



Vol. 2, Issue 6, September 2025



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Welcome to Okayama!

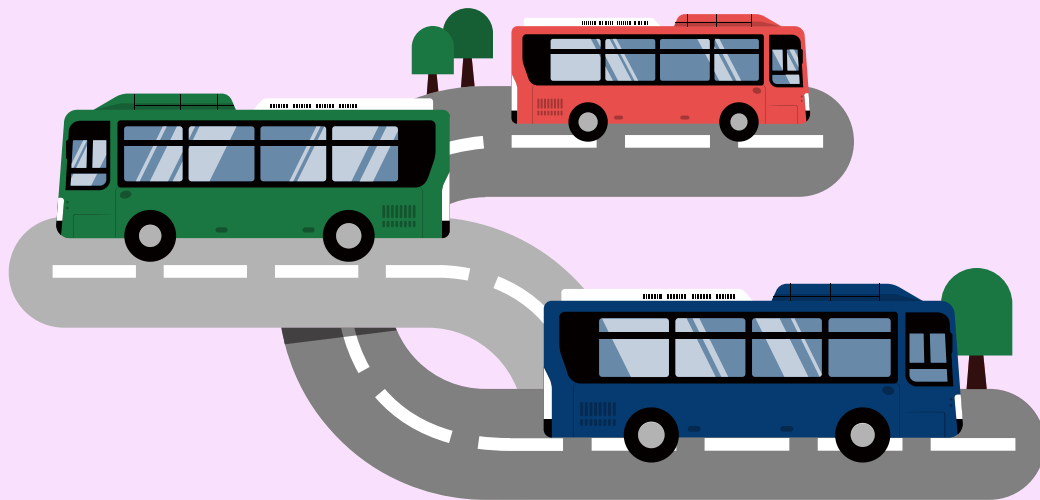
Hello all, especially those reading for the first time!

First, I would like to congratulate you for making it through a very competitive process to make it onto the JET Programme. We've all been there and know exactly how grueling it can be.

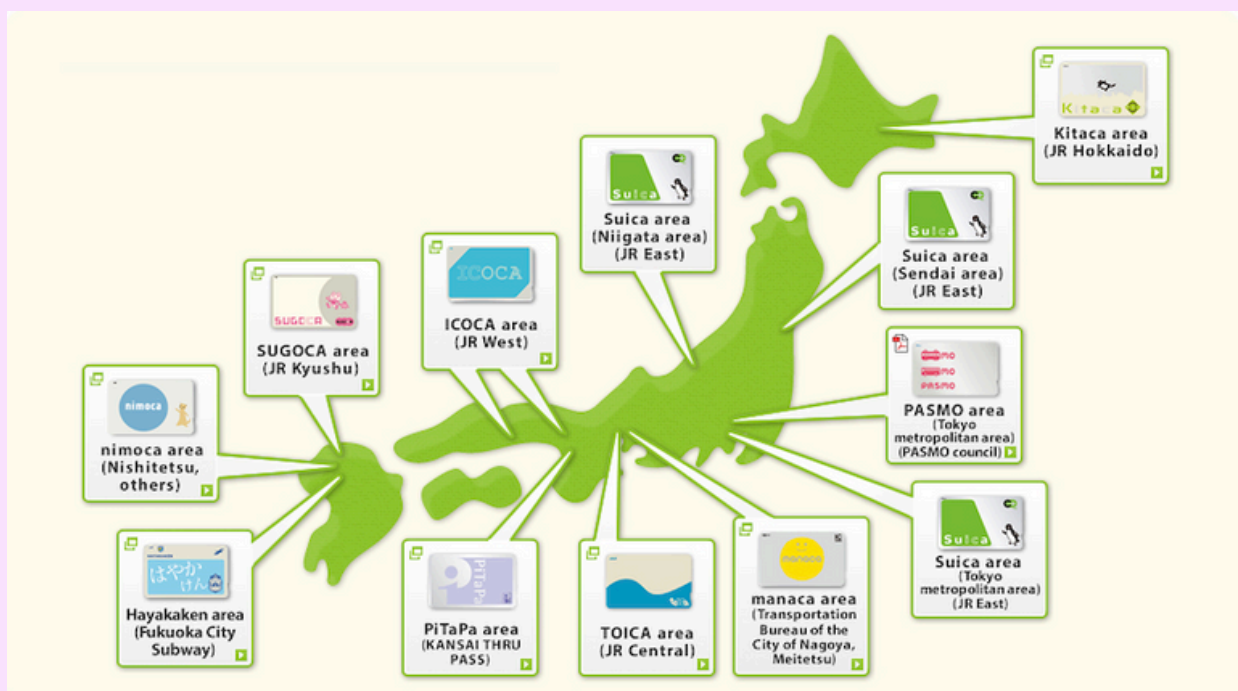
By now you'll have been here for a month or so, which means your school, supervisor, predecessor or a mix of all three hopefully helped you with the essentials to get started. This article will serve as somewhat of a beginners checklist and tip section. We're hoping to have more ideas up on the website in due time too, so check that out at okayama-ajet.com.



