



UNIT
7

GOING TO A FESTIVAL

The Japanese calendar is lined with seasonal festivals and events. Seasonal festivals such as cherry blossom viewing in spring and firework displays in the heat of summer are held to appreciate nature at its best. Festivals to celebrate a good harvest are held mainly in autumn, whereas those meant to invoke one are held in spring. At these fêtes, people carry around portable shrines, or *o-mikoshi*, and the men often wear *happi* coats designating neighborhood associations. Many festivals attract large crowds, and famous ones such as the Sapporo Snow Festival or the Gion Festival in Kyoto are always packed with people.

UNIT 7 GRAMMAR

Inviting Someone to Do Something and Making Suggestions

verb-**masen ka**

verb-**mashō**

ex. **Issho ni Asakusa ni ikimasen ka.**

“Won’t you go to Asakusa with (me)?/What do you say to going to Asakusa together?”

Ee/Hai, ikimashō. “Yes, let’s go.”

The verb-**masen ka** pattern is used to invite someone to do something. Appropriate replies are as follows.

1. Acceptance:

a. **Ee/Hai, verb-mashō.** “Yes, let’s [verb].”

b. **Ee/Hai, zehi.** “Yes, I’d love to.”

2. Refusal: **Zannen desu ga, tsugō ga warui desu.**

“I’m sorry, but it wouldn’t be convenient (for me).”

The verb-**mashō** pattern is generally translatable as “let’s.”

verb-**mashō ka**

ex. **Doko de aimashō ka.** “Where should we meet?”

The verb-**mashō ka** pattern is used to invite someone to decide a time, place, etc. for something.

Offering to Do Something

verb-**mashō ka**

ex. **Nimotsu o mochimashō ka.** “Shall I carry your luggage?”

The verb-**mashō ka** pattern is also used when offering to do something for someone. Appropriate replies are as follows.

1. Acceptance: **Ee/Hai, onegaishimasu.** “Yes, please.”

2. Refusal: **lie, kekkō desu.** “No, thank you.”