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"Lessons 1/25

1-25

Introduction

This is Innovative Language Learning.

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In this 25-lesson book, you will learn all about Yojijukugo: Japanese 4 character compound words and idioms. Whether you're an advanced Japanese student or want to start learning Japanese today, this series is the perfect place to begin learning kanji or refine your use of kanji through these character compounds. Great for Japanese learners of all levels!

The lesson starts with the Japanese blog, which is all in Japanese and at native speed.

Finally, practice what you have learned with the review track

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Yojijukugo

Introduction to 4 Kanji Words!

1

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	悪戦苦闘
Kana	あくせんくとう
Romaji	akusen kutou
Meaning	hard fight, hard-fought battle, uphill struggle

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	悪	戦	苦	闘
Kana	あく	せん	く	とう
Rōmaji	aku	sen	ku	tō
Meaning	bad	battle	suffering	fight

★Usage

It can be used to mean struggling with mental challenges or physical challenges.

It's usually used as a compound verb with suru, "akusen kutō suru (悪戦苦闘する)."
It can be also used as a noun, as in "akusen kutō no sue (悪戦苦闘の末; as a result of an uphill struggle)."

★Sample Sentences

日本チームは、中国を相手に悪戦苦闘した。
Nihon chīmu wa, Chūgoku o aite ni akusenkutō shita.
The Japanese team had a tough game against the Chinese team.

昨日の試験で、私は数学の問題に悪戦苦闘した。
Kinō no shiken de, watashi wa sūgaku no mondai ni akusenkutō shita.
I had a hard time with the math exam yesterday.



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私は、悪戦苦闘の末、自分でパソコンを作ることに成功した。

Watashi wa, akusenkutō no sue, jibun de pasokon o tsukuru koto ni seikō shita.
After a lot of problems, I finally succeeded in building a PC by myself.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	以心伝心
Kana	いしんでんしん
Romaji	ishindenshin
Meaning	heart-to-heart communication, thought transference, communicating without words, "telepathy"

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	以	心	伝	心
Kana	い	しん	でん	しん
Rōmaji	i	shin	den	shin
Meaning	by means of	heart/mind	transmit	heart/mind

★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

It literally means "by means of mind, transmit the mind" and it expresses the idea of "to convey what you are thinking without saying anything."

★Usage

It is often used with the copula, as in "ishindenshin da", "ishindenshin no [noun]" or "ishindenshin de ---."

- * [someone] to [someone] wa ishindenshin da.
- * [someone] to [someone] wa ishindenshin no [noun] da.
- * ishindenshin de [verb]

★Sample Sentences



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私は、双子の兄とは、以心伝心だ。

Watashi wa, futago no ani to wa, ishindenshin da.

My twin brother and I have a near-telepathic understanding of each other.

親友のタケシとは、以心伝心の仲だ。

Shinyū no Takeshi to wa, ishindenshin no naka da.

My close friend, Takeshi, and I can understand each other without saying anything.

夫婦でも、以心伝心で分かるのはむずかしい。

Fūfu demo, ishindenshin de wakaru no wa muzukashii.

It is hard even for husband and wife to understand each other without saying anything.



Yojjukugo
Obvious Decisions

2

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	一念発起
Kana	いちねんほっき
Romaji	ichinen hokki
Meaning	To make up one's mind strongly to accomplish something difficult

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	一	念	発	起
Kana	いち	ねん	ほっ	き
Rōmaji	ichi	nen	hotsu	ki
Meaning	One	Wish	To start from	Rouse

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

This was originally a Buddhist term which meant "to make up one's mind to take refuge in the Buddha and find enlightenment" but it has now come to mean "to make up one's mind with strong determination to accomplish something difficult."

★Usage

It is usually followed by suru(する) to make a verb, as ichinen hokki suru (一念発起する). When you make up your mind to start something with determination, you can say "ichinen hokki shite, [something] o hajimeru (一念発起して、～を始める)."

★Sample Sentences



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僕は、学生時代ほとんど勉強しなかったが、一念発起して、勉強し、弁護士になった。
ぼくは、がくせいじだいほとんどべんきょうしなかったが、いちねんほっきして、べんきょうし、べんごしになった。

Boku wa, gakusei jidai hotondo benkyō shinakatta ga, ichinen hokki shite, benkyō shi, bengoshi ni natta.

Although I didn't study when I was a student, I made up my mind to study to be a lawyer and succeeded.

私は、一念発起して、脱サラし、自分の会社を設立した。

わたしは、いちねんほっきして、だつさらし、じぶんのかいしゃをせつりつした。

Watashi wa, ichinen hokki shite, datsusara shi, jibun no kaisha o setsuritsu shita.

I made up my mind to quit the salaried lifestyle, and established my own company.

私の父は、定年退職後に、一念発起して、米国留学をした。

わたしのちちは、ていねんたいしよくごに、いちねんほっきして、べいこくりゅうがくをした。

Watashi no chichi wa, teinen taishoku go ni, ichinen hokki shite, beikoku ryūgaku o shita.

My father made up his mind to study in the US after he retired.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)

Kana	一目瞭然
Romaji	ichimoku ryōzen
Meaning	Obvious at a glance

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	一	目	瞭	然
Kana	いち	もく	りょう	ぜん
Rōmaji	ichi	moku	ryō	zen
Meaning	One	Eye	Clear	Well

★History, Definition, Similar Expression, etc.

Ichimoku (一目) means "to take a glance."



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Ryōzen(瞭然) means "to be obvious."

A similar expression is "meimei hakuhaku(明明白白)" which means "very obvious or as plain as day."

★Usage

It is often used in the sentence structure "-- wa ichimoku yōzen da" which means "something is obvious or it is obvious that---."

★Sample Sentences

このグラフを見れば、売上高が伸びているのは一目瞭然だ。
このぐらふをみれば、うりあげだかがのびているのはいちもくりょうぜんだ。
Kono gurafu o mireba, uriagedaka ga nobite iru no wa ichimoku ryōzen da.
When you take a look at this graph, it's obvious that our sales is growing.

彼の顔を見たら、嘘をついているのは一目瞭然だ。
かれのかおをみたら、うそをついているのはいちもくりょうぜんだ。
Kare no kao o mitara, uso o tsuite iru no wa ichimoku ryōzen da.
It is obvious that he's lying when you look at his face.

その商品のウェブサイトを見れば、どんな商品か一目瞭然だ。
そのしょうひんのウェブサイトを見れば、どんなしょうひんかいちもくりょうぜんだ。
Sono shōhin no uebu saito o mireba, donna shōhin ka ichimoku ryōzen da.
When you visit that products website, you can see clearly what kind of product it is.



Yojijukugo

Extreme Highs and Lows

3

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	意気投合
Kana	いきとうごう
Romaji	Ikitōgō
Meaning	to get along really well or to hit it off fantastically at the first meeting

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	意	気	投	合
Kana	い	き	とう	ごう
Rōmaji	i	ki	tō	gō
Meaning	Idea	Mind	Throw	Fit

★History, Definition, Similar Expression, etc.

Iki(意気) means "mind and idea."

Tōgō(投合) means "two things that completely match each other."

It can be followed by suru (する) if you want to use it as a verb, as in ikitōgō suru (意気投合する).

★Usage, Context

This expression is used when people who are not familiar with each other get along smoothly or find themselves kindred spirits as soon as they talk about topics which are interesting to both of them, such as similar hobbies.

★Sample Sentences

彼女のお父さんと、野球の話で意気投合して、今度一緒に野球を見に行くことになったよ。
かのじよのおとうさんと、やきゅうのはなしでいきとうごうして、こんどいっしょにやきゅうをみにいくことになったよ。

Kanojo no o-tō-san to, yakyū no hanashi de ikitōgō shite, kondo issho ni yakū o mi



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ni iku koto ni natta yo.

I got along really well with my girlfriend's father, and we're going to see a baseball game together next time.

あいつも俺も、車好きだから、初めて会ったときからその話で意気投合したよ。
あいつもおれも、くるまずきだから、はじめてあったときからそのはなしでいきとうごうしたよ。

Aitsu mo ore mo, kuruma zuki da kara, hajimete atta toki kara sono hanashi de ikitōgō shita yo.

Both he and I like cars. So, when we met for the first time, we talked about that and hit it off great.

昨日、飲み屋でたまたま隣に座った人と、釣りの話で意気投合したよ。
きのう、のみやでたまたまとなりすわったひとと、つりのはなしでいきとうごうしたよ。
Kinō, nomi-ya de tamatama tonari ni suwatta hito to, tsuri no hanashi de ikitōgō shita yo.

I talked about fishing with someone who happened to sit next to me at the bar yesterday, and we hit it off right away.

=====

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	意気消沈
Kana	いきしょうちん
Romaji	ikishōchin
Meaning	be depressed, downhearted

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	意	気	消	沈
Kana	い	き	しょう	ちん
Rōmaji	i	ki	shō	chin
Meaning	idea	mind	extinguish	sink

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

Iki(意気) literally means "mind and idea."

Shōchin(消沈) literally means "something disappears and sinks."

Ikishōchin(意気消沈) means "to lose one's enthusiasm and get depressed."

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It can be followed by suru (する) to make up a verb, as ikishōchin suru (意気消沈する).

★Usage, Situation

This expression is often used when someone had motivation or energy to do something, but something happened that made him/her discouraged or depressed, and they lost their enthusiasm completely.

