

# Jan-Ken-Pon



*Jan-ken-pon* is the Japanese version of Rock Paper Scissors and is used when making lots of decisions in Japan, for example, when paying for lunch, when deciding who will go first playing games, etc. And it's not just kids – adults use it too! It's much the same as in English. You begin by saying:

**Saisho wa guu. Jan ken pon!** (*while pounding your fist*)

As you say the word **pon**, you make the shape of paper (*paa*), scissors (*choki*) or rock (*guu*) with your hand. The winner is as follows:

Rock vs paper = paper /// Scissors vs paper = scissors /// Rock vs scissors = rock

There is also a variation from the Kumamoto region of Japan called *Kuma-ken*. You begin by saying:

**Hii, fuu, san!** (*while pounding your fist*)

As they say the word **san**, the players show their hands simultaneously, forming a number from 0 to 5 with their fingers, and calling out this number. Whoever has chosen the largest number wins. For instance, 1 beats 0, 2 beats 1, etc. However, 0 beats 5.