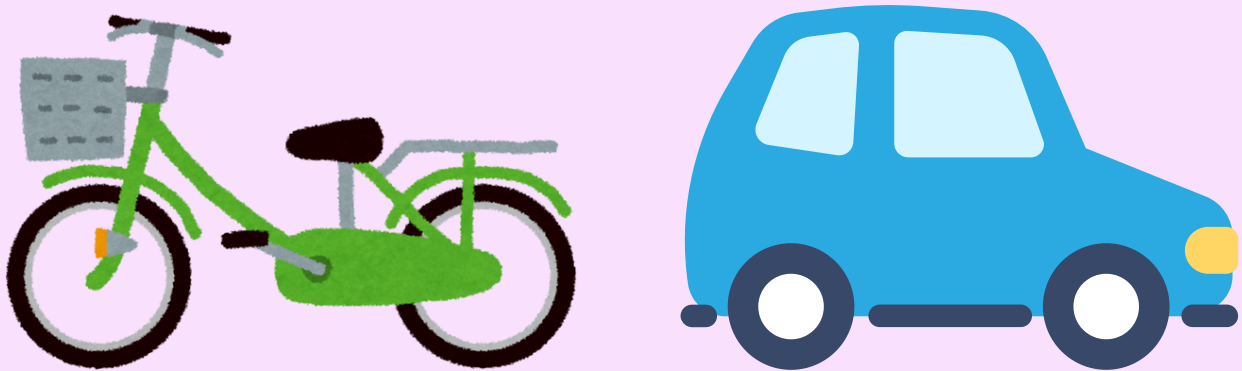
First thing to establish, how are you getting around? No matter where you move, public transit and your commute will be a priority. We're not too unlucky in Okayama when it comes to trains or buses. Living in Tamano though, I've discovered the latter to be a tad unreliable when sticking to timetables. Buses don't typically have the same spotless punctuality record as trains do here, shocking I know, but traffic exists in Japan too. It's outrageous.



An IC card is a lifesaver. National variants such as ICOCA and SUICA are recommended as you can use them pretty much wherever but be aware there is a small 500 yen deposit fee for the physical card. Free if you use the app, but said apps are pretty 'iffy' from time to time.



If you're super rural, you'd probably need a car or bike to get around. I could be wrong about this, but from what I know, you can own a car but some placements do not allow you to drive to work. Double check with your supervisors before buying one if your wish is to commute by car.



A general bit of advice if you have a bicycle is to always keep your keys separate, as losing them requires a whole lot of hassle and fees to prove the bike is actually yours and to then change the locks. (Editor's Note: as someone who did not separate her keys and then lost them together, please don't be me, lol)

Second, and arguably most important, get those nearby konbini and supermarkets on lockdown. We can debate which is best (Lawson, don't @ me) but any will suffice. They truly are lifesavers, especially since you can pay bills and order event tickets directly at the counter. If you can get passed the jingles, any スーパー will do. Marunaka, Himawari, Hallows, Happys, BIG... The list goes on.