★Sample Sentences

彼は、大学の入学試験に落ちて、すっかり意気消沈している。
かれは、だいがくのにゅうがくしけんにおちて、すっかりいきしょうちんしている。
Kare wa, daigaku no nyūgaku shiken ni ochite, sukkari ikishōchin shite iru.
He failed the university entrance examination, and now he is really depressed.

勝てそうだったのに、逆転負けしちゃって、もう意気消沈だよ。
かてそうだったのに、ぎゃくてんまけしちゃって、もういきしょうちんだよ。
Katesō datta noni, gyakuten make shichatte, mō ikishōchin da yo.
We almost won, but lost it at the end. I'm feeling so low.

五郎は、一生懸命用意したプレゼンに失敗して、意気消沈している。
ごろうは、いっしょうけんめいよういしたぷれぜんにしっぱいして、いきしょうちんしている。
Gorō wa, isshōkenmei yōi shita purezen ni shippai shite, ikishōchin site iru.
Goro failed in his presentation although he'd been working on it so hard. So, he's really depressed.

★Other Information :

Opposite Expression: 意気揚々 (いきようよう, exaltedly, in high spirits)

彼らは、全国大会で優勝し、意気揚々と地元へ帰ってきた。
かれらは、ぜんこくたいかいでゆうしょうし、いきようようとじもとへかえってきた。
Karera wa, zenkoku taikai de yūshō shi, ikiyōyō to jimoto e kaette kita.
They won the national championship and came back home triumphant!





Yojijukugo

1 Step Forward, 2 Steps Back

4

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	一進一退
Kana	いっしんいったい
Romaji	Isshin ittai
Meaning	One step forward and two steps back, go back and forth

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
Today's 四字熟語	一	進	一	退
Kana	いっ	しん	いっ	たい
Romaji	Itsu	Shin	Itsu	Tai
Meaning	One	Advance	One	Retreat

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

Isshin(一進) : One step forward
Ittai(一退) : One step backward
Shin (進; Advance) ⇔ Tai (退; Retreat)

Similar Expression:

一喜一憂 : いっきいちゆう; ikki ichiyū

It means that "be glad and sad by turns every time situation changes."

喜(joy) ⇔ 憂(grieve)

★Usage

This phrase is used when medical conditions or the situation of game or battle is getting better and worse or vacillates.



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★Sample Sentences

母の病状は、一進一退で、安心できない。

Haha no byōjō wa, isshin ittai de, anshin dekinai.

Since my mother's condition has been getting better and worse, we can't relax.

試合は、一進一退で、どちらが勝つかわからない。

Shiai wa, isshin ittai de, dochira ga katsu ka wakaranai.

The two teams go back and forth at each other, and we can't see which team is going to win the game.

株価は一進一退を繰り返している。

Kabuka wa isshin ittai o kurikaeshite iru.

The share price is keeps going up and down.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	一長一短
Kana	いっちょういったん
Romaji	Ichchō ittan
Meaning	merits and demerits, good and bad points

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
Today's 四字熟語	一	長	一	短
Kana	いっ	ちょう	いっ	たん
Rōmaji	itsu	chō	itsu	tan
Meaning	One	Long	One	Short

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

Chō (長) comes from "chō sho (長所)", which means "advantage" or "good points."

Tan (短) comes from "tan sho (短所)", which means "demerits" or "bad points."

Chō (長) ⇔ Tan (短)

Ichchō ittan (一長一短) literally means that if someone/something has one good point, it has one bad point at the same time.



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★Usage

This expression is used in a sentence like "Donna --- ni mo icchō ittan ga aru. (どんな~にも一長一短がある)" which means "every -- has merits and demerits."

★Sample Sentences

どんな人にも一長一短がある。
Donna hito ni mo icchō ittan ga aru.
Every person has good and bad points.

どのカメラにも一長一短があつて、決められない。
Dono kamera ni mo icchō ittan ga atte, kimerarenai.
Each camera has good and bad points, and it's hard to choose one.

どの案にも一長一短がある。
Dono an ni mo icchō ittan ga aru.
Every idea has both strong and weak points.



Yojijukugo

Are You Really Interested, or Is It Just Lip Service?

5

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	興味津々
Kana	きょうみしんしん
Romaji	Kyōmishinshin
Meaning	highly interested / with great interest / with much interest

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	興	味	津	々
Kana	きょう	み	しん	しん
Rōmaji	Kyō	mi	shin	shin
Meaning	Interest	Taste	Port	Repetition of Kanji

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

The character of 津 means "bay" or "harbor," and by using 津 in double, 津々 means "water springs up again and again." So, 興味津々 essentially means "interest continuously springs up again and again."

★Usage

It is often used with de attached and used as an adverbial phrase which is "kyōmishinshin de" (興味津々で). For example, "kyōmishinshin de kiku" (興味津々で聞く; to listen with much interest), or "kyōmishinshin de yomu" (興味津々で読む; to read with much interest).

Also, you can use such a sentence structure as "[someone] wa [something] ni kyōmishinshin da. (～は～に興味津々だ。)" which means "someone is very curious about something."



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It can also be written as 興味津津, without using 々 which means repetition of kanji.

★Sample Sentences

子供達は、宇宙の話を興味津々で聞いていた。

Kodomo-tachi wa, uchū no hanashi o kyōmishinshin de kiite ita.

The kids were listening to space conversation with much interest.

人々は、スターのゴシップ報道に興味津々で見ている。

Hitobito wa sutā no goshippu hōdō o kyōmishinshin de mite iru.

People are following the star's gossip reports with great interest.

ファンは、彼女のバッグの中身に興味津々だ。

Fan wa, kanojo no baggu no nakami ni kyōmishinshin da.

Her fans are very curious about what she has in her bag.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	社交辞令
Kana	しゃこうじれい
Romaji	Shakō jirei
Meaning	diplomatic remarks

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	社	交	辞	令
Kana	しゃ	こう	じ	れい
Rōmaji	sha	kō	ji	rei
Meaning	Company	Association	Term	Decree

★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

It means courtesy words or greetings which people use to get along with each other. Sometimes, it means "empty compliment or flattery" and can be used in a



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negative sense.

Shakō (社交) means "social relationship."

Jirei (辞令) means "perfunctory or formulaic expression or phrase."

★Sample Sentences

若いですねと言われた。社交辞令でも嬉しい。

Wakai desu ne to iwareta. Shakō jirei de mo ureshii.

I was told that I look young. I'm glad even though I know it's just an empty compliment.

社交辞令かもしれないが、彼女は「また会いたいです」と言った。

Shakō jirei kamo shirenai ga, kanojo wa "mata aitai desu" to itta.

It's probably just a empty promise, but she said "I want to meet you again."

あまり楽しくなかったが、社交辞令として楽しかったと言った。

Amari tanoshikunakatta ga, shakō jirei to shite, tanoshikatta to itta.

It wasn't very much fun, but I told it was just to be polite.



Yojijukugo
Japanese Wisdom to Live By



Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	2



Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
-------	------	--------	---------

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	一挙兩得
Kana	いっきよりょうとく
Romaji	Ikkyo ryōtoku
Meaning	to work both ways (= killing two birds with one stone)

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	一	挙	兩	得
Kana	いち (いっ)	きよ	りょう	とく
Rōmaji	Ichi (Ittsu)	Kyo	Ryō	Toku
Meaning	One	Behavior	Both	Gain

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

Ikkyo (一挙) means "one action."
Ryōtoku (兩得) means "to gain both."

It's an expression that comes from a history book about Jin Chinese dynasty.

A similar expression is "*Isseki nichō* (一石二鳥)" which means "killing two birds with one stone."

★Usage

When you derive two kinds of benefit by doing one action, you can say "---
wa (は) *ikkyo ryōtoku* (一挙兩得) *da* (だ)."

★Sample Sentences

2



このツアーは、山と海の両方が楽しめて、一挙両得だ。

Kono tsuā wa, yama to umi no ryōhō ga tanoshimete, ikkyo ryōtoku da.

This tour is like killing two birds with one stone because you can enjoy both the mountains and the sea.

英語で学ぶ料理教室は、英語も料理も一度に学べて、一挙両得だね！

Eigo de manabu ryōri-kyōshitsu wa, eigo mo ryōri mo ichido ni manabete, ikkyo ryōtoku da ne!

Cooking school taught in English works both for learning English and cooking.

ディナーショーは、おいしい料理を食べながら、ショーが見られて、一挙両得だ。

Deināshō wa, oishii ryōri o tabenagara, shō ga mirarete, ikkyo ryōtoku da.

A dinner show is like killing two birds with one stone because you can enjoy a show while eating delicious food.

★Other Information

Opposite Expression:

* 虻蜂取らず (*abu hachi torazu*)

It literally means that if you try to catch a horsefly and a bee at the same time, you can't get anything.

* 二兎を追う者は一兎をも得ず (*ni to o ou mono wa itto o mo ezu*)

It literally means that if you try to catch two rabbits, you won't be able to catch even one rabbit.

So, both of the expressions above are used to mean "between two stools you fall to the ground."

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	一心不乱
Kana	いっしんふらん
Romaji	Isshin furan
Meaning	single-mindedness, deep concentration

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	一	心	不	乱
Kana	いち (いっ)	しん	ふ	らん



Rōmaji	Ichi (Itsu)	Shin	Fu	Ran
Meaning	One	Mind	Negative	Disorder

★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

To concentrate single-mindedly on your work, without being distracted by other things

Similar expression: 無我夢中 (*muga muchū*) which means "to be completely absorbed in something to the extent that you could lose yourself."

