

# Living Guide Morioka



## Let's Learn Morioka Ben

There are various kinds of dialects to be found in local areas in Japan. Do you know there is a dialect called 'Morioka Ben' in Morioka city? Morioka Ben is a dialect that has been spoken in the northern and central areas of Iwate Prefecture since old times. Unfortunately, the number of people who speak Morioka Ben has declined for these several decades, but Morioka citizens still love its warm sounds.

In this issue, we will introduce Morioka's dialect, Morioka Ben to you from basic greetings to a little more complex, interesting expressions.

\*Click play buttons (▶) to listen to Morioka Ben.

## The Characteristic Sound of Morioka Ben

### ■ Dull and nasal sound are a distinctive feature

※Nasal sound...It is the sound in which air stream passes through the nose when the consonant of dull sound is pronounced. This sound is especially common in the dialects of Tohoku area.

#### • "Ageru"

Dull sound Mado wo akeru (Open the window) Mado wo ageru▶

Yo ga akeru (It's dawning) Yo ga ageru▶

Nasal sound Tempura wo ageru (Fry tempura) Tempura wo ageru▶

Tako wo ageru (Fly a kite) Tako wo ageru▶

#### • "Nageru"

Dull sound Kando shite nakeru (I was moved and cried.) Kando shite nageru▶

Nasal sound Gomi wo suteru (Throw the garbage away.) Gomi wo nageru▶

### ■ It has honorific expressions

The further the words go to the right in the sequences below, the politer they become.

#### • "Tabenasai" (Help yourself.)

Ke▶-Oage▶-Oagense▶-Oagette kunanse▶-Oagette ogurette kunanse▶

#### • "(Nakani) Hairinasai" (Please come in.)

Here▶-Agare▶-Ohere▶-Oherette kunanse▶-Oherette ogurette kunanse▶

### ■ There are a lots of onomatopoeia words that describes state of being

• Doro ga teronteron ni kootteiru▶ (The surface of the road is frozen and looks slippery.)

• Doro ga deronderon ni kootteiru▶ (The surface of the road is frozen and looks so slippery.)

→Both words mean 'slippery' but 'deron deron' indicates a stronger degree.

• Yuki ga nokkori to furitsumoru▶ (The so much (Nokkori) snow piled up.)

## Greetings

• Good morning. - Ohaya gansu▶

• Good evening. - Obande gozansu▶/Obande gozaiyansu▶ (In Women's Language)

- Congratulations. - Omedeto gansu (In Women's Language)
- Thank you. - Arigato gansu / Arigato gozaiyansu (In Women's Language)
- I am sorry. - Oyushette kunanse
- Welcome. Welcome back. - Odense, Odette kunanse, Yoku odenshita
- Good-bye. - Oshizukani, Goyudan naku

## Expressions Still Often Used

Standard Japanese	Morioka Ben	Standard Japanese	Morioka Ben
You	Omehan	Appear	Deharu
Say	Sou	Let's go, Come, Condition	Anbe
Cow	Bego	Us or our family	Oraho
Soak something in the water	Urugasu	Grow up	Ogaru
Cute	Menkoi	Child	Warasu
Shout, Cry	Sagabu	Taro	Imonogo
A little	Pekko	Throw away	Nageru
Yes	Nda	Help yourself	Ke
For a while	Ittogima	Cold	Shakke
Go out	Deharu	Hit	Hadagu
Really	Honi	Have, Lift something up	Tanagu

## Interesting Expressions

- New or expensive Kimono - Icchora no odottoki

※People used to wear second-hand kimono from western Japan in daily life and these were called 'Osentaku'.

- Janken (Rock, Scissors, Paper) - Bankisshu

※It is originally from the sound of the English "One, two, three". People in old times heard the sounds like that.

- A sleety rain - Ameyugi, Becchayugi

※Imitative word 'Becchari' + Yuki (snow)

- A cicada pupa - Nokonoko

※It moves like Nokonoko, which means slowly.

You might have already heard some of these expressions above? The expressions of Morioka ben which sound unique and warm are still used on various occasions in our daily life and are familiar to the citizens. We recommend that you take this good opportunity to learn our local dialect, Morioka Ben, and try it out yourself.

### Additional Information...

Morioka History and Cultural Museum holds a folk tales reading event in Morioka Ben on the third Saturday in every month. It is an opportunity to learn a little more about Morioka Ben. If you are interested, please feel free to participate in the event.

