. The selected applicants will be contacted by the BC Japanese Speech Contest Organizing Committee. **The final list of successful applicants will be posted** on the BC Japanese Speech Contest [website](#) on Friday, February 16, 2024.

- NOTE:**
- 1) Contestants who do not progress to the final contest will not be contacted.
 - 2) A category without a sufficient number of successful contestants will be cancelled.
 - 3) The Organizing Committee reserves the right to determine which contestants will proceed to the final contest and in which category they will compete.

JUDGING CRITERIA (consult Appendix attached to this document for details)

The major criteria are the speech's (a) **content**, (b) **linguistic technique** and (c) **delivery/presentation**.
Appropriate length and delivery of speech from memory are parts of presentation.

- NOTE:**
- 1) Reading from a hardcopy of your draft during your speech is not allowed.
 - 2) Speech length should be adhered to. Overly long or short speeches are subject to penalty.
 - 3) A winner may not be declared if all contestants fail to meet the standards of the category.

PRIZES

- * A participation prize will be given to all final contestants.
 - * Certificates and prizes will be awarded to the top contestants in each category.
 - * Special prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.
- If you have any questions, please contact: bcjapanese@gmail.com

Appendix

Criteria and Score Distribution 審査基準、配点等について

1. Scale for Judging 審査基準

For each item listed under #2 below, scores will be assigned based on the following scale

下記2.の各項目について、10点満点とし、次の基準による。

Evaluation 評価	Excellent	-----	Very Good	-----	Good	-----	Fair	-----	Poor	
Score 得点	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

2. Criteria 評価項目

There are 3 main criteria; the full score is 10 points for each criterion. 次の3項目とする（各10点満点）。

(1) 内容 Content

独創性	面白さ	主張	適切さ	議論	理論	まとまり
Originality	Interest	Appeal	Appropriateness	Argument	Logic	Coherence

(2) 言語 linguistic technique

構文	表現	語彙	正確さ	適切さ	アクセント	自然さ
Structure	Expression	Vocabulary	Accuracy	Appropriateness	Accent	Naturalness
発音（長/短母音・っ・ん や/ゆ/よ・有/無声・抑揚）						
Pronunciation(Long/Short Vowel・Geminate・Syllabic Nasal・Palatalization・Voicing・Intonation)						

(3) 演出技能 Delivery/Presentation

対話的	効果的	印象的	態度	適切さ	明快さ	習熟度
Communicative	Effective	Impressive	Attitude	Appropriateness	Clarity	Familiarization
流暢さ	時間配分					
Fluency	Time Distribution					

合計点 Total Point : 30 Points

*Note on time limit:

Contestants must adhere to the stipulated speech length. A small window of grace period will be allowed though. If the length of a speech is substantially over or under the stipulated length (see table below), there will be a deduction of 5 points from the aggregated total scores from judges.

Stipulated speech length Please adhere to this as much as possible.	Minimum and maximum length allowed without penalty (stipulated speech length +/- grace period)	Penalty: deduction of 5 points if a speech exceeds maximum length allowed or is below the minimum required length
3 minutes	2 minutes 30 seconds/ 3 minutes 30 seconds	shorter than 2 minutes 30 seconds or longer than 3 minutes 30 seconds
4 minutes	3 minutes and 30 seconds / 4 minutes and 30 seconds	shorter than 3 minutes 30 seconds or longer than 4 minutes 30 seconds
5 minutes	5 minutes and 50 seconds / 4 minutes and 10 seconds to 5 minutes and 50 seconds	shorter than 4 minutes 30 seconds or longer than 5 minutes 30 seconds