

# Contents

## PART I: Inbound Japan

### Japan through an American Teacher and Writer's Prism

#### Unit 1

What's in a Name?.....10

#### Unit 2

Country of Eyes.....16

#### Unit 3

The Language Dance.....22

#### Unit 4

Japan Open and Closed.....28

#### Unit 5

Why Ask Me?.....34

#### Unit 6

Politics So Far from Home.....40

#### Unit 7

Is Japan in Decline?.....46

#### Unit 8

A New Era or An Era of Newness?.....52

A black and white photograph of a traditional Japanese torii gate. The gate consists of multiple nested rectangular frames that create a strong sense of perspective, leading the eye down a path. In the center of the path, a person is walking away from the camera, wearing a patterned kimono and carrying a large, open parasol (wagasa). The background shows trees and a bright sky, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall mood is serene and traditional.

**Unit 9**  
**Earthquake Life**..... 58

**Unit 10**  
**Integrating Immigrants**..... 64

**PART II: Outbound Japan**  
**Global Mindset for the Future**

**Unit 11**  
**The Right Amount of Confidence**..... 72

**Unit 12**  
**Mistake Makers of the World, Unite!**..... 78

**Unit 13**  
**The Art of Conversation**..... 84

**Unit 14**  
**“Get Out! Why Not Go?”**..... 90

**Unit 15**  
**Passion for English**..... 96

**Notes**..... 103