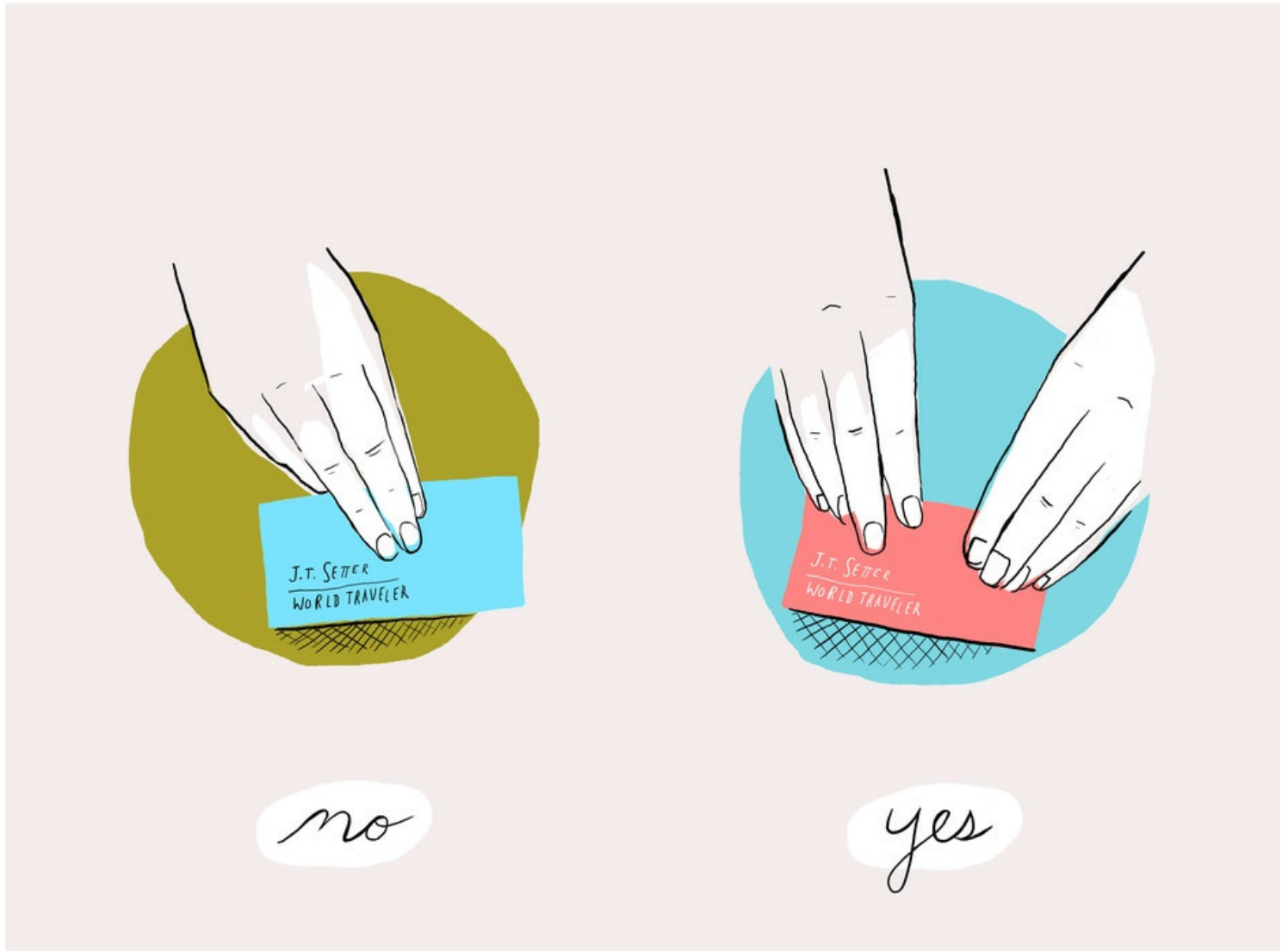


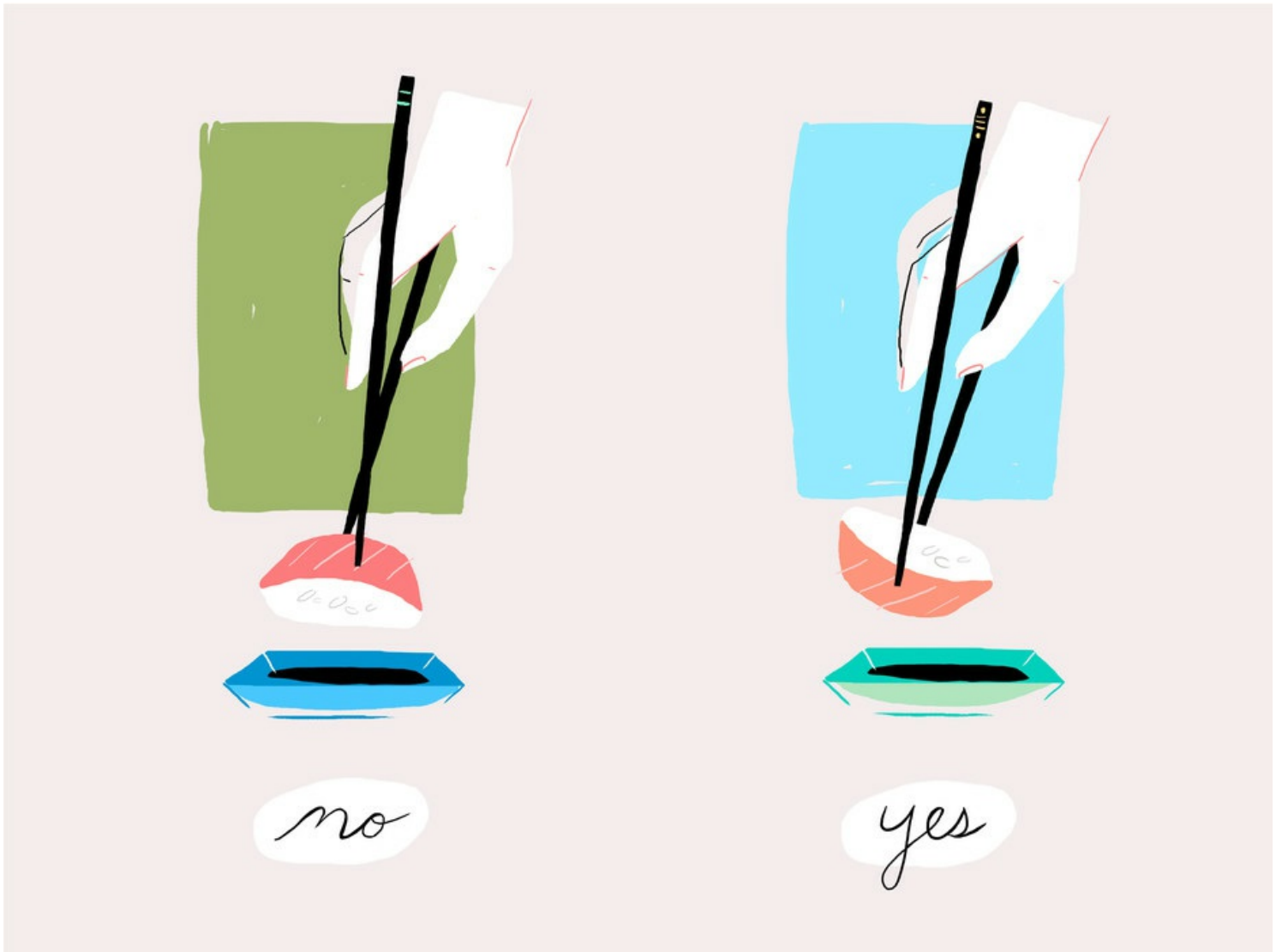
## 5 Common Mistakes Travelers Make in Japan