★Usage

When you do something with deep concentration, you can say "*isshin furan ni --- suru.*"

★Sample Sentences

彼は、一心不乱にシュートの練習をした。

Kare wa, isshin furan ni shūto no rensyū o shita.

He concentrated single-mindedly on shooting.

私は、テレビも見ず、一心不乱に勉強した。

Watashi wa, terebi mo mizu, isshin furan ni benkyō shita.

I studied heart and soul without watching TV.

私は、お昼ごはんも食わず、一心不乱に絵を描き続けた。

Watashi wa, o-hiru go-han mo tabezu ni, isshin furan ni e o kaki tuduketa.

I was intensely involved in drawing pictures even without eating lunch.

4



Yojijukugo
A Unanimous State of Confusion!

7

Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	2



Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
-------	------	--------	---------

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	異口同音
Kana	いくどうおん
Romaji	Iku Dōon
Meaning	unanimously

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	異	口	同	音
Kana	い	く	どう	おん
Rōmaji	I	Ku	Dō	On
Meaning	Different	Mouth	Same	Sound

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

“異口” literally means “different mouths” and it means “words said by many people.” “同音” literally means “same sounds” and it means “to say the same thing.” So, “異口同音” means “many people saying the same thing.” In this case, even if words are not exactly the same, the meaning is the same.

★Usage

It is followed by a particle *ni* (に) and is used as an adverb, as in *iku dōon ni* (異口同音に) which means “unanimously.”

★Sample Sentences

皆は、異口同音に賛成した。
Minna wa, iku dōon ni sansei shita.
Everyone agreed unanimously.



八兵衛の友達は、異口同音に、「八兵衛はいいやつだ」と言う。
Hachibei no tomodachi wa, iku dōon ni, "Hachibei wa ii yatsu da" to iu.
 All of Hachibei's friends unanimously say "he is a good guy."

子供達は、異口同音に「夏休みは楽しかった」と言った。
Kodomo-tachi wa, iku dōon ni, "natsuyasumi wa tanoshikatta" to itta.
 All the kids unanimously said "the summer vacation was a lot of fun."

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	右往左往
Kana	うおうさおう
Romaji	Uou saou
Meaning	become panic-stricken / go this way and that way

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	右	往	左	往
Kana	右	往	左	往
Rōmaji	U	Ou	Sa	Ou
Meaning	Right	Go	Left	Go

★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

It indicates the state in which a person is so confused or upset and their mind is running around all all sort of directions. It can be also used as a metaphor to express how confused people are, even if they are not actually running about or going up and down.

★Usage

It is often used as a *suru* compound verb, *uou saou suru* (右往左往する).

★Sample Sentences





トイレが見つからなくて、ビルの中を右往左往した。

Toire ga mitsukaranakute, biru no naka o uousaou shita.

I couldn't find a bath room and I ran all over the building (looking for one).

あのビル火災の時、人々は出口を探して右往左往した。

Ano biru kasai no toki, hitobito wa deguchi o sagashite uousaou shita.

When the building caught fire, people ran about in confusion looking for an exit.

突然、社長が辞めたので、社員は右往左往していた。

Totsuzen, shachō ga yameta node, shain wa uousaou shite ita.

Because the president of the company unexpectedly resigned, the employees were in a state of confusion.



Yojijukugo Problems Coming From All Directions

8

Grammar Points

2



Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	四苦八苦
Kana	しくはっく
Romaji	Shiku hakku
Meaning	to be in great trouble; to have a lot of trouble doing something; struggle to do something

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	四	苦	八	苦
Kana	し	く	はち (はっ)	く
Rōmaji	Shi	Ku	Hachi (Hatsu)	Ku
Meaning	Four	Suffering	Eight	Suffering

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

This is originally a Buddhist term.

「四苦」 means four sufferings of life "生," getting old "老," sick "病," and death "死."

「八苦」 means the four sufferings above and another four sufferings "from parting from people who you love," "from having to see people who you hate," "from being unable to get what you want" and "pain in your mind or body."

★Usage

This is often used as a "suru" compound verb, as in "shikuhakku suru" (四苦八苦する).

★Sample Sentences

むずかしい数学の問題に四苦八苦した。

Muzukashii sūgaku no mondai ni shikuhakku shita.

I had big trouble solving difficult math problems.

2



コンタクトレンズを探すのに四苦八苦した。
Kontakuto renzu o sagasu no ni shikuhakku shita.
I struggled to find my contact lens.

新しいソフトの使い方が分からなくて、四苦八苦した。
Atarashii sofuto no tsukai-kata ga wakaranakute, shikuhakku shita.
I didn't know how to use a new software, and I was in big trouble.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	四方八方
Kana	しほうはっほう
Romaji	Shihō happō
Meaning	all directions

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	四	方	八	方
Kana	し	ほう	はち (はっ)	ほう
Rōmaji	Shi	Hō	Hachi (Hatsu)	Pō
Meaning	Four	Direction	Eight	Direction

★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

「四方」 indicates the four directions of east (東), west (西), south (南) and north (北).

「八方」 indicates the eight directions of the four directions above and also north east (北東), north west (北西), south east (南東) and south west (南西).

★Usage

It is used with particles like *o* (を), *ni* (に), *kara* (から), like "*shihō happō o sagasu* (四方八方を探す; to look for in all directions), or "*shihō happō ni hirogaru* (四方八方に広がる; to spread out to all directions) or "*shihō happō kara kuru* (四方八方から来る; coming from every direction).

When it is used in a sentence expressing the situation where someone is looking for something in all directions, you can say "*shihō happō sagasu*" without particle *o*.

3



★Sample Sentences

四方八方(を)探したが、見つからない。

Shihō happō (o) sagashita ga, mitsukaranai.

I can't find it although I looked for it everywhere (in all directions).

敵が四方八方から襲ってくる。

Teki ga shihō happō kara osotte kuru.

Enemies are attacking us from all directions.

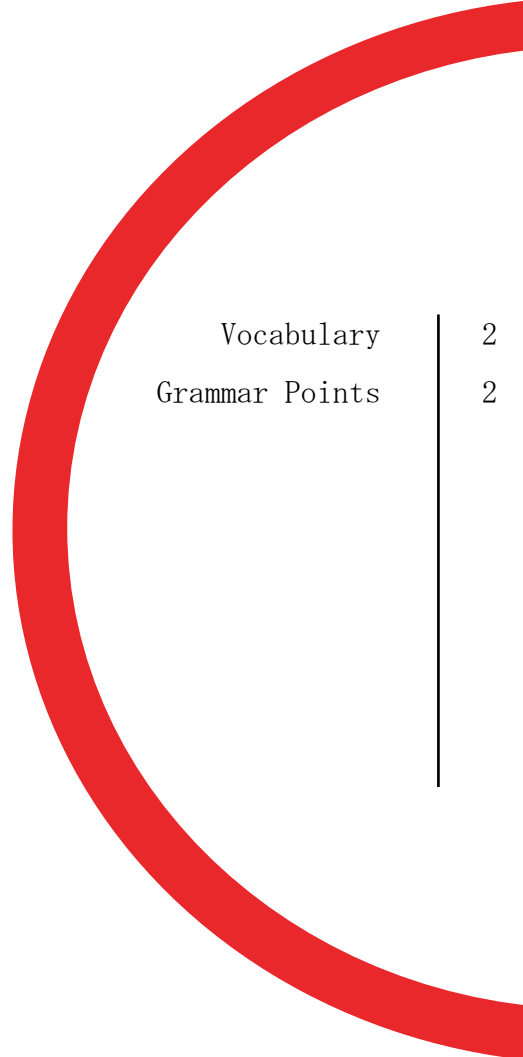
警官が来たので、彼らは四方八方に逃げた。

Keikan ga kita node, karera wa shihō happō ni nigeta.

Because the police came, they fled in all directions.



Yojijukugo
Decisions Through Elimination



Vocabulary		2
Grammar Points		2



Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
取捨選択	しゅしゃせんたく	shusha sentaku	to sort something out
心機一転	しんきいってん	shinki itten	To make a clean start

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	取捨選択
Kana	取捨選択
Romaji	Shusha sentaku
Meaning	to sort something out, to make a choice

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	取	捨	選	択
Kana	しゅ	しゃ	せん	たく
Rōmaji	Shu	Sha	Sen	Taku
Meaning	Take	Throw away	Select	Choose

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「取捨」 : To take and throw away

「選択」 : To sort out

「取捨選択」 : It means "to select something you need by throwing away what you don't need among many things."

★Usage

This is usually used as a *suru* compound verb, "*shusha sentaku suru*" (取捨選択する).

★Sample Sentences



皆のアイデアを取捨選択して、3つにしぼる。

Minna no aidea o shusha sentaku shite, mittsu ni shiboru.

Of everyone's ideas, we're going to pick three.

テレビ番組は、取捨選択して見なさい。

Terbi bangumi wa, shusha sentaku shite minasai.

You need to make a choice when you watch TV shows.

インターネットの情報は、取捨選択して利用する必要がある。

Intānetto no jōhō wa, shusha sentaku shite riyō suru hitsuyō ga aru.

