

# 1. Yamada Village: Wired Community



ABC News *World News Tonight* 3/19/01

## ▶▶▶ Before You Watch the Video

### PREVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is so special about Yamada Village?  
山田村の特別な所は何ですか。
2. What is happening to the village's population?  
村の人口はどの様に変化していますか。

### WARM-UP EXERCISES

#### A) Vocabulary Check: Choose the correct definition.

- |                 |     |  |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| 1. remote       | ( ) | a. talking about other people                  |
| 2. via          | ( ) | b. excited about something                     |
| 3. gossip       | ( ) | c. through; by means of                        |
| 4. savvy        | ( ) | d. far from the city; isolated                 |
| 5. enthusiastic | ( ) | e. know-how; having practical knowledge about~ |

**B) Fill in the blanks with appropriate expressions from the “Vocabulary Check” above. Change the word form, where necessary.**

1. The company made it a rule to only hire people who are ( ) about their products.
2. Don't waste your time ( ), girls!
3. The soccer match was broadcast ( ) satellite to over 70 countries around the world.
4. You may need a special visa if you want to visit the ( ) areas of the country.
5. Mike helps a lot around the house, but he is not very kitchen ( ). I have to do all the cooking.

**NEWS STORY**

*P. Jennings:* ABC's Mark Litke reports tonight from deep inside the Japanese Alps.

*M. Litke:* The remote village of Yamada. Hardly the place you'd expect to find cutting edge technology, but the farmers and pensioners who live here claim to have the most wired community in Japan. Take 83-year-old Nobu Tanaka, (1.



) changing channels on his TV set. Today, he has his own Web page, chats with friends via his Web video-phone and sends his vital signs to his doctor via computer.

(2. ) all over Yamada. Thanks to a few local technophiles and a government grant, nearly every home and office is now linked by high-speed lines through the central server of the village, creating a sort of cyber town square where villagers can manage their businesses, improve their education, or gossip with neighbors to fight off loneliness (3. ). The most popular activity these days, the weekly sessions on building future Web sites for the village.

A few years ago this village seemed to have no future at all. Like many rural areas in Japan, most of its young people were moving off for better opportunities, leaving behind (4. ).

But this is Yamada's elementary school today. High-tech classrooms and among the most Web-savvy nine- and 10-year-olds in the country who say they can't imagine ever wanting to leave this place. In fact, for the first time in decades, Yamada's population has stopped declining and outsiders are even starting to move in.



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After two years living in the U.S., the Ishibashi family discovered the village and arranged for their new home through Yamada's Web sites, where they also made new friends and got involved with village life, well before they arrived. As their enthusiastic new neighbor Nobu Tanaka says, "The Internet has put the village on the world's map, and (5.

). Just check us out on the Web." Mark Litke, ABC News, Yamada, Japan. 15

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**cutting edge technology** 「最先端の技術」 **pensioners** 「年金暮らしの人」 **wired community** 「コンピュータネットワークで結ばれたコミュニティー」 **Web videophone** 「ネット上のテレビ電話」 **vital signs** 「バイタルサイン：脈拍数、体温、呼吸数など生命の維持に必要な体の機能の指数」 **technophiles** 「メカマニア：技術好きの人」 **government grant** 「政府からの補助金」 **central server** 「中央（コンピュータ）サーバー：ネットワーク上で他のコンピュータに情報やサービスを提供するコンピュータ」 **cyber town square** 「サイバータウン：コンピュータネットワークが形成する情報空間のまち」 **Just check us out on the Web** 「インターネットで山田村を捜してみてください」