

Advice from 2016 Homestay Students

- Be open-minded and listen. There are many beautiful things you can learn through homestay.
- Be EXPLICIT about what you want in a host family and accept no substitutions if it's really what you want.
- Be very picky in the application. If you are even slightly iffy with saying yes, put no. If you want anything (children in the house, an animal) put your request on the application. It may not always work out but you definitely won't get it if you don't ask.

Advice from 2015 Homestay Students

- Do try to help out with some housework even if they refrain from indicating "yes" to your offer (cultural habit).

Advice from 2014 Homestay Students

- Don't be surprised if both parents work, and often work late. I think there was one day where one of them came back before 7:30pm on a weekday. You have to be able to handle alone time, or be comfortable setting up a social life by yourself without the help of the dorms.
- Make sure you bring ample money for transportation. Keep in mind that credit cards aren't accepted at most stores in Japan.

Advice from 2013 Homestay Students

- Homestay is way better than dorming! Many of my dorming friends hardly used their Japanese at all, while I get to use it all the time.
- Talk with your host family as much as possible and practice your Japanese!
- Be polite and respectful and you'll be fine.
- Try to understand more of Japanese culture, especially the culture and manners in a Japanese home before you go to your homestay. It will make
- your stay a lot easier.

Advice from 2012 Homestay Students

- Be open to new things and when your host family does things for you be very, very thankful.
- Just know what to expect before you arrive and try to e-mail your family, so that there won't be any unpleasant surprises.
- Learn some Japanese before coming. Learn about some Japanese manners. Avoid political issues.
- Japanese people don't always say what they're thinking, so be sharp about your surroundings and the environment.
- When you are introducing yourself, bring a small gift from home. Bring photos of your family, etc., to introduce your family to your background. Just to echo what is already set out in our introduction booklets: be flexible and patient when dealing with another culture. This will help you deal when cultural misunderstandings arise, as they will on occasion.
- Try to learn as much Japanese as possible and be willing to try any food.