Libby VanderPloeg

### 1. Mistreating business cards.

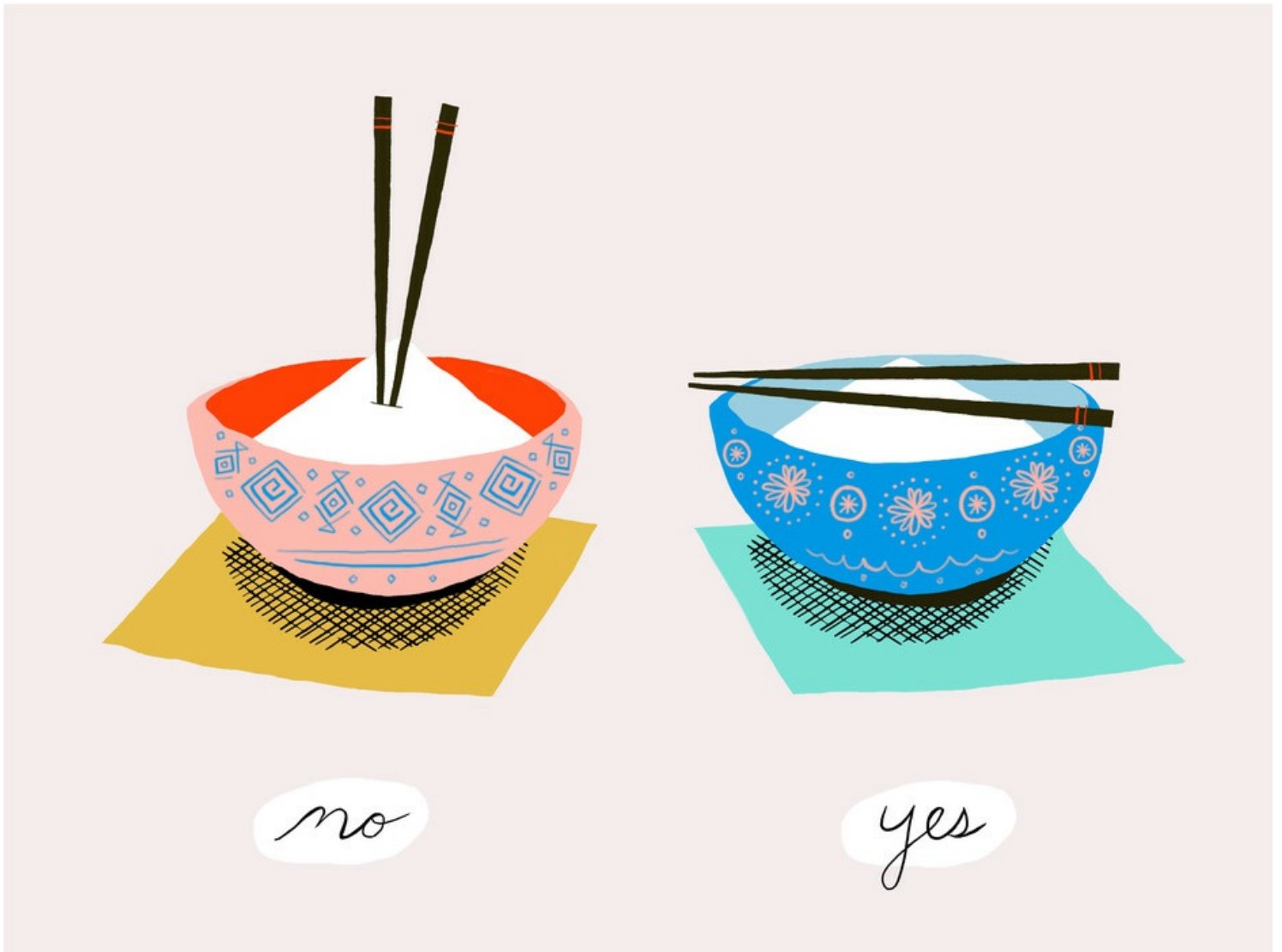
One's business card is an extension of oneself. Accept (and offer) each card with two hands while facing the other person; then look at the card before putting it away.



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## 2. Dipping the rice part of nigiri sushi into soy sauce.

To avoid breaking up the rice, turn the sushi upside down and dip the fish into the sauce. Just do so sparingly—dousing sushi in soy sauce offends the chef.



