

Tekst 7

Ah, ha, ha, ha, Stayin' Alive

Japan's passion for karaoke is sticking unhealthily in the nation's throat

- 1 Karaoke — once just another of those home-grown curiosities that never made it beyond Japan's shores, along with courteous white-gloved taxi drivers, punctual trains and a taste for fish that hadn't been cooked — is now as common in Newcastle as it is in Nagoya (as, too, is sushi; though, not yet, trains that run on time).
- 2 While, in Britain, karaoke most commonly evokes images of woozy hen parties belting out throaty renditions of 'I Will Survive', in Japan it tended to be the preserve of tired and emotional office workers: in cosy Tokyo bars, often no bigger than a bathroom, middle-aged salarymen would sink into their cups after a vexing day at their desks and warble sugary ballads extolling Japan's rural beauty or a woman's charms.
- 3 But even in Japan, karaoke has become busier, brasher and more boisterous. Last year, 47 million Japanese visited a karaoke outlet. You can find karaoke programs on your mobile phone. There are online karaoke clubs. Cars come custom-equipped with karaoke machines.
- 4 But a zeal for singing along to high-pitched tunes has put such a strain on the nation's voice boxes that it has spawned an epidemic of "karaoke polyp" in ambitious pursuit of a top C. The good news? No more *Bee Gees* imitators! By order of Japanese doctors.

The Times

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“Japan’s passion for karaoke is sticking unhealthily in the nation’s throat”
(ondertitel)

- 1p **33** Waarom is karaoke volgens de tekst ongezond?
- 2p **34** Geef voor elk van de onderstaande beweringen aan of deze juist of onjuist is met betrekking tot de alinea’s 1 en 2.
The purpose of paragraphs 1 and 2 is
- 1 to explain the popularity of karaoke bars in both Japan and Great Britain.
 - 2 to give examples of annoying customs imported into Great Britain from Japan.
 - 3 to illustrate that Great Britain has better-equipped karaoke facilities than Japan.
 - 4 to point out the cultural differences between Great Britain and Japan in the practising of karaoke.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “juist” of “onjuist”.
- 1p **35** What becomes clear from paragraph 3?
- A Karaoke has massively invaded Japanese society in a variety of ways.
 - B Technical developments have made karaoke an ever more competitive matter in Japan.
 - C The Japanese economy has profited enormously from the success of karaoke.
 - D The Japanese have become fed up with their traditional karaoke bars.
- 1p **36** How can the tone in the last three sentences of paragraph 4 be characterised?
- A As concerned.
 - B As hopeful.
 - C As joking.
 - D As matter-of-fact.
 - E As sarcastic.