

When I lived in America, I did a crossword puzzle in the newspaper almost every day. I used to really enjoy it because I like to solve puzzles but it also kept my vocabulary up to par. But since I came to Japan, my English vocabulary has become very diluted. A few months after I got here, my dad sent me some crossword puzzles that he cut out from the newspaper and I couldn't do them! I was disappointed, but later that year I found out about a kind of puzzle that was more my speed: sudoku.

I was talking to a friend at Christmas last year when she asked me if people in Japan are always doing sudoku. She told me about the crossword-type puzzle from Japan that has become a big fad in America, and was wondering if it was as popular in Japan. I had never seen it here, and was surprised to hear what she said. She told me that it was published in the daily newspaper along with the crossword, and that people were going crazy about it. She didn't know so much about Japan, so this was one of the few things that she could ask me about. I didn't really know about sudoku, but was excited when she sent me a book of puzzles for my birthday. Once I saw what sudoku was, I recognized it in bookstores and saw that it is still common in Japan too. But it doesn't seem to be as much of a pop culture fad as it is at home.

I'm glad my friend mentioned that to me, because I had a chance to try something new that turned out to be fun for me. Now sudoku is my puzzle of choice, at least until I go home and can start doing crosswords again!