

Vending machines in Japan slowly disappearing

Vocabulary Match

- disappearing ● lowest ● removed ● doubt ● commuters ● bulk ●
- feeling unsure ● people who travel to work ● going away ● large amount ● smallest ● taken away

Article

Japan is famous for vending machines. You can find them almost everywhere, from quiet streets to busy train stations. But now, they are slowly disappearing. In 2025, there were 1.95 million soft drink machines. That is still a lot, but it is the lowest number in 30 years. In just one year, 90,000 machines were removed.

One reason is price. Drinks are now much more expensive, so people stop and think, "Is it worth it?" Often, the answer is no. This small moment of doubt can be enough for busy commuters to walk past without buying anything.

Instead, many people choose convenience stores for deals, or buy drinks online in bulk. Vending machines are still common, but their easy, fun image may be fading away.

Quiz

1. Where can you find vending machines in Japan?
2. How many vending machines were there in 2025?
3. Why do people hesitate to buy from vending machines now?
4. Where do people prefer to buy drinks instead of vending machines?

Conversation

- A: Hey, did you notice there are fewer vending machines around?
- B: Yeah, I heard 90,000 were removed last year!
- A: Wow, that's a lot. I guess drinks are too pricey now.
- B: True, I just go to the convenience store instead.
- A: Same here, and I buy in bulk online sometimes.
- B: Vending machines aren't as fun as they used to be, huh?

Discussion

1. Have you ever used a vending machine? What did you buy?
2. Do you prefer buying drinks from a store or a vending machine? Why?
3. What different kinds of vending machines can you think of?
4. If you could design a vending machine, what would it sell?