

Haircuts



● Warm-up Questions

1. How often do you get a haircut, and how long does it take?

2. What is your idea of a good beauty salon/barber shop?

3. What do you think about men with facial hair?

4. What would be difficult about being a barber/hair stylist?

VOCABULARY

● WRITE THE CORRECT WORD IN THE SENTENCES BELOW

choose, instead of, trend, perms, charismatic, run by, rival, thriving, a record low, in contrast, facing, shaving, a straight razor, scalps, fancy, forbidden

1. Some people think that Kim Jung-un is a _____ leader.
2. Young children are _____ to swim in pools alone.
3. I can't _____ which cake to buy. They all look delicious.
4. Yesterday, the temperature was -32 °C. It was _____.
5. A turtle is slow. _____, a cheetah is fast.

Haircuts

In Japan, many young men choose a beauty salon instead of a barbershop to get a haircut, even Shinzo Abe.

This trend started in the 1970s, when men wanted to have longer hair with perms. Slowly, more and more men were attracted to charismatic hair stylists who could make them look more handsome.

Even though we can find barber shops on every street corner, many of them look the same: small, run by an older married couple, and filled with manga books. Traditional barbershops are having trouble keeping their businesses alive.

The biggest rival to barbershops is beauty salons, and they are thriving. In 2017, there were close to 220,000 barber shops across Japan, a record low. In contrast, there were 523,000 beauty salons in Japan, the highest number in 50 years.

Another problem barbershops have is their image: people don't think they are cool.

Because of this, some barbers are trying to change the image of barbershops to make them more attractive, especially to women.

Toshio Omori is the head of the Men's Hairdressing Federation of Japan. He understands the problems barbershops are

facing.

““Half of our population are women, so barbershops should try to be more welcoming to women,” Omori says. “Facial shaving can actually be great for women,” he says, “because it makes it easier for them to put on make-up.” Only barbershops are allowed to use a straight razor for shaving in Japan.

It's unclear how many women want to visit a barbershop for a shave, but it is clear that there are differences between Japanese and Western haircut shops.

One difference is Japanese hair salons pay a lot of attention to scalps when shampooing hair. Hair stylists spend minutes massaging and looking for problem areas. Most Western hair shops do not have this massage service.

Another difference is that at some hair salons in Japan, a drink service is included with the cut. Even though the choices are usually limited to tea or coffee, some very fancy shops have champagne free of charge.

Some salons are now offering services for Muslim women. These women are forbidden to show their hair to men outside their family, so all of the stylists are women.

In Japan, it seems that beauty salons are winning the hair battle against barbershops.

PREPOSITION PRACTICE

Fill in the blanks using: at, since, of, on, to, up, in, with, for, out, about

Write a proper preposition for each sentence. Sometimes, there is more than one answer.

1. Once _____ a while, I am disappointed _____ my hair cut.
2. _____ that time, I want to look _____ a new barber, but I never do that.
3. _____ fact, I have known my barber _____ I moved to Sapporo.
4. I was nervous _____ getting a haircut because _____ my poor Japanese.
5. However, he was kind _____ me, and he figured _____ that I wanted a hair cut.
6. The price _____ haircuts _____ Japan are cheap. _____ top _____ that, we don't have to tip.
7. Hair is very important _____ some people, but I don't think _____ it too much.
8. _____ the 1980s, many teenagers styled their hair _____ hair spray.
9. This was bad _____ the environment, and the world suffered _____ this.
10. Hopefully, we will never have to put _____ _____ those hairstyles ever again.

WRITING SENTENCES

1. longer: _____
2. corner: _____
3. cool: _____
4. clear: _____
5. welcoming: _____
6. seems: _____