

Shakespeare

Fun to Play

Task 1

Watch the interview with Susan about Japanese productions of Shakespeare's plays. Choose the correct options.

1. 'Much Ado About Nothing' is interesting to Japanese audiences because
 - a) the story takes place in Italy
 - b) the dialogue includes a lot of English-style humour
 - c) it's a play about human relationships

2. The visual imagery of the play translates well into Japanese, but the ... does not.
 - a) language
 - b) comedy
 - c) politics

3. Susan recently saw a beautiful Japanese kabuki version of
 - a) 'Much Ado About Nothing'
 - b) 'Twelfth Night'
 - c) 'All's Well That Ends Well'

4. In 'Much Ado', ... is probably closer to the traditional Japanese image of women.
 - a) Hero
 - b) Beatrice
 - c) Ursula

5. Susan suggests that Japanese women are more independent nowadays because

- a) they have fewer children
- b) they have to work
- c) they don't have to work

Task 2

Susan says: 'The more successful Japanese versions of Shakespeare are when a Japanese company **do it their way** and don't try and do it **in a Western way**.'

'**Way**' is one of the most common words in English. It often means 'style' or 'method'.

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

1. I'd prefer to / not / it / but / do / my / a bad idea, / way! / That's

2. the best / country? / way / around / to travel / your / What's

3. Great scientists / have / problems / to think about / new / in / old / ways. / the ability

4. way / to the airport / There's / no / get / before six o'clock. / we can

5. way / unusual / Ricky / very / dancing. / has / a / of

6. to keep / only / to / learn The / a language / is / practising. / way

Task 3

Can you remember the expressions with 'way' from the previous task? Write the correct words. Each gap has two or three words.

1. That's not a bad idea – but I'd prefer to do it _____!
2. What's the best _____ around your country?
3. Great scientists have the ability to think about old problems _____.
4. There's _____ we can get to the airport before six o'clock.
5. Ricky has a very unusual _____.
6. The _____ learn a language is to keep practising.

Answers

Task 1

1. c) it's a play about human relationships
2. a) language
3. b) 'Twelfth Night'
4. a) Hero
5. b) they have to work

Task 2

1. That's not a bad idea, but I'd prefer to do it my way!
2. What's the best way to travel around your country?
3. Great scientists have the ability to think about old problems in new ways.
4. There's no way we can get to the airport before six o'clock.
5. Ricky has a very unusual way of dancing.
6. The only way to learn a language is to keep practising.

Task 3

1. That's not a bad idea – but I'd prefer to do it my way!
2. What's the best way to travel around your country?
3. Great scientists have the ability to think about old problems in new ways.
4. There's no way we can get to the airport before six o'clock.
5. Ricky has a very unusual way of dancing.
6. The only way to learn a language is to keep practising.