I'll touch on this more in a future newsletter but one thing you absolutely should consider mapping out early on is potential trips either within the prefecture or indeed outside. Exploring Japan is one of the key things about JET, so definitely get out there as much as you can and don't just cave to the temptation of sitting in your apartments sipping Strong Zero and Cafe Latte.

Locally we have Okayama Castle and Korakuen, which I'm sure most people went to during orientation. Kurashiki's Bikan Historical Quarter, Kojima's Jeans Street, Naoshima Island, (which is technically Kagawa Prefecture but most easily accessed via Uno Port. I'd be happy to join anyone headed out there, since I'm placed right by it.) Mt. Ojigatake, the Washuzan Highlands, and perhaps the lesser known sightseeing train 'La Malle de Bois'.



We're somewhat blessed in that Okayama Station is positioned on the Shinkansen line and serviced by the Nozomi Superexpress trains. It means you can get to a number of amazing places within an hour. Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, Himeji, and Kobe via bullet train. If you want to take it a step further, Nagoya and Fukuoka are about one hour and 40 minutes in either direction. Takamatsu is easily accessible with the Rapid Marine Liner. There are express trains to Matsuyama in Ehime, Tottori, Shimane.

What Okayama might not have in relation to other cities, it makes up for by being such a great central hub travel wise. Okayama Momotaro Airport, where you landed from Tokyo, has regular flights to Sapporo, Okinawa, even Seoul, Shanghai, and Taipei.

Absolutely USE that 'nenkyu' you get. You didn't travel thousands of miles to get chained to your desk or flat. Touch grass, concrete, bamboo, sand, whatever it might be.

If you're still scrambling around looking for deals on furniture or appliances, BookOff and HardOff are the major secondhand stores. Okayama Mottainai's Facebook page is literally packed with deals from other foreigners looking to get rid of things. Mercari and Second Street are other options.



I will say though, if you can afford it, don't go super cheap on things like your futon, chair, desk etc. Home comforts can be incredibly important for your overall happiness. I had one of the worst office chairs known to man and I splurged big on an IKEA upgrade. I could not tell you how much better sitting playing games for 8 hours feels now.

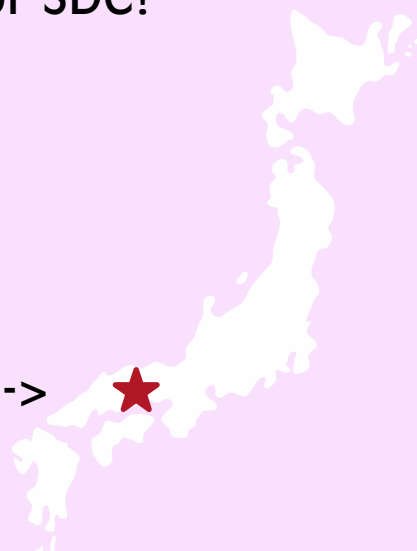
Another thing I would like to add is that you'll have been set up in Chugoku Bank to receive your salary. Again, could be wrong, but I think everyone here has an account with them. The problem is that foreign residents never seem able to get Debit or Credit cards from there. Japan Post is the most reliable second choice, and there are a million options when it comes to Credit Cards here, just double check those T's and C's. Major company ones like Amazon, Rakuten, or PayPay are the safest choice and they can be set up pretty easily to work with your bank account.

