

## Japan's \$3,000 wagyu beef bento lunch box

8th January, 2018



Picture:  
<https://gochikuru.com/2127/menu/TOQH001/>

The bento is a very common part of Japanese cuisine. It is a ready-made meal in a box for one person. People buy it from convenience

stores and railway stations. Japanese mothers and wives often spend a lot of time carefully preparing a bento lunch box for their husband or children. Bentos are usually cheap and contain a healthy mix of rice or noodles, fish or meat, and pickled and cooked vegetables. Now, a new bento is on the market that does not match our traditional image of this lunch box. The new bento is from Tottori and contains only premium cuts of the country's highest-quality wagyu beef. It is a little more expensive than the average 600 yen for a bento, as it costs 292,929 yen (\$3,000).

Tottori is in the west of Japan's Honshu island. Its wagyu beef was recently rated as the best in all of Japan. It is also very expensive. The new Tottori Wagyu Complete Cow bento box contains 4.5kg of beef, Tottori-grown rice and wasabi, and a special dipping sauce flavored with Tottori's famous pears, but no vegetables. The actual bento box is also more expensive than normal bento boxes. It is 60 centimeters long and is made from wood instead of plastic. The compartments in the box are in the shape of a cow. In Japan, you can buy the beefy bento online from the bento delivery service Gochikuru. However, you may have to wait two weeks for the company to prepare your meaty lunch.

Sources: [JapanToday.com](http://JapanToday.com) / [gochikuru.com](http://gochikuru.com) / [foodandwine.com](http://foodandwine.com)

## Writing

It is important for food to be beautifully presented. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

common / ready-made / convenience stores / lunch / healthy / traditional / average / Japan / beef / rice / sauce / vegetables / pears / wood / delivery service / prepare

## True / False

- a) The article says a bento is not a common part of Japanese cuisine. T / F
- b) Bento boxes are usually for two people. T / F
- c) Bento box lunches are not usually so cheap. T / F
- d) A new bento has the best quality wagyu beef in Japan. T / F
- e) The new bento has 4.5kg of beef in it. T / F
- f) The new bento has a special sauce flavored with Japanese apples. T / F
- g) The new bento is 60 centimeters long. T / F
- h) There is a two-week wait for the bento to be delivered. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1. cuisine</b>    | a. rather than      |
| <b>2. buy</b>        | b. combination      |
| <b>3. preparing</b>  | c. not long ago     |
| <b>4. mix</b>        | d. putting together |
| <b>5. average</b>    | e. dressing         |
| <b>6. recently</b>   | f. cooking          |
| <b>7. sauce</b>      | g. costly           |
| <b>8. expensive</b>  | h. hold on          |
| <b>9. instead of</b> | i. purchase         |
| <b>10. wait</b>      | j. normal           |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Japan's bento lunches?
- b) What do you usually have for lunch?
- c) What do you think of your country's cuisine?
- d) What is the healthiest lunch you can think of?
- e) What do you think of the \$3,000 bento lunch?
- f) Do you think home cooking is the best, and why?
- g) Would you like to try the wagyu bento?
- h) What would you put in your perfect bento?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. The bento is a very common part
  2. a ready-made
  3. spend a lot of time
  4. pickled and
  5. the country's highest-
  6. recently rated
  7. a special dipping
  8. made from wood instead
  9. in the shape
  10. online from the bento
- a. carefully preparing
  - b. of a cow
  - c. as the best
  - d. meal in a box
  - e. of plastic
  - f. quality wagyu beef
  - g. of Japanese cuisine
  - h. delivery service
  - i. cooked vegetables
  - j. sauce

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about wagyu beef?
- c) What do you know about Japanese food?
- d) Why do you think the wagyu bento is so expensive?
- e) What kind of bento box would you design?
- f) What do you think of sandwiches or fast food for lunch?
- g) What sauces do you like, and why?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the bento maker?

## Spelling

1. a very mocnom part
2. Japanese inuesci
3. nececoneniv stores
4. a aeythhl mix of rice or noodles
5. our tdaiiatonrl image
6. only rueimmp cuts
7. tcyeelrn rated as the best
8. bento box sncaitno 4.5kg of beef
9. a special dipping caseu
10. The laucat bento box
11. made from wood snateid of plastic
12. the bento verdlei service

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. j
6. c	7. e	8. g	9. a	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – A Bento

You think a bento is the best lunch. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their lunches. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): sandwich, burger or salad.

### Role B – A Sandwich

You think a sandwich is the best lunch. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their lunches. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bento, burger or salad.

### Role C – A Burger

You think a burger is the best lunch. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their lunches. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): sandwich, bento or salad.

### Role D – A Salad

You think a salad is the best lunch. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their lunches. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): sandwich, burger or bento.

## Speaking – Lunch

Rank these with your partner. Put the best lunches at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- curry
- pizza
- salad
- omelet
- bento
- sandwiches
- shawarma
- burger and fries

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.