

Osaka Expo 2025: A Glimpse into Tomorrow

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **Showcase** (*verb*) /'ʃəʊkeɪs/: To show or display.
Example: The festival allows artists to showcase their talents.
2. **Makeover** (*noun*) /'meɪkəʊvər/: A complete change in the appearance of something.
Example: The old building got a high-tech makeover for the event.
3. **Lattice** (*noun*) /'lætɪs/: A structure made of strips crossing each other with spaces between.
Example: The Grand Ring features a striking lattice design made of wood.
4. **Circumference** (*noun*) /sər'kʌmfərəns/: The distance around a curved or round object.
Example: The Grand Ring has a circumference of two kilometers.
5. **Spark** (*verb*) /spɑːrk/: To cause something to start or develop.
Example: The Osaka Expo aims to spark global collaboration and innovation.



The Osaka Expo 2025 began on April 13, drawing over 10,000 people who united in singing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Held at Yumeshima, an artificial island, the six-month event brings together participants from more than 160 countries, showcasing innovative technologies and cultural exhibits across approximately 80 pavilions.

This is Osaka's second time hosting an Expo, with the previous event in 1970 setting a record for visitors until Shanghai's Expo in 2010. Organizers predict 28 million attendees by mid-October, though ticket sales have been slower than expected. Meanwhile, Myaku-Myaku, the colorful, multi-eyed mascot, adds a playful touch to the event.

Futuristic highlights of the Expo include cutting-edge robots, flying cars, and pop culture exhibits like Hello Kitty and Gundam. A healthcare pavilion demonstrated an artificial heart made from stem cells, while the Future of Life pavilion features interactive robots. Even the human washing machine from the 1970 Expo has returned with a modern makeover.

The Expo also highlights global perspectives. The U.S. pavilion showcases space technology, including a lunar stone from the Apollo 12 mission. China has soil samples from lunar missions, while Ukraine's pavilion, marked by blue-and-yellow flags, shares stories of resilience during war. These exhibits aim to inspire understanding and solidarity.

The Grand Ring, designed by architect Sou Fujimoto, surrounds the venue with its record-breaking wooden lattice structure. Despite challenges like ongoing wars and trade conflicts, organizers hope the Expo fosters international relationships and sparks collaboration for a brighter future.

DISCUSSION

1. If you visited the Expo, which pavilion would you be most excited to explore?
2. How can global events like the Expo promote international unity?
3. What futuristic technology would you like to see at such an event?
4. If you were to design a pavilion for your country, what would it showcase?
5. Imagine a mascot for your own event. What would it look like?
6. How do you think events like the Expo impact the host city's economy?
7. Which innovation at the Expo do you think has the most potential to change our lives?
8. If you could bring back an invention from a previous Expo, what would it be?
9. How might an event like this change people's views of global collaboration?
10. What would your dream expo of the future focus on, and why?