

Speaking Task 1: Lifestyle conversation

Gap Fill

1. Listen to the conversation once. What are they talking about? Choose one topic from below.

- a) Important things in making life healthier
- b) Favorite holiday or festival in Japan
- c) Hometown and what can be done there
- d) Japanese customs – giving advice to a visitor from another country

2. Listen to the conversation once again. Fill in the blanks while you listen.

Paul: Nice to see you, Simon.

Simon: Paul, nice to see you. How are you?

Paul: 1) _____, thank you. How about you?

Simon: I'm very 2) _____, thank you.

Paul: Hey, so, now it's coming to 3) _____, and of course there are lots of festivals in Japan. Do you know about any festivals?

Simon: Well, yes. I've been to lots of 4) _____ festivals in Japan. I must say I do like *hanabi*, and going to *hanabi*. But, I think my favorite festival is the one in summer. It's a kind of *omikoshi matsuri*. My 5) _____ is from Chiba. And every summer in the last weekend in August, her village has a *matsuri*. And all the men have to 6) _____ around this very very heavy *omikoshi* all around the village and we start very early in the 7) _____ at about 5 o'clock and we drink a little bit of *sake*, then we carry this very very heavy *omikoshi*, and it's quite 8) _____, because we jump off the 9) _____ carrying this big heavy *omikoshi* all day, and we do that all around the village and then we have 10) _____, and then we keep doing it and we end up at a very beautiful temple. And I like it, because I get to be in a part of that 11) _____ community and to be involved in the *matsuri* and that's kind of much better than just looking at a *matsuri*, I think.

Paul: Do you have to wear 12) _____ clothes?

Simon: Yes, I do. I wear kind of a *happi* coat and a *tabi* and a *tasuki*, I think they're called and things like that, so I dress up.

Paul: Do you 13) _____ *mawashi*?

Simon: No. We wear kind of white pants, a special white pants. But it's always in the 14) _____ weekend of August and it's always very very hot. And you really sweat a lot and you kind of do a lot of hard physical work.

Paul: Do lots of people watch you and 15) _____ and support you?

Simon: Actually, it's reasonably...It's not very very 16) _____, but yeah, there's always people 17) _____ and people taking photos and when we go to the temple, then there's always a big crowd of people there. It's a lot of fun.

Paul: 18) _____ great.

Simon: Why don't you come and watch this year.

Paul: That'd be 19) _____. Nice to talk to you.

Simon: Thank you.

Paul: Enjoy the festival this year.

Simon: Thank you very much. I 20) _____.

(optional writing and speaking activity – feel free to use the back of this paper if you need to)

What did you think of Simon's favorite festival?

Write about your favorite holiday or festival in Japan.

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Gap Fill (Answer Key)

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c) Hometown and what can be done there

d) Japanese customs – giving advice to a visitor from another country

2. Listen to the conversation once again. Fill in the blanks while you listen.

Paul: Nice to see you, Simon.

Simon: Paul, nice to see you. How are you?

Paul: 1) Good, thank you. How about you?

Simon: I'm very 2) well, thank you.

Paul: Hey, so, now it's coming to 3) summer, and of course there are lots of festivals in Japan. Do you know about any festivals?

Simon: Well, yes. I've been to lots of 4) different festivals in Japan. I must say I do like *hanabi*, and going to *hanabi*. But, I think my favorite festival is the one in summer. It's a kind of *omikoshi matsuri*. My 5) wife is from Chiba. And every summer in the last weekend in August, her village has a *matsuri*. And all the men have to 6) carry around this very very heavy *omikoshi* all around the village and we start very early in the 7) morning at about 5 o'clock and we drink a little bit of *sake*, then we carry this very very heavy *omikoshi*, and it's quite 8) hard, because we jump off the 9) ground carrying this big heavy *omikoshi* all day, and we do that all around the village and then we have 10) lunch, and then we keep doing it and we end up at a very beautiful temple. And I like it, because I get to be in a part of that 11) big community and to be involved in the *matsuri* and that's kind of much better than just looking at a *matsuri*, *I think*.

Paul: Do you have to wear 12) special clothes?

Simon: Yes, I do. I wear kind of a *happi* coat and a *tabi* and a *tasuki*, I think they're called and things like that, so I dress up.

Paul: Do you 13)wear *mawashi*?

Simon: No. We wear kind of white pants, a special white pants. But it's always in the 14)last weekend of August and it's always very very hot. And you really sweat a lot and you kind of do a lot of hard physical work.

Paul: Do lots of people watch you and 15)cheer and support you?

Simon: Actually, it's reasonably...It's not very very 16)famous, but yeah, there's always people 17)watching and people taking photos and when we go to the temple, then there's always a big crowd of people there. It's a lot of fun.

Paul: 18)Sounds great.

Simon: Why don't you come and watch this year.

Paul: That'd be 19)great. Nice to talk to you.

Simon: Thank you.

Paul: Enjoy the festival this year.

Simon: Thank you very much. I 20)will.

(optional writing and speaking activity – feel free to use the back of this paper if you need to)

What did you think of Simon's favorite festival?

Write about your favorite holiday or festival in Japan.