

Learning English Through Japan – Soba Noodles

Focus: Vocabulary (Food), Listening (Comprehension), Writing (Free writing, different levels)

1) Match the name of the flour with their explanation. (Click on the microphone to record your answer).

buckwheat

rice flour

wheat flour

flour made from finely milled rice	
a free-flowing white to gray powder with black speckles, gluten-free	
powder made from grinding wheat, making is usable for human consumption	

Watch the video below and answer the exercises.

2) Which of the following best describes Japanese soba noodles?

- a) noodles made of rice flour and water
- b) noodles made of wheat flour and water
- c) noodles made of buckwheat and water
- d) Japanese stir-fried noodles

3) What is the difference between udon and soba noodles?

- a) udon is thick and made of buckwheat
- b) udon is thick and made of wheat flour
- c) udon is thin and made of wheat flour
- d) udon is thin and made of buckwheat

4) What fact has made soba become a famous dish among Japanese people in the 18th century?

- a) white rice is low in thiamine
- b) people were rich
- c) soba is easy to prepare
- d) lack of rice

5) Choose True or False.

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|---|------|-------|
| a) During Edo period, soba became famous among the poor people. | True | False |
| b) The region Edo is now called Tokyo. | True | False |
| c) Buckwheat is healthier than refined flour. | True | False |
| d) It's hard to find soba noodles in Japan. | True | False |
| e) There are different ways of eating soba noodles. | True | False |

6) Complete the text below about how to serve soba noodles. Check the numbered images and drag the words to the correct blank spaces.

bowl	chopsticks	slurp	tray
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1	2	3	4

Soba is typically eaten with (1)_____ and it is acceptable to (2)_____ it noisily.

Chilled soba is often served on a bamboo (3)_____ called *zaru*.

Hot soba is often served in a (4)_____.

7) Answer, at least, two of the following questions (40-60 words).

- a) What is your favorite food?
- b) Do you like Japanese food?
- c) Do you want to eat soba? Why?
- d) Did you like learning about soba?
- e) Have you ever tried to eat soba?