

Learning English Through Japan – Tomuro Recycling Plaza

Focus: Reading (Comprehension), Speaking (Discussion about the Environment Protection)

PART 1 - Reading

Read the text below about Recycling and what are Kanazawa City's actions on this topic.



There are three important words for the environment. All of them have the initial R, that is why collectively they are called '3R'. They are: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

According to the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, **reducing** means choosing to use things with care to reduce the amount of waste generated. **Reusing** involves the repeated use of items or parts of items which still have usable aspects. **Recycling** means the use of waste itself as resources.

Waste minimization can be achieved in an efficient way by focusing primarily on the first of the 3Rs, "reduce," followed by "reuse" and then "recycle."

In Kanazawa (Ishikawa Prefecture), there is a place spreading this idea. This place is called Tomuro Recycling



Plaza. At this place, they display garbage, recycling and renewable energy, they also hold events where people can learn about the environment in a very fun way.



The garbage is displayed in an interesting way. Cardboards, for example, are used to build sculptures. They also hold auctions for used furniture and other objects that are in good condition. Any Kanazawa citizen can participate in the auction and acquire the items.

1) About the text, answer:

A) What are the 3Rs?

- a) Reuse, Reduce, Review
- b) Reuse, Recycle, Revolution
- c) Recycle, Reuse, Reduce



B) Write the R words next to their definitions:

	to treat to make suitable for reuse
	do not produce waste
	use more than just once

C) What is the most efficient order to prioritize the 3R?

- a) Reduce -> Reuse -> Recycle
- b) Reduce -> Recycle -> Reuse
- c) Reuse -> Reduce -> Recycle

D) Match the actions to a 3R word.

Reduce	Reuse	Recycle
Reduce	Reuse	Recycle

Use recycled paper for letterhead	
Buy durable goods	
Donate clothes, toys etc. to charities	
Throw PET bottles into the correct garbage can	
Reuse grocery bags	
Avoid over-packaged goods	

Would you change any match here?

PART 2 - Speaking

2) Discuss the following questions:

A) Do you agree with the most efficient order of the 3R mentioned in the text? Why?

B) Can you give examples of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle attitudes? Do you apply any R in your life today? How? If not, how would you apply?

C) There are great ideas at Tomuro Recycling Plaza. As mentioned in the text, they display cardboard as sculptures and sell used furniture. Look the pictures. What do you think about these ideas? Do you believe that these actions help people's awareness? What other ideas would you recommend they have at Tomuro Recycling Center?

D) Are there programs like Tomuro Recycling Center in your city? What do you know about them?

E) Would you donate furniture to a recycling center? Why or why not? Would you buy any items from a recycling center?