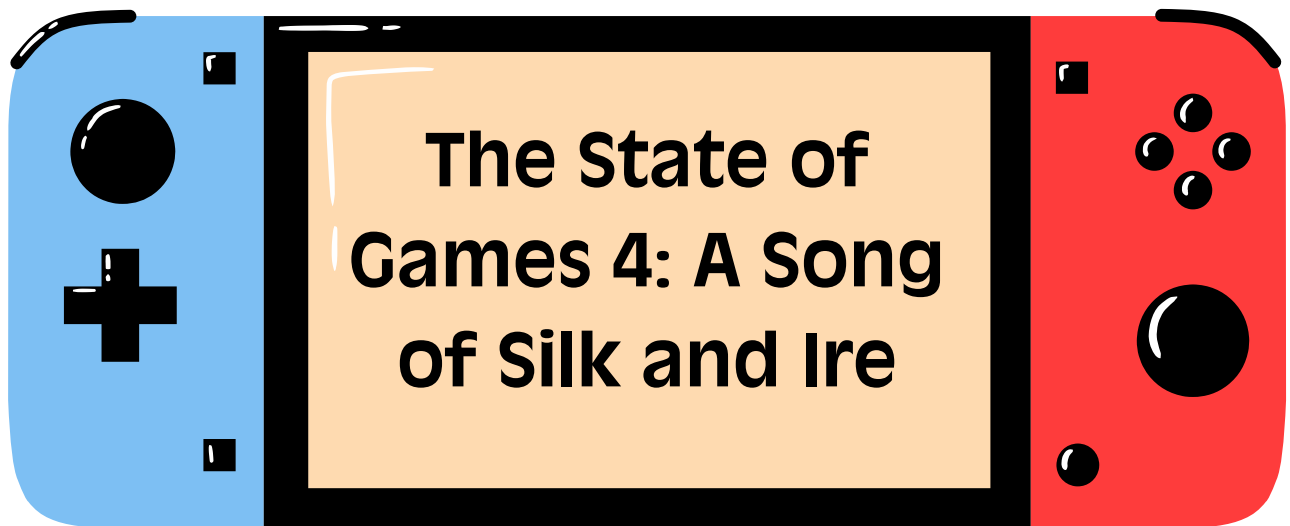


Finally, if you have any issues, we are all here to help. Adjusting to life here can have its ups and downs. Block Leaders, PA's, I imagine just most of your fellow ALTs will want to help if you ever need it. If you need a drink or a bite to eat somewhere, watch us flock to the opportunity. Don't ever isolate because you feel as though you'd be a bother. You're not, and never will be.

Have a lovely time in Japan, you've earned it! Hope to see you all at the welcome party and/or SDC!

New home away from home -->





Alright, looks like it's time for another entry. Wonder what could possibly be on the horizon in the gaming world.



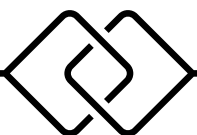
Oh, right. That.

Another of the most hotly anticipated releases is finally on store shelves after Team Cherry became somewhat of a meme for the constant delays and lack of updates. Every Nintendo Direct, every Developers Conference, DreamHack... Hell, even E3 when that was still around, had fans riled up at the prospect of even a glimpse at Silksong.

The pessimists among us 🙄 even deemed it would be cancelled before too long, but alas, Hollow Knight's long-awaited sequel arrived on September 4th, 2025, at a very reasonable \$20 USD.

So is it a bad time to say I've never played Hollow Knight?

I have nothing against it, let's be completely real here, the game looks absolutely stunning, brimming with creativity and charm, a masterful soundtrack, smooth and silky visuals, but 'Soulslike' games never appealed to me. I know I'll have tomatoes thrown at me and be labelled a filthy casual for the rest of my days, but relaxing games actually relax me, what can I say? I'm still scarred from grinding Counter-Strike for five years. Can you imagine all the other non-constructive stuff I could've been doing in that time? Smh.



In other news, rumours have started circulating regarding the next PlayStation system; no prizes for guessing what it might be called...

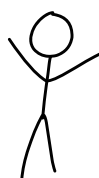


Like any speculation on the newest console, there are all sorts of unfettered claims as to what specifications it might have. Some point to it being a dedicated handheld set to rival the Switch 2 or Xbox ROG Ally, others a more traditional home console akin to a souped-up PS5 Pro. My guess? It will be manufactured by Sony. Wild claim, I know.

