



By the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:

* express his/her ideas on the westernization of Japan as well as to give some advantages and disadvantages on the said westernization.



Passage

A few years ago, when foreign fast food chains began to overrun the country and survey showed that Japanese young people preferred a plate of spaghetti to a bowl of Japanese soup. The question being asked the most was, “Is Japan being modernized?” Now the facts are in, and the conclusion is unmistakable. The evidence comes in forms of wine and blonde hair.

Why wine and not whiskey? Because research in the 1980s showed that wine, particularly red wine, may have certain health benefits. Consumption of red wine in Japan started to rise.

As most Asian trends do, it started in Japan then to other Asian countries. Japanese rock stars were the first to dye their hair blond, but now it’s a mainstream. Japanese streets are filled with blondes and brunettes, and even a few “orange - heads”.

Is this just a passing fad that Japanese people will soon get tired of, or it’s an attempt to look more westernized?



Let's Talk

1. Do you think that Japan is becoming westernized, or do you think it's just becoming modernized? Support your answer.
2. What conclusion can you draw from the fact that Japanese are drinking more and more wine, particularly red wine, as each year passes?
 - > It shows that Japan is becoming more westernized.
 - > It's just a change in the drinking habits.
3. In the past, Japanese thought that white wine is better than red wine. Do you agree that red wine is more popular now than white wine? Why or why not?
4. Do you worry about Japan becoming more westernized? Do you think it will lead to Japanese forgetting their own culture?
5. Japan is the most westernized country in Asia, and it is also the richest. Does this mean that wealth and western lifestyle go together or is it possible to be rich and not westernized? Why do you think so?