

## Six things that foreigners feel are overpriced in Japan

Many foreigners think that Japan is an expensive country.

Recently, lifestyle website Madame RiRi carried an article giving six examples of things that foreigners in Japan say are more expensive than at home.

### 1. Dining

Although there are many restaurants with reasonable prices, many foreigners say that food in Japan is expensive. The main gripe is that the servings are too small, so it costs more for people who eat a lot. Also some foreign people felt that international foods such as peanut butter, tacos, pizza, and so on are fairly expensive.

### 2. Fruit

Japan is the land of 10,000-yen melons. Foreigners are puzzled as to why so many items of fruit are considered luxury gift items — 2,000 yen for a piece of gift-wrapped fruit in Japan that might cost \$2-3 in the U.S. Pineapples and bananas are the only cheap fruit.

### 3. Education

Japanese education is certainly expensive. For example, many foreign people say that rucksacks (called *randoseru* in Japan), school fees, examination fees for entering university, and so on, are very high.

### 4. Movie tickets

The average price of a movie ticket in the U.S. is \$7.95 (about 640 yen). In Japan, standard tickets cost 1,800 yen.

## 5. Alcohol

The price of beer in Japan is four times more expensive than in Germany and twice as expensive as in the U.S. Also, wine prices in Japan are four times more expensive than in France.

## 6. Skin care products

Some foreigners said that skin care products in Japan are three times more expensive than in the U.S. So, Japanese people may spend a lot more money on beauty products than people in other countries.

What do you think?

Questions:

1. What are some things that are cheaper abroad? What things are more expensive?
2. Have you ever been to another country and been shocked by the prices?
3. Have you ever had culture shock? Please tell the class the story.
4. Do you shop online for things that you can't get in Japan? If yes, what do you shop for?
5. When abroad, what did you miss the most about Japan?
6. Why are the six things listed above cheaper in other countries?
7. Do you think that prices in Japan are generally going up or down? Why?