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What makes Japanese citizens feel distinctly Japanese? Adapted from rocketnews24.com

Wherever you are from, there are always moments when you feel like a true citizen. What about Japan? What makes Japanese citizens feel distinctly Japanese? My Navi News asked their members to tell them about moments when they felt Japanese:

During a Trip

- I can never sleep on hotel beds, but I fall fast asleep on tatami and a futon. (Male, 31)
- At hotels, I mostly have rice and miso soup for breakfast...I must be Japanese. (Female, 29)
- When I'm using an onsen. (Male, 28)
- When I wait in line without complaining. (Female, 31)

At Meal Time

- When I'm eating Tamago-kake-gohan (Rice with a raw egg on top). (Male, 53)
- When I put natto on top of rice. (Female, 24)
- When I settle down with a bowl of chazuke (rice with green tea poured on top). (Male, 45)
- When I'm drinking hot Japanese sake. (Male, 24)

Tamago-kake-gohan and Chazuke are exceptionally Japanese dishes. There are also times when the food you normally eat very casually turns out to be a food characteristic to Japan. It's safe to say that there's a lot of delicious food and alcohol that is native to Japan.

During an Event

- When I'm enjoying cherry blossom viewing with everyone. (Female, 23)
- When I eat mochi on New Year's Day. (Female, 24)
- When I get excited when Japan wins a medal during the Olympics or when there is a Japanese Nobel Prize winner. (Female, 30)

In Daily Life

- When I get annoyed when the train doesn't come exactly on time. (Female, 27)
- When I get into the tub and sigh, "Ah." (Male, 53)
- The joy of drinking water right out of the faucet. (Female, 39)
- When I buy pasta from the convenience store and the cashier asks me, "Would you like a fork or chopsticks?" I always answer, "Chopsticks." (Female, 31)
- When I get upset when a toilet doesn't have a bidet function. (Female, 23)

Communication

- Even if I'm dealing with a difficult or unreasonable situation, I never show my true colors and keep my feelings to myself. (Female, 24)
- When I get irritated with people who are unable to read a situation or pick up on the mood of a conversation. (Female, 30)
- When I say words such as "yoroshiku onegai shimasu," "Otsukare sama," and "Okagesamade." (Female, 23)
- When I bow while using the phone. (Male, 25)

Other

- When I think Shiba Inu dogs are the cutest (Female, 35)

What about you? What makes you feel like a citizen of your country?

Questions

1. Which of the things above are uniquely Japanese?
2. Do you do any of these things?
3. Are there any things on this list that you dislike, or don't do?
4. Which things on the list make you feel most Japanese?
5. What other things make you feel Japanese? Think of at least one thing.
6. What do you think makes British people feel British? How about French, Australians, Chinese and other countries?

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