Next date: March 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 14:00 ~ 14:30  
(Place: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Exhibition room 6, Permanent Historical Exhibition Room)

※Participating in the event is free, but you will need to pay entrance fee to the facility (Elementary and Junior High School students living in Morioka and people over age 65 and over are free to enter)

Inquiries: Morioka History and Culture Museum

Address: 1-50 Uchimaru, Morioka city Tel: 019-681-2100

# Preparing for Disasters

March 11th, 2018 marks seven years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. In Japan, where you are never certain when a disaster will occur, it is important to prepare for natural disasters that could happen tomorrow.

## Types of Disasters that May Occur in Morioka

### ■Earthquakes

It is considered that if a big earthquake occurs, many old buildings may fall down or collapse. There is also the risk that fire will break out from collapsed buildings.

### ■Flooding

In the river region, there is the risk of flooding after a long period of rain during the rainy season or rain from a typhoon. Additionally, in the city areas, water may overflow from manholes into the streets.

### ■Sediment Disasters

Since there are mountains and hills near suburban areas in Morioka city, sediment disasters may occur due to heavy rain or earthquakes.

Cliff failure...Steep mountain slopes and cliffs can suddenly collapsed. Sometimes it occurs without any signs, and it crushes the houses below the cliffs.

Landslide...In areas of special geological feature, a mass amount of soil may begin to move

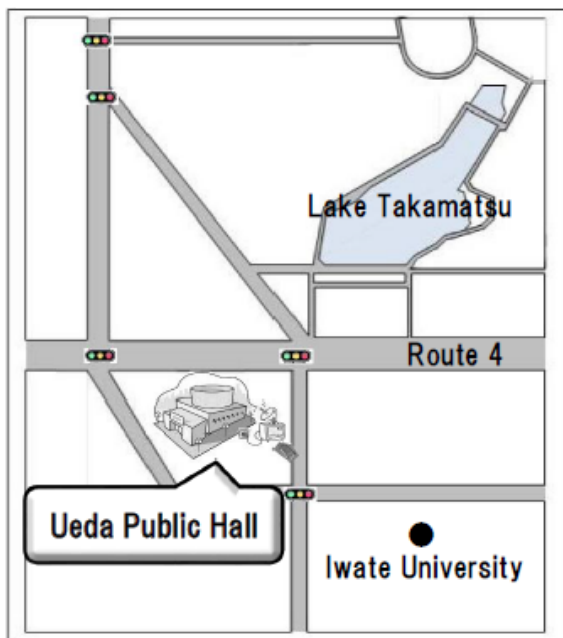
Debris Flow...Areas where soil and sand have accumulated, such as valleys, can overflow with rain. Large rocks or driftwood may wash away houses and farms at furious speeds.

## Emergency Sites or Shelters for Foreigners

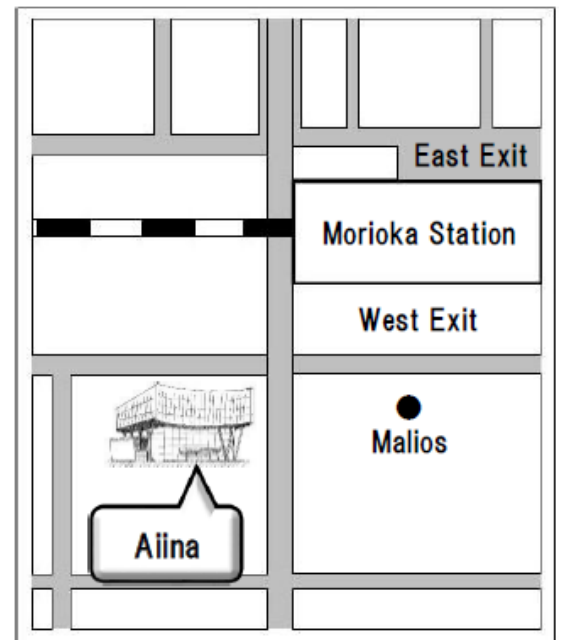
Evacuation shelters are set up in places such as gymnasiums of schools if your evacuation time is going to be long after a large disaster. Many people gather there. Based on the situation, items like food or blankets are distributed. In Morioka City, there are emergency shelters for those who don't speak Japanese or have little or no confidence to speak Japanese. Multilingual support will be provided at the shelter.

### ■Emergency Shelters for Foreign People

• Ueda Public Hall (4-1-1 Ueda, Morioka city)



• International Exchange Center at Aiina  
(1-7-1 Morioka-eki Nishi-dori, Morioka city)  
Shared spaces in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors



The multilingual leaflet on disaster protection, ‘Protecting yourself during a natural disaster’ is available from the website of Iwate Prefecture. Please go to the following link and check the content.

「<sup>さいがい</sup>災害から<sup>み</sup>身を守るために / Protecting yourself during a natural disaster / 灾害发生如何保护自己」

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/kokusai/tabunka/003379.html> (※PDF file on the page)