You need to narrow down your choices when you get information off the internet.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	心機一転
Kana	しんきいってん
Romaji	Shinki itten
Meaning	to make a clean start, to start off with a clean slate

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	心	機	一	転
Kana	しん	き	いち(いっ)	てん
Rōmaji	Shin	Ki	Ichi (Itsu)	Ten
Meaning	Mind	Mechanism	One	Revolve

★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

「心機」: It literally means "mind mechanism" and it indicates "action of the mind."

「一転」: It means "to totally change."

「心機一転」: It literally means "someone totally changes their mind, triggered by a certain event."

★Usage

This is used when someone changes his mind in a positive or bright way.





The most common sentence structure is "*shinki itten*, [something] *o hajimeru* (心機一転、～を始める) which means "to start off with a clean slate and do something new."

"*Shinki itten no chansu* (心機一転のチャンス)" is often used as a set phrase which means "a good opportunity to start something new."

★Sample Sentences

彼は会社を辞め、心機一転、ラーメン屋を始めた。

Kare wa kaisha o yame, shinki itten, ramen-ya o hajimeta.

He quit his company, and made a clean start and opened up his own ramen shop.

私は、心機一転、アメリカに留学します。

Watashi wa, shinki itten, Amerika ni ryūgaku shimasu.

I'll start off with a clean slate and go to the US to study abroad.

大学入学は、心機一転のチャンスです。

Daigaku nyūgaku wa, shinki itten no chansu desu.

Entrance into college is a good opportunity to start something new.



Yojijukugo
A Close Call

10

Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	2



Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
喜怒哀楽	きどあいらく	kidoairaku	human emotions (joy, anger, pathos, and humor)
危機一髪	ききいっぱつ	Kikiippatsu	a close call

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	危機一髪
Kana	ききいっぱつ
Romaji	Kikiippatsu
Meaning	a close call, a narrow shave

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	危	機	一	髪
Kana	き	き	いち (いっ)	はつ (ぱつ)
Rōmaji	Ki	ki	ichi (itsu)	hatsu (patsu)
Meaning	Dangerous	Occasion	One	Hair of the head

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「危機」 : crisis or danger.

「一髪」 : a hair's breadth.

「危機一髪」 : a situation which danger comes within a hair's breadth.

* Similar Expression:

九死に一生を得る (*kyūshi ni issshō o eru*)

It means to "barely escape death" or "escape death by a hair's breadth."

「九死」 : 90% death (9 parts death)

「一生」 : 10% life (1 part life)

★Usage



This word is often used as an adverbial phrase, like "*kikiippatsu de* (危機一髪で)" or "*kikiippatsu no tokoro de* (危機一髪のところで)," both of which mean "by a hair's breath" or "by a narrow shave."

Also, you can use it as a noun. When you came within a hair's breadth of something, you can say that it was a close call.

★Sample Sentences

飛行機から火が出たが、乗客は危機一髪で救助された。

Hikōki kara hi ga deta ga, jōkyaku wa kikiippatsu de kyūjo sareta.

The plane caught fire, but all of the passengers escaped by a hair's breadth.

運転手が急ブレーキを踏んだので、危機一髪のところで事故を防ぐことができた。

Untenshu ga kyū burēki o funda no de, kikiippatsu no tokoro de, jiko o fusegu koto ga dekita.

The driver slammed on his brakes, and narrowly avoided the accident.

隣の家にトラックが突っ込んだんだ。危機一髪だったよ。

Tonari no ie ni torakku ga tsukkonda n da. Kikiippatsu datta yo.

A truck crashed into a house next door. It was a close call.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	喜怒哀楽
Kana	きどあいらく
Romaji	Kidoairaku
Meaning	delight, anger, sorrow and pleasure / emotions

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	喜	怒	哀	楽
Kana	き	ど	あい	らく
Rōmaji	ki	do	ai	raku
Meaning	Delight	Angry	Sorrow	Pleasure

★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

Kidoairaku means various emotions people have in common, including (but not limited to) delight, anger, sorrow and pleasure.

3



★Usage

This word is usually used as a noun, and tends to convey a negative connotation similar to "overly emotional."

★Sample Sentences

私は喜怒哀楽が激しいので、もう少し穏やかになりたい。
Watashi wa kidoairaku ga hageshii no de, mou sukoshi odayaka ni naritai.
My emotions are all over the place, so I want to calm down.

彼は、喜怒哀楽がすぐ顔に出る。
Kare wa, kidoairaku ga sugu kao ni deru.
He wears his heart on his sleeve (literally: emotions on his face).

私は、新米教師の喜怒哀楽をブログで紹介している。
Watashi wa, shinmai kyōshi no kidoairaku o burogu de shōkai shite iru.
I'm writing in my blog about how I feel as a new teacher.



Yojijukugo
Cutting to The Chase

11

Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	2



Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
大器晩成	たいきばんせい	taiki bansei	a late bloomer
単刀直入	たんとうちよくにゆう	tantō chokunyū	to cut to the chase, to come right to the point

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	大器晩成
Kana	たいきばんせい
Romaji	Taiki bansei
Meaning	A late bloomer, Great talents mature late.

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	大	器	晩	成
Kana	たい	き	ばん	せい
Rōmaji	Tai	Ki	Ban	Sei
Meaning	Big	Container	Night	Grow

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「大器」 : It means "a big container."

「晩成」 : It means "to take a long time to turn into something."

「大器晩成」 : It literally means that it takes time to finish making a large container, and therefore has come to mean that people with real talents are not remarkable when they are young, but over time they can hone their skills and eventually become distinguished and successful.

This is sometimes used to comfort someone who has talents but is not duly recognized at the moment.

★Usage



It is used as a noun in such phrases as "[someone] *wa taikibansei da*. (～は大器晩成だ).” Also, "*taikibansei-gata* (大器晩成型)” is sometimes used to mean a type of a late bloomer.

★Sample Sentences

「春樹は、まだ言葉を話さないね。」 「彼は大器晩成なんだよ。」
"Haruki wa, mada kotoba o hanasanai ne." "Kare wa taikibansei na n da yo."
"Haruki hasn't started speaking yet." "He is a later bloomer."

彼は大器晩成型だ。だって、25歳でプロ野球選手になったんだから。
Kare wa taikibansei-gata da. Datte, nijyuugo-sai de puro yakyu no senshu ni natta n da kara.
 He is a later bloomer. He became a professional baseball player when he was 25 years old.

野口英世は、普通の子供だった。偉い人は大器晩成型が多い。
Noguchi Hideyo wa, futsū no kodomo datta. Erai hito wa taikibansei-gata ga ōi.
 Hideyo Noguchi was an average child. Many great men are later bloomers.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	単刀直入
Kana	たんとうちよくにゅう
Romaji	Tantō chokunyū
Meaning	to cut to the chase, to come right to the point

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	単	刀	直	入
Kana	たん	とう	ちよく	にゅう
Rōmaji	Tan	Tō	Choku	Nyū
Meaning	Single	Sword	Straightaway	Enter

★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

The original meaning referred to a person who attacked the enemy in a straight-forward way with only one sword. It has since come to mean "get right to the point without any introductory remarks or greetings."

3



★Usage

It is usually used as an adverbial phrase with the particle *ni*, as in "*tantō chokunyū ni iu* (単刀直入に言う; to get straight to the point (speaking))."

★Sample Sentences

単刀直入に言うよ。他に好きな人ができたんだ。
Tantō chokunyū ni iu yo. Hoka ni suki na hito ga dekita.
I'll get right to the point. I found a new person I like.

単刀直入に言って、それはできません。
Tantō chokunyū ni itte, sore wa dekimasen.
I'm gonna get straight to the point and say I can't do that.

単刀直入に言ってくれ。それはどういう意味だ？
Tantō chokunyū ni itte kure. Sore wa dō iu imi da?
Don't beat around the bush! What the heck does that mean?



Yojijukugo
Being Polite to Keep Distance

12

Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	2



Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
他人行儀	たにんぎょうぎ	taningyōgi	polite and formal, to be distant
大胆不敵	だいたんふてき	daitanfuteki	to be fearless

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	大胆不敵
Kana	だいたんふてき
Romaji	<i>daitanfuteki</i>
Meaning	to be fearless

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	大	胆	不	敵
Kana	だい	たん	ふ	てき
Rōmaji	Dai	Tan	Fu	Teki
Meaning	Big	Courage	Negative	Enemy

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

大胆: It means "to have guts" or "to be bold."

不敵: It means "to be unafraid of your enemies."

大胆不敵: It expresses "to be gutsy, fearless, and to do something drastic."

★Usage

It is often used as a *na* adjective, *daitanfuteki na* (大胆不敵な). It can modify a person, as in *daitanfuteki na hito* (大胆不敵な人) "a fearless person." It can also modify an action, as in *daitanfuteki na kōdō* (大胆不敵な行動) "a daring deed."

When someone dares to do something, you can say, "[Someone] *wa daitanfuteki ni mo* [something] *o shita*" (～は大胆不敵にも～した) "someone was fearless to do something." Or, you can say, "[description about someone's action] + [*to wa, daitan-*



futeki da]" (～とは大胆不敵だ) "it's fearless that..."

★Sample Sentences

山中さんは、社長に反対意見を言っただけだ。大胆不敵な人だ。

Yamanaka-san wa, shachō ni hantai iken o itta rashii. Daitanfuteki na hito da.

Mr. Yamanaka expressed an opinion opposing the company president. He is bold.

彼らは、大胆不敵にも、昨年の優勝チームに試合を申し込んだ。

Karera wa, daitanfuteki ni mo, sakunen no yūshō chīmu ni shiai o mōshikonda.

