

Informational Newsletter for English-Speaking Residents

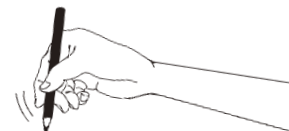
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Useful Japanese daily
rules and customs

Year-End and New Year Parties

 Featured words:忘年会 (ぼうねんかい // *Bōnenkai*) ・ 新年会 (しんねんかい // *Shin'nenkai*)

Bōnenkai are social gatherings held at the end of year, around mid- or late December, where people come together, look back on the year's events, try to forget the bad times, and welcome the new year with a refreshed state of mind. There are various types of *bōnenkai*, such as *bōnenkai* for workplaces and those held among close friends. These gatherings are held all across Japan during December and are a part of Japanese culture.

Shin'nenkai are social gatherings to celebrate the New Year and are usually held in January among close friends or office colleagues. At *shin'nenkai* among close friends, you'll often hear *akemashite omedetō* (Happy New Year), the typical greeting when meeting someone you know for the first time in the New Year. In addition to these typical greetings, you'll also find good food and drinks, more often alcoholic than not. Office *shin'nenkai*, however, are a bit different. They are usually held to make new year's resolutions, pray for further business prosperity, and enhance motivation among employees.

Bōnenkai and *shin'nenkai* are both events where people gather to appreciate the hard work that they have done in the passing year and make a good start into the new year. For those with many friends and colleagues, *bōnenkai* and *shin'nenkai* season may be your busiest time of the year! We hope you enjoy the wonderful holiday season and celebrate the New Year in your own way. Don't forget to take good care of yourself, enjoy some good food and drinks, and remember: **NEVER** drink and drive!

Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year from all of us!

