

H.I.H. Prince Takamado Trophy
76th All Japan Inter-Middle School English Oratorical Contest

Semifinal Contest: Wednesday, November 27th, Akasaka Civic Hall, Tokyo
 Thursday, November 28th, Akasaka Civic Hall, Tokyo

Final Contest: Friday, November 29th, Yurakucho Yomiuri Hall

Purpose:

The purpose of this Contest is to provide middle school students with opportunities to master English as an international language and to become internationally minded, thereby contributing to further enhancing the Japanese culture and to fostering friendship with peoples of the world.

Prefectural Contests and Central (Semifinal and Final) Contests:

The Prefectural Contests shall take place in each of the 47 prefectures throughout Japan to be conducted by respective Prefectural Boards of Education or branch offices of The Yomiuri Shimbun in each prefecture. The participants chosen as finalists of these Prefectural Contests are eligible to participate in the Semifinal Contests in Tokyo on November 27th and 28th and the Final Contest on November 29th to compete for the Prince Takamado Trophy.

Prefectural Contests:

1. Date and Place

The date, the time and the place shall be decided by each prefectural contest organizer.

2. Qualifications for Participation

- (1) Students enrolled in middle schools in Japan or those equivalent schools who are recommended by their school principals.

Students who fall under (a) ~ (d) below are not eligible to participate:

- (a) Those who, subsequent to their fifth birthday, resided in English-speaking areas* for a total of one year or more, or continuously for six months or more.
- (b) Those who were, for over six months, enrolled in schools which actually provide education in English beyond the English language course (including International Schools, American Schools, or any other schools where over half of their curricula are conducted in English), irrespective of whether such schools are located within Japan or overseas.
- (c) Those whose guardians or relatives from English-speaking areas* are residing in the same domicile.
- (d) Those who won the 1st to 3rd places in any previous Prince Takamado Trophy's Final Contest.

* The term "English speaking areas" refers to the countries/regions which use English as (a) their primary language, (b) official language, or (c) semi-official language. For the list of such countries/regions, please consult the website of the JNSA Fund. (<https://www.jnsafund.org>)

- (2) Those who have entered the Contest in violation of the above provisions shall be disqualified.

(3) As regards the question of qualifications in individual cases, the authority for the final decision rests with the JNSA Fund. In case of a doubt, please consult the Prince Takamado Trophy Secretariat of the Fund.

3. Terms and Qualifications for Application

Speech Division

- (1) An application form for H.I.H. Prince Takamado Trophy Contest and two copies of the speech draft must be submitted to the prefectural contest organizer by the deadline specified by the organizer.
- (2) Theme: Open.
Speeches should be those that reflect the opinion or message of the speakers in English, which have not yet been presented elsewhere. Speeches used in any of the preliminary contests related to the Prince Takamado Trophy, however, are allowed. Plagiarizing is strictly prohibited. Quotations must expressly be so stated. Speakers who violate these rules will be disqualified.
- (3) Time Limit: Five minutes.
Exceeding the time limit results in deduction of points from the speaker's vote point.
- (4) Copyright: The copyright of the speeches of the prefectural representatives is reserved by the organizers of the Prince Takamado Trophy, the JNSA Fund and The Yomiuri Shimbun, as referred to below.
- (5)
 - a. Participants are not allowed to use any amplification equipment.
 - b. Use of any eye-catching tools, excessive gestures and/or performance is prohibited.
 - c. Standing in front, or by the side, of the lectern when delivering the speech is in principle prohibited, unless the contestant is considered to have justifiable reasons such as prohibiting physical conditions.
 - d. Violation of one or more of the above rules may result in deduction of points from the final score.

Recitation Division

The rules applicable to the Speech Division are *mutatis mutandis* applied to the Recitation Division. The participating students and/or their teachers should contact the respective prefectural contest organizers for information on application methods, title, time limit and other pertinent rules and guidelines. This Division is held at the prefectural level only; no central contest is organized.

4. Awards

- (1) The top three contestants from each Prefectural Contest are eligible to participate in the Semifinal Contest in Tokyo. (One contestant per school; if two speakers from the same school are chosen for the top three, the fourth runner-up is eligible to represent his/her prefecture.) Due to demographic distributions, however, Aichi and Fukuoka Prefectures may send four contestants, and Tokyo, Osaka, Kanagawa and Hokkaido Prefectures may send five contestants to the Semifinal.
- (2) Those who win 1st to 3rd places but are not eligible to participate in the Semifinal due to the rule in section (1) above shall receive an "Honorary Award" and may also be invited to the Grand Reception, provided that they bear their own travel and accommodation expenses.
- (3) The Prefectural Contest winners shall be presented with a certificate.

