

Do we still need to write by hand?

Vocabulary Match

- enter ● opportunities ● government ● organise ● sharing ● survey ●
- authority ● questionnaire ● arrange ● communicating ● input ● chances

Article

Imagine trying to write a kanji that you have known for years, but suddenly you cannot remember how to write it. This can happen when people usually type Japanese on a smartphone or computer. When we type, we can enter the reading and choose the correct character without writing it ourselves.

A recent government survey found that many people still want opportunities to write by hand. Some said that writing helps them remember characters and think more carefully about what they want to say. This is especially interesting for younger people, who use digital devices every day.

Writing a message by hand may feel slow, but it gives us time to organise our thoughts before sharing them. In a world of smartphones, handwriting may be more useful than we think.

Quiz

1. What happens when people type Japanese on a smartphone?
2. What did the government survey find about writing by hand?
3. Why do some people think writing helps them?
4. Who is this topic especially interesting for?

Conversation

- A: I had to write a card for my friend's birthday yesterday.
 B: Oh, nice. Did you write it by hand?
 A: Yeah. It took me ages!
 B: Why? Have you forgotten how to write kanji?
 A: Actually, yes! It's so weird. I can't even remember simple characters!
 B: Ah, I know what you mean. It's because we type everything now.
 A: Exactly. But I think writing by hand made the card more personal.

Discussion

1. Do you prefer typing or writing by hand?
2. Have you ever forgotten how to write a character? What did you do?
3. In what situations do you write by hand?
4. What do you think about New Year cards versus digital alternatives?