They were fearless to ask to play against last year's champion team.

プレゼンテーションの前に何も準備をしないとは、大胆不敵だ。

Purezentēshon no mae ni nani mo junbi o shinai to wa, daitanfuteki da.

It's fearless of you to give a presentation without any preparation.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	他人行儀
Kana	たにんぎょうぎ
Romaji	<i>taninyōgi</i>
Meaning	polite and formal; to be a stranger; to be distant

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	他	人	行	儀
Kana	た	にん	ぎょう	ぎ
Rōmaji	Ta	Nin	Gyō	Gi
Meaning	Other	Person	Going	Ceremony

★History, Definition, Similar Expression, etc.

「他人」 : It means "other person" or "stranger."

「行儀」 : It means "manners."

「他人行儀」 : It means "to be polite and formal with a person close to you as if he or she is a stranger."

A similar expression is *mizu kusai* (水くさい), which means "secretive" or "not frank." It is often used when someone keeps a secret from others or doesn't ask





someone for help frankly.

★Usage

It is used as a *na* adjective, *taningyōgi na* (他人行儀な). When someone close to you behaves like a stranger and you want to say, "Don't be such a stranger," you can say *taningyōgi na koto suru na yo* (他人行儀なことするなよ). Or, you can say [someone's behavior] + [*nante taningyōgi da*] (～なんて他人行儀だ).

★Sample Sentences

親友に、世話になったお礼のお金を渡すなんて、他人行儀だ。

Shinyū ni, sewa ni natta o-rei no o-kane o watasu nante, taningyōgi da.

If you give money to a close friend as a token of your appreciation for his kindness, you are acting distant.

親に「よろしくお願いします」と言ったら、「他人行儀なことを言うな」と言われた。

Oya ni "yoroshiku o-negai shimasu" to ittara, "taningyōgi na koto o iu na" to iwareta.

When I said to my parents "yoroshiku o-negai shimasu (thank you in advance)," they said "don't be such a stranger."

親が子供の名前を呼ぶ時に「さん」をつけるのは、他人行儀だと思う。

Oya ga kodomo no namae o yobu toki ni "san" o tsukeru no wa, taningyōgi da to omou.

I think you are acting distant when you say your own child's name with "-san."

4



Yojijukugo
Are you Getting Desperate?

13

Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	2



Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
絶体絶命	ぜったいぜつめい	zettaizetsumei	to have one's back against the wall
前代未聞	ぜんだいみもん	zendaimimon	without precedent

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	絶体絶命
Kana	ぜったいぜつめい
Romaji	<i>zettaizetsumei</i>
Meaning	to have one's back against the wall

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	絶	体	絶	命
Kana	ぜつ (ぜっ)	たい	ぜつ	めい
Rōmaji	Zetsu	Tai	Zetsu	Mei
Meaning	Discontinue	Body	Discontinue	Life

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「絶体」 / 「絶命」 : Both of them indicate that one's body or life is pushed into a corner, and then one's luck runs out.

「絶体絶命」 : It means "to be in a critical situation from which there seems to be no way out of danger or difficulty."

★Usage

It is often used as a prenominal modifier, as in [*zettai zetsumei no*] + [noun] (絶体絶命の～). Nouns like *kiki* (危機; danger) or *pinchi* (ピンチ; pinch) often come after *zettai zetsumei no*.

Or, when someone is driven to the wall, you can say, "[someone] *wa zettai zetsumei da*. (～は絶体絶命だ)."



★Sample Sentences

山で道に迷った。もう水も食べ物もない。これは、絶体絶命の危機だ。

Yama de michi ni mayotta. Mou mizu mo tabemono mo nai. Kore wa zettai zetsumei no kiki da.

I'm lost in the mountains and have no more water or food. It's a desperate situation.

ピッチャーが怪我をしてしまった。俺たちは、絶体絶命だ！

Picchā ga kega o shite shimatta. Ore-tachi wa zettai zetsumei da!

Our pitcher got injured. Our backs are against the wall.

彼女に嘘がばれてしまったよ。もう絶対絶命だ。

Kanojo ni uso ga barete shimatta yo. Mou zettai zetsumei da.

My girlfriend figured out my lie. I'm in a real bind now.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	前代未聞
Kana	ぜんだいみもん
Romaji	<i>zendaimimon</i>
Meaning	without precedent, unprecedented, unheard of

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	前	代	未	聞
Kana	ぜん	だい	み	もん
Rōmaji	Zen	Dai	Mi	Mon
Meaning	Before	Generation	Not yet	Hear

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「前代」 : It means "the previous generation" or "the past."

「未聞」 : It means "to not have been heard of before."

「前代未聞」 : It means "something too rare to have been heard of before."



★Usage

It is used as a prenominal modifier, as in [zendaimimon no] + [noun]: *zendaimimon no jiken* (前代未聞の事件; an unprecedented affair) or *zendaimimon no hanashi* (前代未聞の話; unprecedented story.)

When something unprecedented happens, you can say, "[that happening] *wa zendaimimon da.*"

★Sample Sentences

この映画は、前代未聞の大ヒット作品だ。

Kono eiga wa, zendaimimon no dai-hitto da.

This movie is an unprecedented hit.

総理大臣が1日で辞任した。これは、前代未聞だ。

Sōri daijin ga ichinichi de jinin shita. Kore wa zendaimimon da.

The Prime Minister resigned after one day in office. It's unprecedented.

主役の俳優が途中で交代するとは、前代未聞だ。

Shuyaku no haiyū ga tochū de kōtai suru to wa, zendaimimon da.

It's totally without precedent for the actor playing the leading role to be replaced midway through the performance.



Yojijukugo
Don't Be Like This!

14

Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	2



Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
前途多難	ぜんとたなん	zento tanan	to be in for a lot of trouble up ahead
他力本願	たりきほんがん	tariki hongan	to rely on others

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	前途多難
Kana	ぜんとたなん
Romaji	zentotanan
Meaning	to be in for a lot of trouble up ahead

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	前	途	多	難
Kana	ぜん	と	た	なん
Rōmaji	Zen	To	Ta	Nan
Meaning	In front	Way	Many	Trouble

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「前途」 : It means "in one's (own) way."

「多難」 : It means "a lot of trouble."

The opposite expression is *zento yōyō* (前途洋洋), which means "have a great future ahead" or "promise well." *Yō* (洋) means "ocean" and *yōyō* (洋洋) means a "wide stretch of water."

★Usage

It is used as a *na*-adjective, like *zento tanan na* (前途多難な) or *--wa zento tanan da* (～は前途多難だ). When it's used as a prenominal modifier like [*zento tanan na*] + [noun], it is usually followed by a noun meaning "to start" like *shuppatsu* (出発) or *sutāto* (スタート) as in *zento tanan na shuppatsu* (前途多難な出発) or *zento tanan na*



sutāto (前途多難なスタート).

★Sample Sentences

飛行機の出発が5時間も遅れ、前途多難な出発になった。

Hikōki no shuppatsu ga 5-jikan mo okure, zento tanan na shuppatsu ni natta.

The plane's departure delayed for five hours. It was a rocky start.

ガソリンの値段がさらに上がった。自動車業界は前途多難だ。

Gasorin no nedan ga sara ni agatta. Jidōsha gyōkai wa zento tanan da.

The price of gasoline was raised again. The car industry has a lot of trouble ahead.

やっと問題がひとつ解決した。でも、まだまだ前途多難だ。

Yatto mondai ga hitotsu kaiketsu shita. Demo mada mada zento tanan da.

I finally took care of a problem. But there are still a lot of troubles ahead.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	他力本願
Kana	たりきほんがん
Romaji	<i>tarikihongan</i>
Meaning	to rely, depend on others

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	他	力	本	願
Kana	た	りき	ほん	がん
Rōmaji	Ta	Riki	Hon	Gan
Meaning	Other	Power	Real	Wish

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「他力」: It means "powers by others," but it originally meant "the Buddha's power," related to Buddhism.

「本願」: It literally means "real wish," and it originally meant "the Buddha's wish for people get into paradise."

This expression originated from a Buddhist word meaning "people can go to paradise by the power of Buddha." It came to mean "to rely on others without making any effort."



★Usage

This is used as a noun indicating that a person relies on others instead of making an effort for him or herself. It can also be used as a *na*-adjective to modify a noun, as in *tarikihongan na hito*; a person who is relying on others."

★Sample Sentences

毎朝、友達に電話で起こしてもらっているのか。そんな他力本願はだめだぞ。

Maiasa, tomodachi ni denwa de okoshite moratte iru no ka. Sonna tarikihongan wa dame da zo.

You receive a wakeup call from your friend every morning? You should not rely on others like that.

あなたは、旅行の計画を全部私に任せて、他力本願よね。

Anata wa, ryokō no keikaku o zenbu watashi ni makasete, tarikihongan yo ne.

You are always relying on others. You left the travel planning up to me and you didn't do anything.

彼は、人に頼ってばかりの他力本願な男だ。

Kare wa, hito ni tayotte bakari no tarikihongan na otoko da.

He is always relying on others.



Yojijukugo
Passionate Japanese?

15

Grammar Points	2
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Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	二人三脚
Kana	ににんさんきやく
Romaji	<i>ninin sankyaku</i>
Meaning	three-legged race, two cooperating people sharing the same purpose, to be joined at the hip

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	二	人	三	脚
Kana	に	にん	さん	きやく
Rōmaji	Ni	Nin	San	Kyaku
Meaning	Two	Person	Three	Leg

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「二人」 : It means "two people."

