

- Will Everyone Be "SATO" by 2531? -

In 2531, / all Japanese **surnames** will be "Sato"— / an **astonishing** research result made public / on April 1st / that has attracted significant attention.//

Although it might initially seem like an **April Fool's** joke, / this finding comes from Professor Hiroshi Yoshida / of Tohoku University's Center for the Economic and Social Analysis of an Aging Society, / who **specializes** in economic analysis of low **birthrate** and aging societies.//

A report by the General Incorporated Association "Asuniha" reveals/ that "Sato" is the most common surname / among the **approximately** 130,000 varieties in Japan. // By 2023, /around 1.5% of the population, / or one to two in every hundred people, / are already named Sato.// Under the current Japanese legal system, / one **spouse** must change their surname upon marriage. // If this system remains unchanged, / it could result in everyone eventually having the surname Sato.//

With 500,000 couples marrying annually in Japan, / one surname is **inevitably** lost each time, / **gradually** decreasing the variety of surnames. // This could **eventually** lead to everyone sharing the same surname.//

2531年に / すべての日本人の姓が「佐藤」になる / ある驚くべき研究結果が公表された / 4月1日に / それは非常に大きな注目を集めた//

最初はエイプリルフールの冗談のように思えるかもしれないが / この発見は吉田浩教授によるもので / 東北大学の高齢経済社会研究センターに所属している / (彼は) 少子化と高齢化社会についての経済的な分析を専門としている//

一般社団法人「あすには」の報告が明らかにしているのは / 「佐藤」が最も一般的な名字であるということだ / 日本の約13万種類の姓の中で//

2023年までに / 全人口の約1.5% / つまり100人に1人から2人が / すでに「佐藤」の名字になる// 現行の日本の法制度では / 結婚時に一方の配偶者が姓を変えなければならない// この制度が変わらない限り / 最終的にはすべての日本人が「佐藤」姓になる可能性がある//

日本では年間50万組のカップルが結婚しているが / そのたびに1つの姓が必然的に失われ / 姓の多様性が徐々に減少していくことになる。// このことが、結果的に、すべての人が同じ姓を共有することにつながるかもしれない//

Vocabulary and Phrases

surname	姓	approximate	おおよその、約
astonishing	驚くべき、驚くほどの	spouse	配偶者
April Fool	4月ばか、エイプリルフール	inevitable	避けられない
specialize	特殊化する	gradually	徐々に、だんだんと
birthrate	出生率	eventually	結果的に、最終的に

Total Number of words used

: 167 words

Time for 100 wpm

: _____ sec.

Time for 120 wpm

: _____ sec.

Your BEST TIME

: _____ sec.



【Listen & Fill Blank】

In 2531, all Japanese surnames will be "Sato"—an _____ research result made public on April 1st that has _____ significant attention.

Although it might _____ seem like an _____'s joke, this finding comes from Professor Hiroshi Yoshida of Tohoku University's Center for the _____ and Social Analysis of an Aging Society, who _____ in economic analysis of _____ and aging societies.

A report by the General Incorporated _____ "Asuniha" reveals that "Sato" is the most common surname among the _____ varieties in Japan. By 2023, around _____ of the population, or one to two in every _____ people, are already named Sato. Under the current Japanese _____, one spouse must change their surname upon marriage. If this system remains unchanged, it could result in everyone _____ having the surname Sato.

With 500,000 couples _____ annually in Japan, one surname is _____ lost each time, gradually _____ the variety of surnames. This could _____ lead to everyone sharing the same surname.

【Q&A / A&Q】

Question 1: What prediction about Japanese surnames was made public on April 1st?

Question 2: Who conducted the research that led to the prediction about the future of Japanese surnames?

Question 3: Why could the surname "Sato" become universal in Japan under the current legal system?

Ask 1: April Fool についての質問を英語で書いてください。

Ask 2: spouse についての質問を英語で書いてください。

Ask 3: 本文について知りたいことを英語で書いてください。

Sample Answer 1: By 2531, all Japanese surnames will be "Sato."

Sample Answer 2: Professor Hiroshi Yoshida of Tohoku University's Center for the Economic and Social Analysis of an Aging Society.

Sample Answer 3: Because the current law requires one spouse to change their surname upon marriage, leading to a gradual decrease in surname variety.

Sample Question 1: What does the people usually do to celebrate in April Fool?

Sample Question 2: What cultural factors influence the decision for one spouse to change their surname after marriage?

Sample Question 3: What is the most common surname among both males and females in America?