

## Question 3: People and places

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In Japanese (*Nihongo*) as in many languages, proper names (names of people and places) often have a literal translation that describes some local feature (e.g. Smallfield, Whitehill, Longridge).

Here are some Japanese personal or place names and their jumbled up literal translations into English. All you have to do is match up the names and the translations.

However as you might expect there are one or two difficulties. The order of the elements in the Japanese and most natural translations are not always the same. Also, when two words combine, sometimes one of them changes slightly. Note that in these examples, 'mount' and 'mountain' are different words, as are 'field' and 'rice-field'.

| <b>Japanese</b>     | <b>Translation</b>            |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 <i>Ōta</i>        | A Big slope                   |
| 2 <i>Nakayama</i>   | B Tree river                  |
| 3 <i>Kigawa</i>     | C Slope of the mountain       |
| 4 <i>Kazan</i>      | D Field village               |
| 5 <i>Murakami</i>   | E Upper village               |
| 6 <i>Kagawa</i>     | F Upper river                 |
| 7 <i>Ono</i>        | G Middle of the rice-field    |
| 8 <i>Fujisan</i>    | H Little field                |
| 9 <i>Nomura</i>     | I Middle mountain             |
| 10 <i>Tanaka</i>    | J Original rice-field         |
| 11 <i>Sakuragi</i>  | K Mountain road               |
| 12 <i>Nihon</i>     | L Cherry tree                 |
| 13 <i>Ōsaka</i>     | M Fire mount (= volcano)      |
| 14 <i>Yamazaka</i>  | N Big rice-field              |
| 15 <i>Kawakami</i>  | O Mount Fuji                  |
| 16 <i>Honda</i>     | P Fire river                  |
| 17 <i>Yamamichi</i> | Q Origin of the sun (= Japan) |