

Hello, my name is Kathy and I am from Australia. I came to Japan 15 years ago and now I teach English at a junior high school in Okayama. When I was a high school student, I became interested in Japan and started to study Japanese language and culture. I have never thought Japanese is very difficult, and many people say my Japanese is very good. Japanese people are very nice and kind. I love Japanese food. I am very happy here.

But there is one thing I don't like. They often ask me, "Are you from America?" Why do they think I am from America? I am from Australia. Australia and America are different. There are so many different countries in the world.

There is another question I don't enjoy. When I meet someone, I am often asked, "Can you eat *sashimi*?" or "Do you like *natto*?" I have to answer the same questions again and again in Japanese. And many Japanese people are surprised when I say, "I like *sashimi* very much and I eat *natto* on rice every morning."

I am not happy about all these questions. When will they stop asking me such questions?

