

# NEW YEAR IN JAPAN

Let's learn more about Japanese culture! New Year is one of the most important holidays in Japan. Most businesses are shut from Jan 1-3, and many families gather together to spend quality time.

After throwing 'Bonenkai parties' at the end of December (year-forgetting parties whose objective is to leave the troubles and worries of that year behind), a new year is celebrated as a fresh new start.

So how do we celebrate it?

- **Toshikoshi soba** (year-passing soba) is served on New Year's Eve. People also watch a music show named **Kohaku Utagassen** although at the Ebisawa's we never do.
- On January 1st, people go out to observe the new year's 1st sunrise called **Hatsu-Hinode**. After this, on the way back home, people visit temples and shrines to wish for a healthy and good year. This is called **Hatsumode**.



# VOCABULARY NEW YEAR IN JAPAN

English	言葉	ことば
Year-forgetting party	忘年会	ぼうねんかい
New Year	正月	しょうがつ
The music show	紅白歌合戦	こうはく うたがっせん
New Year's sunrise	初日の出	はつひので
Visiting shrines	初詣	はつもうで
Entrance decoration	門松	かどまつ
Mochi decoration	鏡餅	かがみもち
Playing cards	かるた	