There's always fun to be had with stuff like this, but if I were a cynical man, I'd say temper your expectations and certainly stock up those wallets. Whatever is coming next, if the PS5 prices are anything to go by, will cost a pretty chunk of change.



^^^^^^ Your money



<-----Sony

Finally, Kirby and the Forgotten Land was a huge success with critics and fans back in 2022. If you asked a Nintendo fan, they'd probably place it among other platforming giants such as Mario Odyssey, Astro Bot, and, more recently, Donkey Kong Bananza.

So when a Nintendo Switch 2 Edition of the title was announced, it seemed inevitable.



What I don't understand is that Nintendo made it out to seem like an abundance of extra content was coming, enough to justify a \$20 upgrade pack or \$80 price tag for the game itself if you didn't already own the original version.

It comes with a visual upgrade, which is the bare minimum, and a few new levels that are little more than basic reworks of existing ones.

I am sure a Nintendo Direct will come soon enough to show what's coming, but between the Switch 2's launch and the end of August, so little has actually happened bar these almost extortionate 'upgrade packs' and a couple of hits.

When Nintendo gets things right, they make gold, but their greed hinders their reputation to the point where fan patience is waning by the minute. The gaming industry, for every leap it takes forward, seems to always find a way to irritate the very fans which built it. Ah well, new 3D Mario soon, ay?

Thanks for reading! Have a good one!

GAME
OVER

Written by



@lewischissio

hosted by

OKAJet

Sign Up Deadline:
September 7th

WELCOME Party

Sat, Sept. 13th 2025

All You Can Eat & Drink 🍺

Okayama Tenmaya Rooftop

Garden

6:30-8:30pm

Sign Up:



[Sign up link](#)

5500
YEN

Events in Okayama

第2回シティロゲin津山

The Second City Rogain in Tsuyama

Explore the city and food of Tsuyama with a team!

Date: September 7th

More Info: [日本語](#)

Location: Tsuyama Castle Square

Time: Registration 9:00-10:00am, Race explanation 10:00 - 10:30,

Award Ceremony 15:00

Admission: ¥ 2,900 per person to participate (groups can consist of 1-5 people)



四季を彩るコンサート～サウンド・オブ・ミュージック Concert performing songs from "The Sound of Music"

If you love the "Sound of Music", be sure to see your favorite songs!



Date: September 9th

More Info: [日本語](#)

Location: Okayama Art Creation Theater, Okayama City

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Admission: ¥ 1000

ドイツの森 ミュージック花火大会

German Forest Music Fireworks Festival

Take in the wonders of the fireworks show while enjoying craft beer and sausages!

Date: September 14th

More info: [日本語](#)

Location: Okayama Forest Park German Forest

Time: Fireworks at 7:30

Admission: ¥ 1,500 per person



地酒Bar in 備中 Local sake bar in Bitchu



Date: September 20th and 21st

More info: [日本語](#)

Location: Kurashiki Ivy Square Aimi red brick building

Time: Presumably Ivy square opening hours

Admission: Free (food and drink costs apply)

リチャリーJapanツアー2025倉敷公演

Richari Japan Tour 2025 Kurashiki Performance

If you like Latin inspired music, come see this Peruvian group perform for the first time in Japan in 3 years!

Date: September 25th

More info: [日本語](#)

Location: Kurashiki City Art and Culture Hall Eye Theater

Time: Afternoon performance starts @14:00, Evening starts @ 18:00

Admission: Before day of performance is 3,000. Day of is 3,500.



カピバラ フェスティバル Capybara Festival

Calling all capybara lovers to come check out the exhibition, goods, bingo and more!