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**3. Sticking your chopsticks vertically into a bowl of rice.**

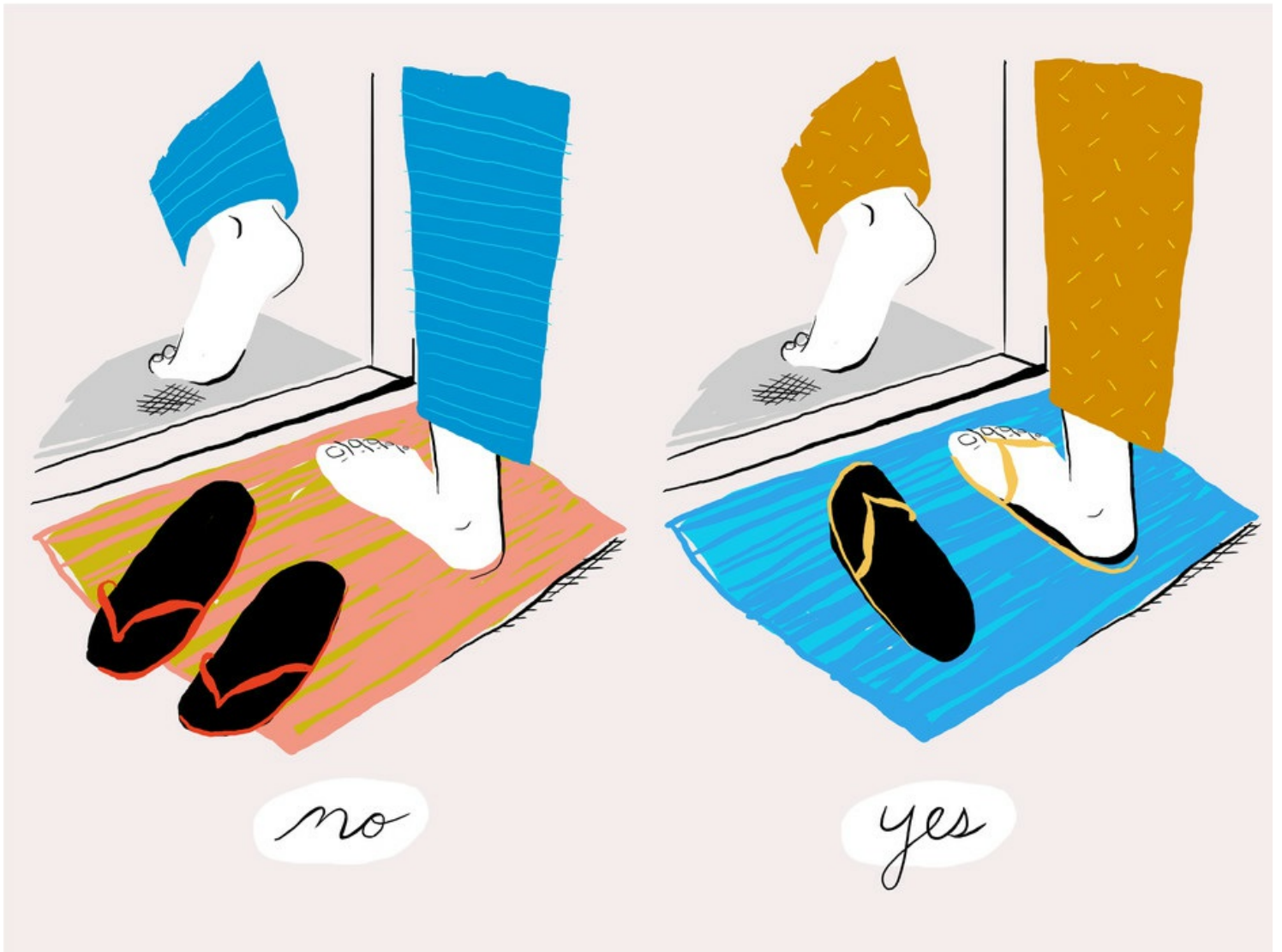
To Buddhists, this means you're offering your rice to the dead. Instead, lay the chopsticks horizontally across the bowl or rest them on the ceramic holder provided.



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#### 4. Wrapping your kimono the wrong way.

If you stay at a traditional Japanese inn, you might be given a *yukata*, or light cotton kimono. When you put it on, be sure to wrap the left side over the right; it's done the opposite way only on corpses.



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**5. Letting your bare feet touch the ground outside before entering a home.**

Japanese hosts often expect you to remove your shoes before you come inside. If you step on the ground with bare (or socked) feet, you'll bring dirt in—and show disrespect to your host.