「三脚」 : It means "three legs."

「二人三脚」 : It originally meant a race in which two people run together, with one person's right leg tied to the other person's left leg. Later, it came to metaphorically indicate that two people cooperate with each other or work closely together for the same purpose.

★Usage

It is often used as an adverbial phrase, such as *nininsankyaku de* (二人三脚で) with the particle *de* to express how closely two people work together.

★Sample Sentences

僕は、父と二人三脚でオリンピックを目指した。

Boku wa, chichi to nininsankyaku de orinpikku o mezashita.

My father and I shared the same aspiration to go to the Olympic Games.



私は、夫と二人三脚で、この店を大きくしてきた。

Watashi wa, otto to nininsankyaku de, kono mise o ōkiku shite kita.

My husband and I have been working closely together to expand our shop.

私は、医者と二人三脚で、病気と闘っている。

Watashi wa, isha to nininsankyaku de, byōki to tatakatte iru.

My doctor and I are cooperating with each other to fight the disease.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	無我夢中
Kana	むがむちゅう
Romaji	<i>muga muchū</i>
Meaning	To lose oneself in something, To be absorbed in

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	無	我	夢	中
Kana	む	が	む	ちゅう
Rōmaji	Mu	Ga	Mu	Chū
Meaning	Nothing	Oneself	Dream	In

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「無我」 : It was originally a Buddhist word describing the mental condition of the lack of existence of an inherent self.

「夢中」 : It means "to be absorbed," and it can be used by itself.

「無我夢中」 : It means "to be completely and passionately absorbed in one thing without paying attention to anything else."

A similar expression is *isshin furan* (一心不乱), which was introduced in *Yojijukugo* #6.

★Usage

It can be used as an adverbial phrase, such as *muga muchū de* (無我夢中で) with the particle *de* as in *muga muchū de nigeta* (無我夢中で逃げた), which means "ran away feverishly."

3



Or, when you want to say that someone was completely absorbed in one thing, you can say, "[someone] *wa muga muchū datta.*"

★Sample Sentences

その本はとてもおもしろくて、僕は無我夢中で読んだ。

Sono hon wa totemo omoshirokute, boku wa muga muchū de yonda.

That book was so interesting that I was completely engrossed reading it.

僕は、すごくおなかが空いていたので、無我夢中で食べた。

Boku wa sugoku onaka ga suite ita node, muga muchū de tabeta.

I was so hungry that I ate feverishly.

私は、昨日の試合中、無我夢中だったので、何も覚えていない。

Watashi wa, kinō no shiaichū, muga muchū datta node, nani mo oboete inai.

I was so absorbed in the game yesterday that I don't remember anything about it.



Yojjukugo

Don't Get Confident until You Read This!

16

Grammar Points	2
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Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo(四字熟語)(1)	油断大敵
Kana	ゆだんたいてき
Romaji	yudan taiteki
Meaning	Don't get overconfident yet/Stay sharp

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	油	断	大	敵
Kana	ゆ	だん	たい	てき
Romaji	Yu	Dan	Tai	Teki
Meaning	Oil	Severance	Big	Enemy

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「油断」：It literally means "to run out of lamp oil" but has come to mean "to drop one's guard" or "to be careless."

「大敵」：It means "arch enemy" or "great rival."

「油断大敵」：It means "your carelessness or dropping your guard would result in your failure in most cases, so it is the enemy you should be most cautious about."

Usage

It is often used as a warning phrase to caution against being careless or being overconfident, as in yudan taiteki! (油断大敵!). Or, if the context is a discussion about someone's failure as a result of carelessness, you can say yudan taiteki da! (油断大敵だ!).

Sample Sentences

油断大敵! 気をつけないと、すぐに太るぞ!

Yudan taiteki! Ki o tsukenai to, sugu ni futoru zo!

Don't get overconfident yet! Be careful, or you will gain weight soon!

油断大敵! 勝敗は、最後までわからない。

Yudan taiteki! Sh hai wa, saigo made wakaranai.

Don't get overconfident yet! You can't tell the outcome of the game until the end.

やせたのに、またすぐに太ってしまった。油断大敵だ。

Yaseta noni, mata sugu ni futotte shimatta. Yudan taiteki da.

I succeeded in losing weight, but I gained it back. Idleness is the devil's workshop. (I should have been more careful.)

Today's Yojijukugo(四字熟語)(2)	自画自賛
Kana	じがじさん
Romaji	jiga jisan
Meaning	Self-admiration/self-applause/to talk up one's own achievement or work

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	自	画	自	賛
Kana	じ	が	じ	さん
Romaji	Ji	Ga	Ji	San
Meaning	Oneself	Picture	Oneself	Praise

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「自画」 : It means "one's own picture."

「自賛」 : It means "to write your own comments in the blank about your work and compliment it."

「自画自賛」 : It means "to praise oneself" or "to compliment oneself." A similar



expression is *temae miso* (手前味噌), which originally meant "to admire the taste of one's own homemade miso" and came to mean "to talk up one's own work."

Usage

It can be used as the *suru* compound verb, *jiga jisan suru* (自画自賛する) meaning "to compliment oneself or one's own work." Or, you can say *jiga jisan desu ni narimasu ga* (自画自賛になりますが) as a preliminary remark when you want to say something that sounds like self-admiration.

Sample Sentences

妻は、自分の料理をいつも自画自賛する。

Tsuma wa, jibun no ryōri o itsumo jiga jisan suru.

My wife always talks up her cooking.

父は、自分の撮った写真を自画自賛した。

Chichi wa jibun no totta shashin o jiga jisan shita.

My father praised photos that he took himself.

自画自賛になりますが、これは大発明だと思います。

Jiga jisa ni narimasu ga, kore wa dai-hatsumei da to omoimasu.

I don't like to toot my own horn, but I think this is a great invention.



Yojijukugo

The Outrageous Truth Behind Popular Japanese Expressions

17

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	言語道断
Kana	ごんごどうだん
Romaji	gongodōdan
Meaning	outrageous

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	言	語	道	断
Kana	ごん	ご	どう	だん
Rōmaji	Gon	Go	Dō	Dan
Meaning	Say	Word	Roadway	Severance

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「言語」 : It means "to say something."

「道断」 : It means "to have a way cut off."

「言語道断」 : It means that "something is too terrible to put into words."

This expression originated from the Buddhist word meaning that "the truth of Buddhism is too profound to explain in words."

★Usage

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When someone did something terrible, you can say
--- wa gongodōdan da or --- nante gongodōdan da.

Also, it can be used to modify a noun with the particle no or na, as in [gongodōdan no] + [noun] or [gongodōdan na] + [noun]. In this case, the noun is usually generic and indicates an action, such as kōi (行為), which means "act" or hanzai (犯罪), which means "crime."

★Sample Sentences

カンニングは言語道断だ。
Kanningu wa gongodōdan da.
Cheating on an exam is outrageous.

就職の面接に遅刻するなんて、言語道断だ。
Shūshoku no mensetsu ni chikoku suru nante, gongodōdan da.
Being late for a job interview is outrageous.

飲酒運転は、言語道断の犯罪だ。
Inshu unten wa, gongodōdan no hanzai da.
Drunk driving is an outrageous crime.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	試行錯誤
Kana	しこうさくご
Romaji	shikō sakugo
Meaning	trial and error

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	試	行	錯	誤
Kana	し	こう	さく	ご
Rōmaji	Shi	Kō	Saku	Go

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Meaning	Try	Going	onfused	Error
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★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

「試行」 : It means "to try."

「錯誤」 : It means "to make mistakes."

「試行錯誤」 : It means "to approach success after learning from a lot of failures" or "to find out a solution by trial and error."

★Usage

It can be used as the suru compound verb, shikōsakugo suru (試行錯誤する), which means "to learn by mistake." When someone is successful after trial and error, you can say, "[someone] wa shikōsakugo shi nagara [something] o shita" or "[someone] wa shikōsakugo shite [something] o shita."

It can also be used as a noun. You will often see expressions such as shikōsakugo ni yotte (試行錯誤によって) and shikōsakugo no kekka (試行錯誤の結果), which mean "by trial and error."

★Sample Sentences

彼女は、試行錯誤しながら、新しいメニューを作った。
Kanojo wa, shikōsakugo shi nagara, atarashii menū o tsukutta.
She developed a new menu by trial and error.

私は、試行錯誤の結果、自分にあったダイエット法を見つけた。
Watashi wa, shikōsakugo no kekka, jibun ni atta daietto hō o mitsuketa.

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I finally found a dieting method that works for me by trial and error.

子育ては試行錯誤の連続だ。

Kosodate wa shikōsakugo no renzoku da.

Raising kids is a continuous process of trial and error.



Yojijukugo

Avoid this Japanese No-Win Situation

18

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)		四面楚歌		
Kana		しめんそか		
Romaji		shimensoka		
Meaning		be completely outcast, a no-win situation		
	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	四	面	楚	歌
Kana	し	めん	そ	か
Rōmaji	Shi	Men	So	Ka
Meaning	Four	Surface	Whip	Song

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「四面」 : It means "four directions."

「楚歌」 : It means "song of the old kingdom in China called So (楚)."

「四面楚歌」 : It originates from a historical event in China that deals with the king of the country So (楚). The king recognized his defeat when he heard the songs of his own country from the people surrounding his castle. He believed that his subordinates had sold him out to the enemy. Then, it came to mean "circumstances in which one is surrounded by enemies and opponents, with nobody providing any support."

