

## Discussion Vocabulary

<sup>1</sup> **consider** = think about carefully

<sup>2</sup> **into** = interested in

<sup>3</sup> **computer geek** = a person who is obsessed with computers

<sup>4</sup> **tech-savvy** = good at using technology



## Discussion Questions

*Think about what you'll say in English. Write some notes for your ideas.*

### Notes

- Do you **consider**<sup>1</sup> the word "otaku" to be a positive word or negative word?  
Why do you think so?
- Do you like to read *manga*, books or magazines? What kind?
- Do you like to watch *anime*, movies or TV **dramas**\*? Which ones?
- What do you like to do in your free time?
- What kind of music are you **into**<sup>2</sup>? Are you a fan of any idol group?
- Have you ever been to a concert? If no, whose would you like to go to?
- Do you have a favorite sports team or **athlete**\*?  
If so, why do you like them/him/her?
- What do you think of maid cafés? Have you ever been to a **theme**\*  
restaurant or theme café? (i.e. ninja restaurant, cat café)
- Would you consider yourself to be a **computer geek**<sup>3</sup>? Do you think you're  
very **tech-savvy**<sup>4</sup>?
- What do you think of *cosplay*? Have you ever done *cosplay* yourself?

### Pronunciation Practice

**dramas**\* **athlete**\* **theme**\*

## What's Wrong? *Correct these sentences.*

- I became to like *manga* when I was in junior high school.  
 I
- What do you like sports?  
 What
- On Saturday, I will go to a heavy metal live. I love loud music!  
 On Saturday, I will go to a heavy metal



## Discussion Question Responses

- Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words. Check your answers with a classmate.
- Practice reading the discussion questions and the example responses below with a classmate.
- Use the discussion questions as conversation starters. Take brief notes of your partner's answers. Try to give long answers, make comments, have reactions, and ask follow-up questions.

costume	games	interested	someday	used
fan	Hollywood	riding	technology	waitresses

Partner's Name

( )

Notes

- I think that the word ( ) to be negative, but not so much these days.
- I prefer to read novels. I usually read while ( ) the train.
- I like watching movies, especially ( ) action movies.
- In my free time I like to play ( ) or read *manga*.
- I like to listen to heavy metal. I'm not ( ) in idol groups so much.
- I have never been to a concert. I'd like to go to a big summer concert ( ).
- My favorite baseball team is the Hanshin Tigers. I grew up in Osaka, so of course, I'm a Tiger's ( ).
- I went to a maid café once. The ( ) were very cute, but it was very expensive.
- I don't consider myself to be a computer geek, but I am pretty good with using ( ).
- Cosplay* might be fun, but I've never done it. I only dress up in a ( ) on Halloween.



A Japanese university student is talking about his weekend plans with an exchange student from America.

**Zoe:** Hey, Takuya. What's going on?

**Takuya:** Oh, hi Zoe! I was just checking on the **overnight bus**<sup>5</sup> schedule.

**Z:** Oh, are you going on a trip?

**T:** Yeah, I'm traveling to Tokyo this weekend.

**Z:** Uh-huh. What are you going to do in Tokyo?

**T:** Actually, I have a few things planned. First, I'm going to a handshake event on Friday in Akihabara.

**Z:** A handshake event? What's that?

**T:** It's an event where you get to shake hands and talk to Japanese idols.

**Z:** Oh, like pop stars? That's cool. Who are you going to shake hands with?

**T:** My favorite idol group, The Shibuya Sisters!

**Z:** The Shibuya Sisters! Oh, yeah, I like them. I love their song, "Shibuya Shake Down".

**T:** That's my favorite, too.

**Z:** What **else**<sup>6</sup> are you going to do?

**T:** Well, on Saturday, I'm going to a *manga* and *cosplay* convention at Tokyo Big Site.

**Z:** Tokyo Big Site?

**T:** It's a **huge**<sup>7</sup> convention hall.

**Z:** I see. So, are you into *cosplay*? Are you going to **dress up**<sup>8</sup>?

**T:** I love *manga*, but I'm not so into *cosplay*. I'll take a lot of pictures, though. It's really fun. Some of the people have **awesome**<sup>9</sup> costumes.

**Z:** That sounds like an amazing weekend!

**T:** That's not all. There's a gaming convention as well. I'll go to that on Sunday.

**Z:** **Are you kidding me?**<sup>10</sup> First, you're going to meet and shake hands with your favorite pop stars, then you're going to a *manga* and *cosplay* event, and then you're going to a gaming convention! How is that possible?

**T:** Easy. I'm a super *otaku*! (ha ha)

**Z:** (ha ha) Super *otaku*? What do you mean?

**T:** I think in English you might say **nerd**<sup>11</sup> or geek. But in Japanese we say, *otaku*. Some people have a negative image of us, but I don't. I think it's ok.

**Z:** So, if you are really into *anime*, you're an *anime otaku*?

**T:** Yeah, that's right. You'd be an "*ani-ota*".

**Z:** "*Ani-ota*" ... *anime otaku*, I see. Just like "*cosplay*" is short for costume and play!

**T:** **Yep**<sup>12</sup>. **You got it!**<sup>13</sup>

## Main Text Vocabulary

<sup>5</sup> **overnight bus** = a type of bus service that typically departs late at night and arrives early the next morning

<sup>6</sup> **else** = other (things)

<sup>7</sup> **huge** = very large

<sup>8</sup> **dress up** = wear special clothes, e.g., evening gown, tuxedo, costume

<sup>9</sup> **awesome** = amazing, wonderful

<sup>10</sup> **Are you kidding me?** = Are you joking? Are you serious?

<sup>11</sup> **nerd** = typically a person who is obsessed with studying

<sup>12</sup> **Yep** = casual form of "yes"

<sup>13</sup> **You got it!** = That's right!

## Main Text Questions

### 1. What is Takuya planning to do on Friday?

- drive to Tokyo
- sing his favorite song, "Shibuya Shake Down"
- shake hands with members of the idol group, The Shibuya Sisters
- attend a convention

### 2. Is Takuya planning to dress up in a costume at the *manga* and *cosplay* convention?

- No, he isn't. He will take pictures, though.
- Unfortunately, he can't. His costume is too huge to fit on the bus.
- Yes, he is. He will also take a lot of pictures.
- Yes, he is. He will dress up as one of The Shibuya Sisters.

### 3. What will Takuya do on Sunday?

- play a game called, *Super Otaku*
- take pictures of people at the *manga* and *cosplay* convention
- watch an *anime* about The Shibuya Sisters
- attend a gaming convention

### 4. What English words are closest in meaning to, "*otaku*"?

- a pop star
- a nerd or geek
- a negative image
- an animator



## Further Discussion

### Group Members:

Work with a group. Talk about the following questions. Take notes for yourself and the other members.

#1 Do you spend a lot of time or money on your hobbies or interests?  
Can you give us some examples or details?

Notes:

#2 What would be an ideal weekend for you? What would you do? Who would you be with?

Notes:

#3 If you had a choice to go to a maid café, zombie restaurant or cat café, which would you choose and why?

Notes:

## Writing

Choose one of the questions below. Write 50 to 100 words. Write on pages 126 to 131.

- Do you have a favorite *anime* or *manga*? Can you tell us about the story? Why is it interesting to you?
- Who is one of your favorite singers? Why do you like him/her so much? What is special about him/her?
- What are some good points about having a hobby or special interest? Can you tell us how they are beneficial?