

## A2-B1 Worksheet: British-Style Pubs and Japanese Izakayas - 10 June 2026

### Article

Izakayas are traditional Japanese places where people eat, drink and talk after work. A recent report says many izakayas are having a difficult time. Prices are higher, staff are harder to find and some young people drink less alcohol than before.

In one Tokyo area, an izakaya manager said nights are quieter than before the pandemic. Some customers now drink at home. Foreign tourists visit Japan in large numbers, but small local places do not always have English menus or food that visitors know.

At the same time, British-style pubs are growing in Japan. One chain, HUB, shows football and works with anime and manga groups to attract customers. Izakayas are still much more common, but owners may need new ideas to keep their important culture alive.

### True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. Izakayas are traditional Japanese places for food, drink and conversation.
2. The article says all izakayas are becoming richer and busier.
3. Higher prices and staff problems are making business difficult.
4. Some young people drink less alcohol than before.
5. The Tokyo manager said nights are busier than before the pandemic.
6. Foreign tourists always find small local izakayas easy to use.
7. British-style pubs are growing in Japan.
8. The article says izakayas are still more common than British-style pubs.

### Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

| Words (1-10)   | Synonyms (A-J)          |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. traditional | A. nearby               |
| 2. difficult   | B. more expensive       |
| 3. higher      | C. increasing           |
| 4. harder      | D. old-style            |
| 5. young       | E. valuable             |
| 6. quieter     | F. from another country |
| 7. foreign     | G. hard                 |
| 8. local       | H. less busy            |
| 9. growing     | I. not old              |
| 10. important  | J. more difficult       |

### Use the new language

Please choose 5 words from the Synonym Match and make your own sentence using each word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Discussion Questions

| Student A                                                         | Student B                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Do you like going to small local restaurants?                  | 1. Why do some traditional businesses become less popular?            |
| 2. What kind of place do you usually choose for a night out?      | 2. Should restaurants change their menus for tourists?                |
| 3. Would you prefer an izakaya or a British-style pub? Why?       | 3. Are higher prices changing nightlife in your country?              |
| 4. Is it easy for foreign visitors to order food in your country? | 4. How can small restaurants compete with big chains?                 |
| 5. Do young people in your country drink less than older people?  | 5. Is it good when foreign-style pubs or cafes become popular?        |
| 6. What makes a restaurant feel friendly?                         | 6. Why might young people avoid drinking with colleagues after work?  |
| 7. Do you enjoy watching sport in a bar or restaurant?            | 7. Can anime, music or sport help a bar attract new customers?        |
| 8. Which traditional place in your city should stay alive?        | 8. What should a traditional izakaya keep, and what should it change? |

## Answer Key

True/False: 1=T, 2=F, 3=T, 4=T, 5=F, 6=F, 7=T, 8=T

Synonym Match: 1=D, 2=G, 3=B, 4=J, 5=I, 6=H, 7=F, 8=A, 9=C, 10=E

Example sentences with the words

1. A traditional restaurant can show local culture.
2. It is difficult to run a small business when prices rise.
3. Higher food costs can make meals more expensive.
4. It is harder to find staff in some restaurants now.
5. Young people often choose different places to meet friends.
6. The streets are quieter after midnight.
7. Foreign visitors sometimes need an English menu.
8. A local pub can become part of the community.
9. British-style pubs are growing in some Japanese cities.
10. Izakayas are an important part of Japanese nightlife.