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Level 1 – 30th October 2025

Japan's legendary sushi chef still working at 100

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251030-sushi-chef-jiro-ono-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251030-sushi-chef-jiro-ono-1.html>

A sushi chef in Japan is still working, even though he just celebrated his 100th birthday. His name is Jiro Ono. He is one of 4,380 people in Tokyo who have become or will be 100 this year. Mr Ono spoke to Tokyo's governor. She asked him about his secret to a healthy life. He replied, "To work." He said: "Even at 100 years old, I'll try to work...The best medicine is to work." He added: "I plan to keep going for about five more years."

Jiro Ono was born in 1925. He started working when he was seven. He qualified as a sushi chef in 1951 and opened his own restaurant in 1965. It was a small 10-seat sushi bar in a rich area of Tokyo. He spent many years trying to make the perfect sushi. In 2011, a movie was made about Ono called "Jiro Dreams of Sushi". In the film, he said: "I haven't reached perfection yet. I'll continue to climb and try to reach the top."

Sources: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20251027/p2g/00m/0na/029000c>
<https://www.ntv.co.jp/englishnews/articles/2021k54mx8uq7ondgmhl.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiro_Ono

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251030-sushi-chef-jiro-ono-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. he just celebrated | a. healthy life |
| 2. He is one | b. going |
| 3. will be 100 | c. of 4,380 people |
| 4. Mr Ono spoke to Tokyo's | d. is to work |
| 5. his secret to a | e. this year |
| 6. The best medicine | f. more years |
| 7. I plan to keep | g. his 100th birthday |
| 8. for about five | h. governor |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. He started working when | a. perfect sushi |
| 2. He qualified | b. own restaurant |
| 3. opened his | c. reach the top |
| 4. It was a small 10- | d. perfection yet |
| 5. in a rich | e. he was seven |
| 6. trying to make the | f. seat sushi bar |
| 7. I haven't reached | g. as a sushi chef |
| 8. continue to climb and try to | h. area of Tokyo |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251030-sushi-chef-jiro-ono-1.html>

A sushi chef in Japan is still working,
(1) _____ just celebrated his 100th birthday.
His name is Jiro Ono. He (2) _____ 4,380
people in Tokyo who have (3) _____ be 100
this year. Mr Ono spoke to Tokyo's governor. She asked him
about (4) _____ a healthy life. He replied,
"To work." He said: "Even at 100 years old, I'll try to work...The
(5) _____ to work." He added: "I
(6) _____ going for about five more years."

Jiro Ono (7) _____ 1925. He started working
when he was seven. He (8) _____ sushi chef
in 1951 and opened his own restaurant in 1965. It was a small
10-seat sushi bar in (9) _____ of Tokyo. He
spent many years trying to (10) _____ sushi.
In 2011, a movie was made about Ono called "Jiro Dreams of
Sushi". In the film, he said: "I haven't
(11) _____. I'll continue to climb and try to
(12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251030-sushi-chef-jiro-ono-1.html>

Asushi chef in Japan is still working, even though he just celebrated his 100th birthday. His name is Jiro Ono. He is one of 4,380 people in Tokyo who have become or will be 100 this year. Mr Ono spoke to Tokyo's governor. She asked him about his secret to a healthy life. He replied, "To work." He said: "Even at 100 years old, I'll try to work... The best medicine is to work." He added: "I plan to keep going for about five more years." Jiro Ono was born in 1925. He started working when he was seven. He qualified as a sushi chef in 1951 and opened his own restaurant in 1965. It was a small 10-seats sushi bar in a rich area of Tokyo. He spent many years trying to make the perfect sushi. In 2011, a movie was made about Ono called "Jiro Dreams of Sushi". In the film, he said: "I haven't reached perfection yet. I'll continue to climb and try to reach the top."

SUSHI SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251030-sushi-chef-jiro-ono-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about sushi in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2510/251030-sushi-chef-jiro-ono-1.html>

Write about **sushi** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]