Date: September 27th and 28th

More info: [日本語](#)

Location: Okayama Forest Park German Forest Event Venue

Time: 9:30am - 17:00pm

Admission: Free

International Meetup Party 「せかつく」

Date: Saturdays, September 6th and October 4th

More info: [Insta](#)

Location: Matador (Bar in Okayama City)

Time: 20:00 - 22:00

Admission: *Men ~ ¥4000

*Women ~ ¥3500

All you can drink and buffet style food included



クロスワードパズルだよ！全部書けたら、㊶～㊵の文字を順にならべて、言葉を作ってね。

ヒント：ピチピチしてるよ

答え 出目金

① 調		② 教		③ 運	転	手		④ 大		
⑤ 理	⑥ 科	室		動				⑦ 小	学	生
	目		⑧ 出	⑦ 場	⑨ 選	手				
			席		挙		⑩ 開		⑪ 集	
⑫ 給	⑬ 食	当	番		⑭ 運	動	会		⑮ 金	曜
	べ		号		動		の			
⑯ い	残	り		⑰ 卒			言		⑱ 日	
	し		⑲ 終	業		⑳ 子	葉	と	本	葉

タテのかぎ

① 家庭科の〇〇実習。

② 学校で勉強をする部屋。

③ 外で体育のじゅ業をする所。

④ 大きい小さい。

⑤ 国語、算数、理科、社会…。

⑥ 〇〇〇〇順にならんで下さい。

⑦ 候ほ者が、自分をせん伝したり、

⑧ 周りがおうえんしたりする、活動。

⑨ 児童会役員選の〇〇〇〇。

⑩ 会の最初に言うのは？

⑪ 学級費の〇〇袋。

⑫ 給食を〇べ〇しては、いけません。

⑬ 小学校六年間の最後は、〇〇式。

⑭ 日の丸は〇〇の旗です。

ヨコのかぎ

① スクールバスの〇〇〇さん。

② 実験したり、標本があったりする。

③ 小学校の生徒。

④ リレーの〇〇〇〇は整列して下さい。

⑤ 食べ物運んだり、配ったり。

⑥ 赤組、白組どっちもがんばれ！

⑦ 学校に行くのは、月〇〇日。

⑧ 宿題を忘れて、い〇〇り勉強。

⑨ 学期の終わりは、〇〇式。

⑩ 朝顔の〇〇と〇〇。

Monthly Sudoku

September 2025

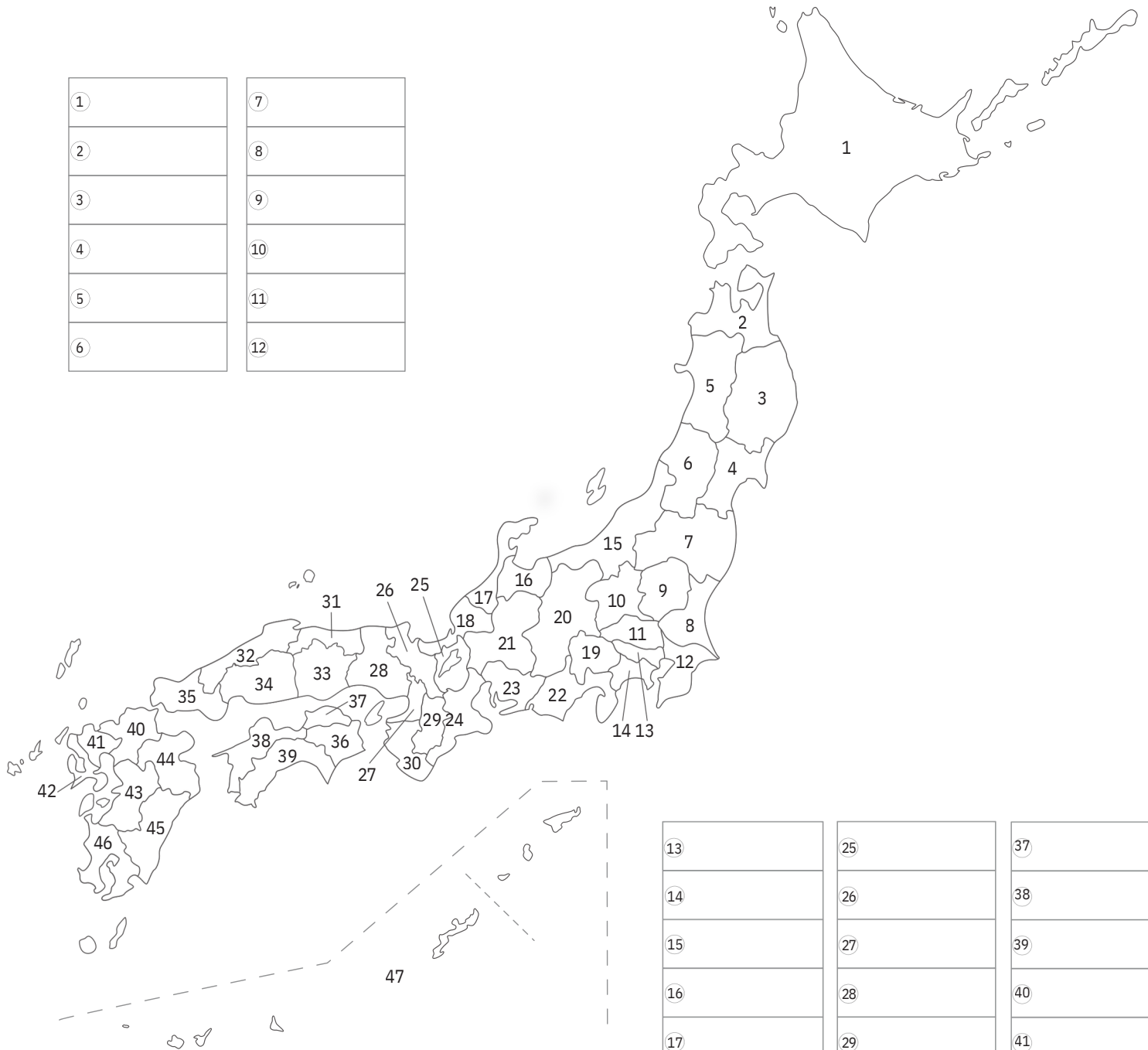
5		3			7			
2						1		
1			2					
4	2							
				8	1			
				2	5			
		8	7	5				1
3					4	9	6	
6	7			9			4	8

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

都道府県テスト

☆都道府県の名前を書きましょう。

①	⑦
②	⑧
③	⑨
④	⑩
⑤	⑪
⑥	⑫



⑬	⑮	③⑦
⑭	⑯	③⑧
⑮	⑰	③⑨
⑯	⑱	④①
⑰	⑳	④②
⑱	㉑	④③
㉒	㉒	④④
㉓	㉓	④⑤
㉔	㉔	④⑥
㉕	㉕	④⑦
㉖	㉖	

**Test your knowledge
of Japan's
geography!
Do you know all the
prefectures?**

Advice Corner

Per a suggestion from one of you wonderful readers, the newsletter would like to try introducing an Advice corner!

With the arrival of new 1st year Jets, if you have any tips or tricks about Okayama, Japan, work, or the like, please send them through this link! And if any of the new first years want to share anything you've learned in your first month or so here in Japan, please fill out this form as well!

We would like to include this monthly, but we will start on a trial basis. This will require some participation from you all, we want to find a way to include everyone's voice in this! So please consider sending in some advice, no matter how small or big!

[Advice Corner Form](#)



Additionally, if you would like to write an article for the October newsletter, please email the newsletter. Anything is welcome, but if looking for inspiration, themes may include:

October's Themes:
Halloween/Fall/Tsukimi

Want to be part of the Newsletter?

We are always looking for new talent and help at the newsletter, so if you have a writers itch you want to scratch, or have some ideas for the newsletter look, please contact us at our email!

newsletter@okayama-ajet.com



Additionally, if you have any suggestions or feedback for our newsletter, please fill out the form below!

Newsletter Feedback/Suggestion Form



See you next issue!