

# WHAT IS RAKUGO?

1. Rakugo is a {                    } year old tradition of comic monologue storytelling in Japan.

- あ) 100                    い) 400                    う) 800                    え) 1,000

2. A minimalistic performing art, rakugo features a lone storyteller dressed in a kimono, kneeling on a cushion, using only a fan and a hand towel as props. 絵とことばをマッチしてください！

kimono

cushion

hand towel

fan



てぬぐい

きもの

せんす

ざぶとん

3. The *rakugoka* (storyteller) differentiates characters in conversation by moving his head from left to right, as well as with subtle changes in tempo, posture and intonation. *Rakugo* is an ancient art form, but is still very much alive and well, with over {                    } professional storytellers practicing today.

- あ) 300                    い) 700                    う) 1,000                    え) 1,200

4. Today there are two main traditions of *rakugo*. *Rakugo* from Tokyo is called *Edo Rakugo*, while *rakugo* from Osaka is called {                    }.

あ) *Naniwa Rakugo*

い) *Yarou Rakugo*

う) *Kyou Rakugo*

え) *Kamigata Rakugo*

5. In order to become a professional *rakugoka*, one must be apprenticed to a master, from whom one receives a {                      }. The apprenticeship is very strict. The apprentice cleans the master's house, prepares and folds *kimono*, and learns the art of storytelling by watching the master perform.

あ) stage name    い) comic tale    う) kimono    え) fan

**For more information, check out these websites!**

Katsura Sunshine Official Website    [www.katsurasunshine.com](http://www.katsurasunshine.com)

Katsura Sunshine Explains Rakugo    [www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkvKledDUu0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkvKledDUu0)

## 快樂亭ブラック Kairakutei Black



Japan's first born foreign *rakugoka* is Australian! His name is Henry Black. Having been raised speaking Japanese, in 1878, after working as an English teacher, Henry Black met Shorin Hakuen II (二代目松林伯圓), who inspired him to become a *rakugoka*. He eventually joined the San'yū guild, where he adapted European texts as *rakugo* stories). Black took the name Kairakutei in 1891.