

Verb - ましょうか。 Shall we do ~ ? [Polite suggestion]

This form of verb is used to politely suggest doing something together with others.

Compare: 1. いきましょうか。 Shall we go? [Suggestion to others]
 2. いきましよう。 Let's go. [Own suggested decision]
 3. いきませんか。 Would you like to go? [Invitation]

1. 「いま おひるごはんを たべましょうか。」 Shall we eat lunch now?
 「はい、たべましょう。」 Yes, let's eat.
2. 「どようびに うみへ いきましょうか。」 Shall we go to the beach on Saturday?
 「ええ、いきましょう。」 Yes, let's go.

A

【●】ぶんかノート: Cultural Notes

1. 男 and 女

In order to use a public restroom in Japan, it is important to know these two *kanji*. Which door will you choose to enter?



2. (お)トイレTOIRE, (お)てあらい, (お)べんじょ

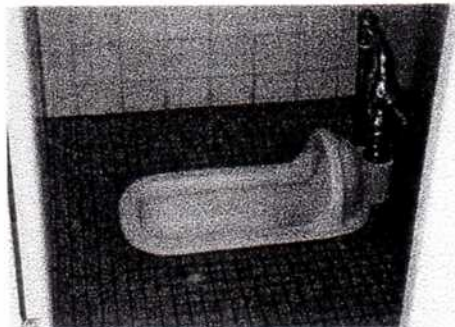
There are many Japanese words used to mean toilets, bathrooms and restrooms, much like English. The *べん* of (お)べんじょ means "human waste" and *じょ* means "place." So (お)べんじょ literally means a place for these functions. Modern Japanese people avoid the use of this word, as it sounds too direct and crude. If you go to the countryside in Japan, you may still find toilets referred to in this way. The *て* of (お)てあらい means "hands" and *あらい* is a stem form of *あらいます* which means "to wash." So (お)てあらい means "a place to wash hands." This is a more polite expression and it is quite commonly used by Japanese, especially women.

トイレTOIRE is, of course, from the English word "toilet" and is used by young Japanese, especially young men. *お* attached to トイレTOIRE adds politeness to the word. Females tend to use the word おトイレ(おTOIRE) more than males. Other euphemistic terms, such as WC (water closet, from British English) and けしょうしつ "powder room" are also used.

E

3. Japanese Toilets

Japanese-style toilets are becoming less common in Japan. To use them, one must squat (females) or stand (males) over a long rectangular porcelain receptacle which is installed into the floor. Most public restrooms now have Western-style sit down toilets. Modern homes are often now equipped with computerized toilets which can heat up, spray your bottom and flush automatically. Public restrooms often do not provide paper towels to use after washing your hands. Railroad station restrooms may not even supply toilet paper which must be purchased in vending machines.



Japanese toilet