Central Contests:

Semifinal Contests

1. Schedule

Date and Time	Semifinal Contest Divisions	Number of Schools to be Selected for the Final Contest
Nov. 27 9:30a.m.-1:30p.m.	1st Division— Kanto District: 10 Prefectures Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba, Gunma, Nagano, Yamanashi, and Shizuoka.	6 (out of 34)
Nov. 27 2:00p.m.-5:45p.m.	2nd Division— Southern Japan: 13 Prefectures Yamaguchi, Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi, Fukuoka, Oita, Saga, Miyazaki, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, and Okinawa.	7 (out of 40)
Nov. 28 9:30a.m.-1:30p.m.	3rd Division— Northern Japan: 12 Prefectures Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, Akita, Miyagi, Yamagata, Niigata, Fukushima, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, and Gifu.	7 (out of 38)
Nov. 28 2:00p.m.-5:45p.m.	4th Division— Central Japan: 12 Prefectures Aichi, Shiga, Mie, Nara, Wakayama, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Shimane, Tottori, Okayama, and Hiroshima	7 (out of 39)

- Place: Akasaka Civic Hall, Tokyo (Address: 4-18-13 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo)
- Qualifications: Top three speakers chosen from each Prefectural Contest, with the following exception: four contestants from Aichi and Fukuoka, and five contestants from Tokyo, Osaka, Kanagawa and Hokkaido.
- Application: The Prince Takamado Trophy Application Form should be submitted together with one typed copy (A4 size) of the speech manuscript.
- Deadline for Application and Speech Manuscript:

Within one week following the Prefectural Contest in which the contestant participated. (Upon receipt of the application papers, details for the Semifinals shall be provided by the end of October.)

- Mailing Address for Application: Prince Takamado Trophy Secretariat,
c/o The Yomiuri Shimbun, Tokyo Office
1-7-1, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8055

Tel 03-3217-8393 (13:00-18:00 on weekdays); Fax 03-3217-8358

- Judging Method: Speeches shall be judged on the basis of the three main viewpoints (Content, English, and Delivery). An emphasis shall be placed on the Content. Content
- Subsidy for Expenses: The organizer shall provide a subsidy for all participants in the central Contests to cover their travel and accommodation expenses.

Final Contest

- Date and Time: Friday, November 29th, 2024 11:15a.m. -3:15p.m.
- Place: Yomiuri Hall, Tokyo (7th floor near JR Yurakucho Station)
- Qualifications: 27 speakers selected as the finalists from the 151 participants at the Semifinal Contests.
- Judging Method: Same as the Semifinal Contests.

Awards for the Final Contest:

First Place	Prince Takamado Trophy
Second Place	Yomiuri Shimbun Trophy
Third Place	JNSA Fund Trophy
Fourth Place	The Japan News Trophy
Fifth Place	Yomiuri Chukousei Shimbun Trophy
Sixth Place	Yomiuri Chukousei Shimbun Trophy
Seventh Place	Yomiuri Chukousei Shimbun Trophy
Eighth to Twenty-Seventh Place	Honorary Awards

The World Family Award for Human Connection

This award shall be presented to students, from among the finalists, who have given outstanding speeches on the topic of human connection.

Embassy of Ireland Award

This award is an invitation to attend study trip in Ireland.

Embassy of Australia Award

This award is an invitation to attend study trip in Australia.

First to Third Places:

- ◆The Yomiuri Shimbun shall award certificates to the schools of the top three winners.
- ◆The JNSA Fund shall award certificates to the top three students and gold, silver and bronze medals to the top winner and the two runners-up respectively.
- ◆Soroptimist International of Tokyo-Azuma shall present the top three winners with a certificate and a supplementary prize.
- ◆King Jim Co. Ltd. shall provide the schools of the top three winners with a prize.
- ◆SEIKO WATCH CORPORATION shall present the top ten winners with a prize.
- ◆Pentel Co., Ltd. Shall present all of the 27 finalists with certificates and a supplementary prize.
- ◆The Japan News shall present a one-year subscription of its newspapers to the schools of the top three winners.

Fourth to Seventh Place:

- ◆The Yomiuri Shimbun shall award certificates to the schools of the fourth through seventh place winner.
- ◆The JNSA Fund shall award certificates and medals to the fourth through seventh place winner.
- ◆The Japan News shall present six-month subscriptions of its newspapers to the schools of the fourth to seventh place winner.

Eighth to Twenty-Seventh Places:

- ◆A medal shall be presented to each of the eighth through twenty-seventh place finalists.
- ◆The Japan News shall present three-month subscriptions of its newspapers to the schools of the eighth to twenty-seventh place finalists.

Special Donation: Toshin High School

Donations: Nippon Television Network Corporation, Pentel Co., Ltd.; World Family K.K.; Soroptimist International of Tokyo-Azuma; Nippon Television Kobato Cultural Foundation.

Contributions: King Jim Co., Ltd.; Newell Rubbermaid Japan, Ltd. (Parker Pen); Kenkyusha; Bijutsu Shuppan Design Center; Seiko Watch Corporation; McDonald's Company (Japan), Ltd.; and Morinaga Milk Industry Co., Ltd ;.

Contributions to the Grand Reception:

Yamazaki Baking Co., Ltd.; Lotte Co., Ltd.; and Imperial Hotel, Ltd.

Organized and Administered by The Yomiuri Shimbun and
The Japan National Student Association (JNSA) Fund.

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