★Usage

It is used as a noun. To express a situation in which someone is completely outcast or doesn't have any support from anybody, you can say, "[someone] wa shimensoka da" or "[someone] wa shimensoka ni naru."

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★Sample Sentences

僕の意見はみんなに反対されて、四面楚歌だった。

Boku no iken wa minna ni hantai sarete, shimensoka datta.

Everyone was against my opinion, and I was a complete outcast.

友達はタイガースファンばかりで、ジャイアンツファンの僕はいつも四面楚歌だ。

Tomodachi wa Taigāsu fan bakari de, Jaiantsu fan no boku wa shimensoka da.

Most of my friends are fans of the Tigers, but I'm a fan of the Giants. So, I'm always a complete outcast.

そんな勝手ばかりしていると、四面楚歌になるよ。

Sonna katte bakari shite iru to, shimensoka ni naru yo.

If you are always selfish like that, you will be forsaken by all of your friends.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)		順風満帆		
Kana		じゅんふうまんぱん		
Romaji		junbūmanpan		
Meaning		smooth sailing, on course and going full speed ahead		
	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	順	風	満	帆
Kana	じゅん	ふう	まん	ぱん
Rōmaji	Jun	Fū	Man	Pan
Meaning	Right	Wind	Full	Sail

★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

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「順風」 : It means "following wind."

「満帆」 : It means "full sail."

「順風満帆」 : It means "everything is going well, like a boat sailing smoothly in a favorable wind."

★Usage

It is used as a noun to express a situation in which everything is going well. You can say, "[something] wa junbūmanpan da."

It can also be used as a na-adjective. When you get a smooth start to something, you can express it as, junbūmanpan na sutāto (順風満帆なスタート). Also, you can use it as the adverbial junbūmanpan ni, as in junbūmanpan ni susumu (順風満帆に進む), which means "to sail before the wind" and expresses things that are going well.

★Sample Sentences

新しい仕事は、順風満帆だよ。
Atarashii shigoto wa, junbūmanpan da yo.
Everything is going well with my new job.

結婚生活は、順風満帆なスタートだった。
Kekkon seikatsu wa, junbūmanpan na sutāto datta.
My married life got off to a smooth start.

新プロジェクトは、順風満帆に進んでいる。
Shin-purojekuto wa, junbūmanpan ni susunde iru.
The new project is sailing before the wind.



Yojijukugo

Using Japanese to Find the Right Job for You

19

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	適材適所
Kana	てきざいてきしよ
Romaji	tekizaitekisho
Meaning	placing the right people in the right jobs

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	適	材	適	所
Kana	てき	ざい	てき	しよ
Rōmaji	Teki	Zai	Teki	Sho
Meaning	Suitable	Talent	Suitable	Place

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「適材」 : It means "a person competent for a certain job."

「適所」 : It means "the right task or job for the person."

「適材適所」 : It means "placing the right people in the right jobs."

★Usage

It is used as a noun. When you think that a certain person is right for a certain job, you can say "[someone doing such and such job] wa tekizaitekisho da" (適材適所だ), as in "kare ga kaikei-gakari o suru no wa tekizai tekisho da" which means "he is doing accounting, and he is the right person for the job."

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It conveys an abstract concept, so it is often used in statements or opinions such as tekizaitekisho ga taisetsu da (適材適所が大切だ), which means "placing the right people in the right jobs is important."

★Sample Sentences

彼があの仕事をするのは、適材適所だ。

Kare ga ano shigoto o suru no wa, tekizaitekisho da.

He is the right person for that job.

彼女が社長秘書に指名された。適材適所だね！

Kanojo ga shachō hisho ni shimei sarena. Tekizaitekisho da ne!

She was appointed as a secretary for the president. She is the right person for the job.

人材の適材適所は、難しい。

Jinzai no tekizaitekisho wa muzukashii.

Placing the right people in the right jobs is tough.

=====

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	馬耳東風
Kana	ばじとうふう
Romaji	bajitōfū
Meaning	to turn a deaf ear to something

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	馬	耳	東	風
Kana	ば	じ	とう	ふう
Rōmaji	Ba	Ji	Tō	Fū
Meaning	Horse	Ear	East	Wind

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★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

「馬耳」 : It literally means "horse's ears."

「東風」 : It indicates wind blowing from the east in the spring.

「馬耳東風」 : Originally, it meant that when wind blows from the east in the spring, people feel it and find it comfortable. But, it doesn't seem that horses feel anything when the spring wind blows. From the original meaning, it has come to be used as a metaphor meaning "to pay no attention to somebody's opinions or criticism."

It originates from the poem written by Li Po, a Chinese poet during the Tang period of the Chinese Dynasty.

★Usage

It is used as a noun to express the behavior of a person who has turned a deaf ear to other people's opinions, as in *kare wa bajitōfū datta* (彼は馬耳東風だった). Or, you can use *bajitōfū da* (馬耳東風だ) to imply that it's no use giving advice to a certain person because he or she does not pay any attention to other people's opinions.

★Sample Sentences

母が父にタバコをやめるように言っても、父は馬耳東風だった。

Haha ga chichi ni tabako o yameru yō ni itte mo, chichi wa bajitōfū datta.

My mother told my father to quit smoking, but he's deaf to her advice.

彼は、何度注意しても、馬耳東風だ。

Kare wa, nando chūi shite mo, bajitōfū da.

Even though I warned him many times, he turned a deaf ear to my advice.

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あの人に何を言っても、馬耳東風だ。

Ano hito ni nani o itte mo, bajitōfū da.

Whatever you say to that guy, it would be lost on him.



Yojijukugo

Japanese You'll Have a Hard Time Believing!

20

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	年功序列
Kana	ねんこうじょれつ
Romaji	nenkō joretsu
Meaning	seniority-based system, promotion by seniority

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	年	功	序	列
Kana	ねん	こう	じょ	れつ
Rōmaji	Nen	Kō	Jo	Retsu
Meaning	Year	Achievement	Order	Row

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「年功」 : It means "seniority" or "long service."

「序列」 : It means "ranking," "grading" or "hierarchy."

「年功序列」 : It means "rise in salary and job position in accordance with age and length of service for a company."

★Usage

It can be used as an adverbial form of a na-adjective, as in *nenkō joretsu de shōshin shita* (年功序列で昇進した), which means "someone got a promotion because of seniority."

It can also be used with *no* and as a pronominal modifier, as in *nenkō joretsu no*

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kyūyo shisutemu (年功序列の給与システム), which means "seniority-based salary system."

When you want to refer to the seniority system, you can use nenkō joretsu sei (年功序列制) with the word sei (制), which means "system."

★Sample Sentences

彼は、年功序列で部長になった。

Kare wa, nenkō joretsu de buchō ni natta.

He was promoted to general manager because he had seniority.

私の会社は、年功序列の給与システムをとっている。

Watashi no kaisha wa, nenkō joretsu no kyūyo shisutemu o totte iru.

My company has a seniority-based salary system.

最近、年功序列制から実力主義に変える会社が多い。

Saikin, nenkō joretsu sei kara jitsuryoku shugi ni kaeru kaisha ga ōi.

Recently, many companies have been shifting from the seniority system to the merit system.

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	半信半疑
Kana	はんしんはんぎ
Romaji	hanshinhangi
Meaning	to be half in doubt, only half believing

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	半	信	半	疑
Kana	はん	しん	はん	ぎ
Rōmaji	Han	Shin	Han	Gi
Meaning	Half	Trust	Half	Doubt

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★History, definition, similar expression, etc.

「半信」 : It means "half believing."

「半疑」 : It means "to be half in doubt."

「半信半疑」 : It means "unable to be completely certain that something is true."

★Usage

It can be used as an adverbial form of a na-adjective, like "[someone] wa hanshinhanghi de kiku" (～は、半信半疑で聞く), which means "someone listens to -- only half believing it."

When you want to express that someone cannot be completely certain of something, you can say "[someone] wa hanshinhanghi da" (～は半信半疑だ).

★Sample Sentences

私は、彼の自慢話を半信半疑で聞いた。

Watashi wa, kare no jiman hanashi o hanshinhanghi de kiita.

I listened to his big talk only half believing it.

夫は残業で遅くなると言ったが、私は半信半疑だった。

Otto wa zangyō de osokunaru to itta ga, watashi wa hanshinhanghi datta.

My husband told me that he would be home late because he had to work overtime. But, I only half believed it.

彼は、必ずお金を返すと私に約束したが、私は半信半疑だ。

Kare wa, kanarazu o-kane o kaesu to watashi ni yakusoku shita ga, watashi wa hanshinhanghi da.

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He promised that he would pay the money back to me, but I'm half in doubt.



Yojijukugo

Japanese that Hits the Mark Every Time

21

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	百發百中
Kana	ひゃっぱつひやくちゅう
Romaji	hyappatsuhyakuchū
Meaning	to hit the mark every time, every prediction comes true

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	百	發	百	中
Kana	ひゃっ(ひやく)	ぱつ	ひやく	ちゅう
Rōmaji	Hyatsu (Hyaku)	Patsu	Hyaku	Chū
Meaning	Hundred	Counter for gunshots	Hundred	Center

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.★

「百發」 : It means "one hundred gunshots."

「百中」 : It means "to make one hundred gunshots that hit the mark."

