



There are two popular gift-giving seasons in Japan: *chugen* (中元) and *seibo* (歳暮)

GIFTS FROM JAPAN

February 26, 2017

Charlie Bell: Gifts, that you can take back to people at home from Japan (from Japan). What interesting things can I take back? So, before I talk about some of the things I took back, t-tell me, what-what uh...

José Cruz: A real winner is like really nice chopsticks. People love that I think (Okay). So, like especially nice enamelled ones, and uh if it comes in a nice carrier, with a nice um what's called a *hashi-oki*, um a place holder for the, for the chopsticks. So basically get them a set. People just love that kind of thing.

Charlie: Yeah, okay, cool. Yeah chopsticks is a good idea. So um one of the other things that I I took back was uh Japanese clothes, traditional clothes (Oh, yeah yeah). So, um, *jinbei* (Oh), the- the summer pajamas (Yeah, yeah). Uh *geta*, the (Sure) the, the uh what do you call it?

José: Ahh, the **wooden slippers**. I, I, um, I brought some, some slippers for my, my family. My brother-in-law loved his *jinbei*. But they just couldn't get into the Japanese slippers, because it takes too long to wear them in (Yeah yeah). And they didn't know how to wear them properly and they ended up wearing them too close to the, the little nook between their big toe (Yeah) and the next toe, and they, it would hurt if you wear it improperly, right?

Charlie: but the *jinbei*, the *jinbei* were a big hit. A-a (Mm-hmm) few of my friends, you know they say they walk around them (Yeah) in the, ha- walk around the house with them. My brother and my dad. And uh, what, th-the other thing whi- that I personally want to buy for myself are the, uh, the winter overcoats.

José: Oh, the *happi* (ah, no no). Not the *happi*, Umm...

Charlie: I took those too, I took those back too actually.

José: Ahh, oh, what, oh, it's on the tip of my tongue, ahh. D'oh!

Charlie: I had it, I already, I knew what I wanted to say (I've got one) and you made me forget.

José: **I got one** right there in in the closet. Um, yeah, ah, yeah. It's the- basically, **it's the one** that doesn't close completely. It's just go the two string ties, and there's like an (Yeah) open gap there.

Charlie: Ah, ahh, ah. I've got it as well.

José: I-I know, I know what your saying, and...

Charlie: OK, yeah, but anyway, those. (Those things). Those are great.

José: I've given those. People love those.

Charlie: Yeah, so the, so the clothes were a real hit.

José: Girls like um fans, portable fans.

Charlie: Guys like them too.

José: I, don't you get the idea though that in the West, I think the West sort of sees a portable, or a hand fan as something that woman use not necessarily men.

Charlie: Okay, yeah, that's right. But, as an ornament. It doesn't have to be practical (Yup, yup). You can, I-I think from the first time I came to Japan there's still a, there's still a fan (Uh huh) sat on the shelf somewhere at home.

José: Yup, yup. Those are really good. And um just on the idea of traditional clothes. Not just the *jinbei*, but um, *yukata*. Um (Yeah, yeah), it doesn't even have to be the expensive kind of *yukata*. Just a basically...

Charlie: *Kimono* too. Cheap *kimono*. (If you can) Or expensive *kimono* if you've got the cash. Okay. So we got yeah, chopsticks and clothes, those are good ideas

José: Chopsticks, clothes, a fan.

Charlie: S-sorry, y-yeah, sorry I forgot about that. Yeah the fans.

José: A fan. What else we got?

Charlie: Sweets (Hmm). Food (Hm hm). It's, it's (Ah!, yeah, yeah), **I mean like** I took back, I **kind of**, I made like party bags. So, I got everyone (that's a good idea) a main present, um, so, clothe-, like an item of clothing or something like that. And, um, Yeah. So I also took snacks.

José: I found my sister really appreciated her little bottle of um *yuzu gosho*.

Charlie: Oh, right yeah, the, the, the...

José: Because that's hard to get apparently.

Charlie: Yeah, the green, orange...

José: Uh basically (peel) it's yuzu, yuzu citrus, that's basically turned into a paste between it's juice and it's um, it's peel.

Charlie: Okay, yeah. Alright yeah yeah. So foo-, I mean snacks as well (snacks, sure, sure) *senbei*, crackers. Uh, cu, the-, another popular one was the curry, the curry blocks.

José: Oh **you people** like that?

Charlie: Well, it's, it's interesting, (Ha ha) it's easy to cook. It's easy to cook.

José: Well actually, in England, England is big on curry. Is Japanese curry like a variety of curry that people like? Or is it still mostly- people want Indian curry?

Charlie: More recently, uh, Japanese, like with the exception of, su-sushi has always been quite popular, (of course) or recently been quite popular. But more recently um things like *katsu*.

José: Okay, so, curry, curry is a food (so *katsu kare*). What else, so what have we got? We got four now?

Charlie: We've got four, yeah. So, (One more) well we didn't know we were making a list, but okay yeah we've got four. One more.

José: Okay. Okay, spiel them off. Let's let's get a recap here.

Charlie: Okay. chopsticks, uh clothes, s-so many types. Uh, fan (uh-huh). Ah curr-, I've written curry blocks, (it's a food) but food, snacks (foods and snacks). Snacks, food.

José: Ahh, let's see. What else is very Japanese? Oh, you know what, my nieces loved it when I bought them what are called *kendama*. **You seen them?**

Charlie: Yeah, the little Japanese toy.

José: The toy with the like the, the, you gotta challenge yourself to put the little wooden ball on a string onto the little wooden cups on the handle (Yeah), Uh, they they loved that, and they couldn't do it.

Charlie: Or there's the uh..

José: Oh yeah the helicopter type thingies.

Charlie: The helicopter things, (Yeah, whatever those things are) yeah that's the helicopter movement.

José: Yeah those things are cool. But that's a good list.

Charlie: Okay, cool (cool). So. Chopsticks, clothes. Food. Fan. Okay.

Word count	Time	Words/Min.
1018	5:02	202.25

José: Nice.

Pointers:

wooden slippers: José should have said wooden **"sandals"** (0:49)

I got one: José omitted "have" (**I have got one**) (1:42)

it's the one: José and Charlie were trying to remember the word **"hanten"** or **"dotera"** (1:46)

I mean like: sometimes said at the start of a sentence but having no particular meaning (2:54)

kind of: pronounced **"KINDA"** (2:56)

you people: José meant people in England (3:36)

You seen them: José omitted "have" (**Have you seen them?**) (4:34)

Discussion:

When do people give and receive gifts?

What kind gifts do people give?

Have you ever received a gift from a foreign country?

What kind of souvenirs do you like to give?

Now make your own list of five gifts from your hometown.

