



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

A katsu meal, then time for some kintsugi

KEYWORDS

- Cutlet:**
A large slice of meat
- Lexicon:**
The words in a language
- Pottery:** Cups, plates, pots and bowls
- Flaws:** Things that are not perfect

The latest update to the Oxford English Dictionary has added 23 new words borrowed from Japanese.

Language barrier

Every word tells a story. Take “katsu”.

This Japanese word which we use for breaded chicken is actually short for katsuretu, which is how the Japanese wrote down the English word **cutlet**.

Now katsu has come back into English thanks to the British love for katsu curry.

The Oxford English Dictionary, the largest



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A loanword is a word borrowed by one language from another. Every language does it. Japanese has actually borrowed its letters from Chinese, just like English borrowed its letters from the Romans. But unlike English, Japanese has three kinds of written script!

dictionary of the English language, has officially added it to the **lexicon**, along with 22 other Japanese loanwords.

Boomerang

Linguists call a word like katsu, which is borrowed and then returned with a new meaning, a boomerang word.

Katsu curry is also a boomerang dish. It's Japan's take on a British take on India's many different spicy dishes.

Word perfect

Loanwords can also help us see the world in new ways.

Kintsugi is a word for a way of repairing broken **pottery**. You fill the cracks with gold. People use the word to mean embracing your **flaws**, rather than pretending not to have any.

Adventures on every page

Isekai, meanwhile, is a genre of story about a character finding themselves in a new world. If you're ever watching an isekai anime, tell your fellow fans that anime is another boomerang word!



INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

COULD YOU INVENT A NEW WORD?

WHAT
is kintsugi?

WHO
would call katsu a boomerang word?

WHERE
is the original inspiration for katsu curry from?

WHEN
would you call a story an isekai?

WHY
is kintsugi a different way of looking at things?

HOW
do you fill the cracks in kintsugi?

1 CHECK YOUR FACTS

Make sure you have all the facts before you start your investigation. Can you answer these questions?

2 KNOW YOUR KEYWORDS

Can you remember what these keywords mean? Match the word to the correct meaning.

1=D

2=

3=

4=

1. Cutlet

2. Lexicon

3. Pottery

4. Flaws

A. Cups, plates, pots and bowls

B. Things that are not perfect

C. The words in a language

D. A large slice of meat

3 LOOK AT ALL SIDES

There's always more than one side to every story. How might the people involved feel about the story?



Linguists



Katsu curry fans



Japanese people



Anime and manga fans



Happy



Sad



Calm



Excited



Surprised



Angry



Scared



Bored



Disgusted



Confused

4 DISCUSS THE QUESTION

Could you invent a new word?

What do you think? Use the speaking prompts here to help you get started.

I disagree with...

I agree with...

I'm not sure about...

I'd like to know more about...

I think that...

I don't think that...

5 REPORT BACK

Write, present or record a report that communicates your view. Share this with your class, family and friends. What's their opinion?



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