

Japan's lowest English proficiency ranking

Vocabulary Match

- ranking ● proficiency ● index ● declining ● focus ● motivation ●
- list ● dropping ● attention ● skill ● position ● drive

Article

Japan has reached its lowest-ever ranking on the Education First (EF) English Proficiency Index for 2024. This index measures English skills in countries where English is not the main language. Japan ranked 92 out of 116 countries, scoring 454 points, which is in the "Low proficiency" band. In comparison, the Netherlands is ranked first, and Singapore is the top Asian country at third place.

A representative from EF in Japan said, "It's not that Japan's English ability is declining, but rather that Japan is not keeping pace with the progress made in other countries." Younger Japanese people, aged 18-25, scored lower than older people. Some reasons for Japan's low ranking include a focus on grammar over speaking and less motivation to learn English.

Quiz

1. What is Japan's ranking on the EF English Proficiency Index for 2024?
2. Which Asian country has the best English skills?
3. Who scored lower in Japan, younger or older people?
4. What are some reasons for Japan's low ranking?

Conversation

- A: Did you hear about Japan's English ranking?
B: Yes, it's quite low, isn't it?
A: Yeah, 92 out of 116 countries.
B: Maybe we should focus more on speaking practice.
A: I agree, and find ways to motivate students.
B: Let's start by making English classes more fun!

Discussion

1. Why do you think young people in Japan scored lower than older people?
2. Why do you learn English?
3. What are your English study habits?
4. Which is more important, speaking English well or passing English exams?
5. If you were fluent in English, how would your life be different?