

# *Reading and Talking*

## Dassai milkshake

From December 26th, to celebrate New Year, Mos Burger is going to sell Mazeru Shake Dassai (Milkshake and Dassai Mix). It is a Mos vanilla milkshake that is mixed with a non-alcoholic “amazake” fermented rice drink. The amazake is made from “koji” rice malt that is used to make Dassai (獺祭) sake. Dassai is a famous sake from Osogoe (獺越) village in Yamaguchi Prefecture. A small Mazeru Shake Dassai is 334 yen and a medium is 399 yen. You can buy it at Mos Burger all over Japan until early February 2021, or until it is sold out.

(101 words)

Do you want to try a “Mazeru Shake Dassai”?

↳ Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--What do you think about the price? / Can you imagine what it tastes like? / Have you had a milkshake recently?)

↳ No, I don't. (--How come you don't want to try one? / Do you like “amazake”? / Do you like milkshakes?)

Do you like Mos Burger?

↳ Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--What's your favorite food or drink there? / Do you like Mos Burger's meat sauce? / Have you ever had Mos Chicken?)

↳ No, I don't. (--How come you don't like it? / Is there a Mos Burger restaurant near your place? / Do you like burgers?)

What's your favorite burger restaurant chain?

↳ I like [XXX]. (-- Have you been there recently? / What's your favorite food and drink there? / What's your next favorite burger chain?)

↳ Nowhere special. (--Have you been to a fast food restaurant recently? / Do you like KFC?)

(18 December, 2020)

## *More Information*

### Dassai milkshake

Dassai (獺祭) is a well-known brand of sake that is made by Asahi Shuzo in Yamaguchi Prefecture. The first kanji character (獺) means otter, and the second (祭) means festival. What does otter festival mean? According to the company's website, it means the way that otters put the fish that they catch on the riverbank as if they are showing them off and having a festival. "Dassai" is also used figuratively to describe the way that someone spreads books and papers around themselves when they are writing. Asahi Shuzo's sake brewery is in Osogoe (獺越), a village that has the otter kanji character in its name.

On December 26, Mos Burger begins selling Mazeru Shake Dassai (Milkshake and Dassai Mix). It blends Mos's vanilla milkshake with a non-alcoholic "amazake" fermented rice drink. The amazake is made from the "koji" rice malt that is used to make Dassai sake.

Mos says that Mazeru Shake Dassai has a festive feeling for celebrating the New Year. A small size is ¥334 and a medium is ¥399. It's available at Mos Burger restaurants nationwide until early February 2021, or while stocks last.

(188 words)

(18 December, 2020)

# *Reading and Talking*

## Banana jeans

Jeans are denim pants. Denim is a strong cotton cloth that is usually blue. In Japan, all jeans were imported until the first Japanese denim jeans were made in the 1960s in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture. Japan Blue is a company that makes jeans in Kurashiki. Banana plants can be used to make cloth. The company found that 18% banana and 82% cotton makes denim that is lighter, stronger, and faster-drying than 100% cotton denim. Japan Blue's new "Banana Tree Jeans" are sold online for 28,600 yen a pair, or 33,000 yen for pre-faded (lighter blue).

(100 words)

Did you know about banana fabric jeans before you read the story above?

↳ Yes, I did. (--Do you want to buy banana jeans? / What do you think about the prices? / Have you ever bought jeans at Uniqlo?)

↳ No, I didn't. (--Do you think they're going to be popular / Do you like jeans? / How many pairs of jeans do you have?)

Which do you like better, "pittari" skinny jeans or "yuttari" baggy jeans?

↳ I like both. (--Have you bought any jeans recently? / Do you have any black jeans?)

↳ I like [XXX] better. (--How come? / Do you have any white jeans? / Do you have any colored jeans?)

↳ I don't like either. (--Do you have any jeans? / Do you have a denim shirt?)

Do you like bananas?

↳ Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--How often do you eat them? / Have you ever bought a banana at a convenience store? / Have you ever gone on a banana diet? / What's your favorite banana dessert?)

↳ No, I don't. (--How come you don't like them? / What's your favorite fruit? / What's your least favorite fruit?)

(18 December, 2020)

## *More Information*

### Banana jeans

Jeans are pants that are made of denim, which is a thick, strong, usually blue cotton cloth. In Japan, all jeans were imported until the first domestic denim jeans were made in the 1960s in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture. Okayama has been a cotton growing and textile producing area since the beginning of the Edo period (around the 1650s).

Japan Blue is one company that makes jeans in Kurashiki. When Yuki Kishimoto, a director of Japan Blue, went to Thailand on business, he heard that banana plants bear fruit only once. Therefore, after farmers pick the bananas, they cut down the plants and throw them away. Kishimoto also learned that banana plants can be used to make fabric. The resulting cloth is too coarse to feel comfortable on the skin, but through trial and error, the company discovered that a ratio of 18% banana and 82% cotton produces a comfortable cloth that is lighter, stronger, and faster-drying than regular denim.

Japan Blue's "Banana Tree Jeans" went on sale this summer. They are ¥28,600 a pair, or ¥33,000 for pre-faded, at <<https://www.denimlabo.com/c/japanbluejeans>>.

(184 words)

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