「百發百中」 : It literally means "every time someone shoots an arrow or gun, he/she can hit the mark" and has come to also mean "every prediction that someone makes comes true."

This phrase originated during the historical event in China where an expert archer shot a bow at a leaf 100 times and hit the mark with every shot.

★Usage★

This is usually used when you succeed in predicting something, such as calling a horse race or answering exam questions. You can say "-- wa hyappatsuhyakuchū da," as in "keiba no yosō wa hyappatsuhyakuchū datta," which means "every time I called a horse race, I was correct."

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★Sample Sentences★

弘のシュートは、百発百中だ。

Hiroshi no shūto wa, hyappatsuhyakuchū da.

Every time Hiroshi shoots, he can score a goal.

この占いは、百発百中だ。

Kono uranai wa, hyappatsuhyakuchū da.

This fortuneteller is always right.

彼のテスト問題の予想は、百発百中だ。

Kare no tesuto mondai no yosō wa hyappatsuhyakuchū da.

He can always predict the answer to every question on an exam.

=====

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	無理難題
Kana	むりなんだい
Romaji	muri nandai
Meaning	impossible demand, unjust proposal

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	無	理	難	題
Kana	む	り	なん	だい
Rōmaji	Mu	Ri	Nan	Dai
Meaning	Nothing	Reason	Difficult	Topic

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.★

「無理」：It literally means "without reason."

「難題」：It literally means "difficult problems."

「無理難題」：It means an "impossible and unreasonable demand."

It is used to indicate problems that you know are impossible to solve from the beginning or conditions that are unreasonable which you can never accept.

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★Usage★

When someone makes an impossible and unreasonable demand of someone, you can say "[someone A] wa [someone B] ni muri nandai o iu" (～は～に無理難題を言う). Muri nandai o fukkakeru (ふっかける) is also used as a set phrase to mean "to make an unreasonable demand on --."

★Sample Sentences★

このクライアントは、いつも無理難題を言う。

Kono kuraianto wa, itsumo muri nandai o iu.

This client always makes unreasonable demands of us.

最近の親は、先生に無理難題をふっかけてくる。

Saikin no oya wa sensei ni muri nandai o fukkakete kuru.

Recently, parents have been making unreasonable demands of teachers.

僕は、ホームランを打てと言われたが、それは無理難題だ。

Boku wa, hōmuran o ute to iwareta ga, sore wa muri nandai da.

I was told to hit a homerun, but it is an impossible demand for me.



Yojijukugo

Japanese You've Been Waiting to Learn

22

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	自暴自棄
Kana	じぼうじき
Romaji	jibōjiki
Meaning	abandon, desperation

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	自	暴	自	棄
Kana	じ	ぼう	じ	き
Rōmaji	ji	bō	ji	ki
Meaning	Oneself	Violence	Oneself	Abandon

★ History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「自暴」 : It means "to harm oneself."

「自棄」 : It means "to abandon oneself."

「自暴自棄」 : It means "to lose one's reason and give in to despair," usually caused by a serious failure or a series of failures.

A similar expression is yakekuso ni naru (やけくそになる). Yake (やけ) means "desperation" and kuso (くそ) is a word emphasizing the preceding word.

★ Usage

Jibōjiki ni naru (自暴自棄になる) is often used as a set phrase to mean "to give in to despair."

★ Sample Sentences



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僕は、大学受験の失敗して、自暴自棄になった。

Boku wa, daigaku juken ni shippai shite, jibōjiki ni natta.

I gave in to despair because I failed to pass the college entrance exam.

僕は、彼女に振られて、自暴自棄になっている。

Boku wa, kanojo ni furarete, jibōjiki ni natte iru.

I'm feeling desperate because I was dumped by my girlfriend.

彼は、自暴自棄になって、会社を辞めた。

Kare wa, jibōjiki ni natte, kaisha o yameta.

He quit the company in desperation.

=====

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	一日千秋
Kana	いちじつせんしゅう / いちにちせんしゅう
Romaji	ichijitsusenshū / ichinichisenshū
Meaning	really looking forward to

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	一	日	千	秋
Kana	いち	じつ/にち	せん	しゅう
Rōmaji	ichi	jitsu/nichi	sen	shū
Meaning	One	Day	Thousand	Autumn

★ History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「一日」 : It literally means "one day."

「千秋」 : It means "a thousand years."

「一日千秋」 : It originally meant "to feel like you haven't seen a person you love for a long time, even if you haven't seen him/her for only one day," and has come to mean "really looking forward to" or "can't wait."

★ Usage



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It is often used as a set phrase such as *ichijitsusenshū no omoi de matsu* (一日千秋の思いで待つ) to express how eagerly you look forward to something. *Omoi* (思い) is a noun which comes from *omou* (思う), meaning "to think" or "to feel."

★ Sample Sentences

僕は、一日千秋の思いで、静香ちゃんからの返事を待った。

Boku wa, ichijitsusenshū no omoi de, Shizuka-chan kara no henji o matta.

I really look forward to a response from Shizuka.

僕は、合格発表の電話を、一日千秋の思いで待った。

Boku wa, gōkaku happyō no denwa o, ichijitsusenshū no omoi de matta.

I couldn't wait for a telephone call announcing the test results.

母は、息子の帰りを一日千秋の思いで待った。

Haha wa, musuko no kaeri o ichijitsusenshū no omoi de matta.

Our mother really looked forward to her son's return.



Yojijukugo

Discover “the Easy Life” in Japanese

23

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	悠悠自適 (悠々自適)
Kana	ゆうゆうじてき
Romaji	yūyūjiteki
Meaning	to take life easy, to lead a leisurely life

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	悠	悠/々	自	適
Kana	ゆう	ゆう	じ	てき
Rōmaji	Yū	Yū	Ji	Teki
Meaning	Leisure	Leisure / Repetition of kanji	Oneself	Suitable

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「悠悠」: It means "to be in a leisurely fashion" or "to be in comfort."

「自適」: It means "to live with one's hearts."

「悠 悠自適」: It means "to lead a leisurely life without being bothered with matters in the real world and as one wishes," and it often indicates a life after retirement.

★Usage

It is used in the set phrase yūyūjiteki no seikatsu (悠々自適の生活), which means "leisurely life."

It can also be used as the adverbial word yūyūjiteki ni (悠々自適に) as in yūyūjiteki ni kurasu (悠々自適に暮らす) or sugosu (悠々自適に過ごす), both of which mean "to lead a leisurely life."

★Sample Sentences

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彼は、好きなときに食べて、寝て、悠々自適の生活をしている。

Kare wa, suki na toki ni tabete, nete, yūyūjiteki no seikatsu o siteiru.

He sleeps and eats whenever he wants, and is taking life easy.

私の父は、定年退職後、悠々自適に暮らしている。

Watashi no chichi wa, teinen taishoku go, "yūyūjiteki ni kurashite iru.

My father has been living a leisurely life since he retired.

彼は、不動産をたくさん持っているので、悠々自適の生活が送れる。

Kare wa, fudōsan o takusan motte iru node, yūyūjiteki no seikatsu ga okureru.

He can lead a leisurely life because he owns a lot of real estate.

=====

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	文武両道
Kana	ぶんぶりょうどう
Romaji	bunbu ryōdō
Meaning	both in academics and in sports

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	文	武	両	道
Kana	ぶん	ぶ	りょう	どう
Rōmaji	Bun	Bu	Ryō	Dō
Meaning	Literature	Warrior	Both	Course

★History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「文武」 : It means "literary and military arts."

「両道」 : It means "both arts."

「文武両道」 : It means "to be excellent both in academics and in sports" because "military arts" is interpreted as "sports" nowadays.

★Usage

When you express that [someone] is excellent in both academics and in sports, you can say "[someone] wa bunbu ryōdō da" (～は文武両道だ).

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Or, you can also say "[someone] wa bunbu ryōdō ni hiidete iru" (～は文武両道に秀でている), using hiideru (秀でる), which is a verb meaning "to excel in --."

It can be used to indicate a motto or policy as in "watashi no motto wa bunbu ryōdō da" (私のモットーは文武両道だ), which means "my motto is to excel both in academics and in sports."

★Sample Sentences

彼は、勉強もスポーツもできて、文武両道だ。

Kare wa, benkyō mo supōtsu mo dekite, bunbu ryōdō da.

He is excellent both in academics and sports.

僕は、文武両道をめざします。

Boku wa, bunbu ryōdō o mezashimasu.

I'm trying to be excellent in both academics and sports.

彼は、サッカー部のエースで、勉強もクラスで1番だ。まさに、文武両道だ。

Kare wa, sakkā bu no ēsu de, benkyō mo kurasu de 1-ban da. Masa ni bunbu ryōdō da.

He is an ace player in our soccer club and also the smartest in our class. He is excellent in both academics and sports.



Yojijukugo

How Learning Japanese can Help you Achieve Unprecedented Success

24

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	前人未到
Kana	ぜんじんみとう
Romaji	zenjin mitō
Meaning	unexploited or unachieved by anyone, unprecedented

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	前	人	未	到
Kana	ぜん	じん	み	とう
Rōmaji	zen	jin	mi	tō
Meaning	Before	Person	Not yet	Arrival

★ History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「前人」: It literally means "people in the previous" and indicates "predecessors."

「未到」: It means "unreached yet."

「前人未到」: It means "unreached or unexploited by any predecessors," and it can be written as 前人未踏 with another kanji character.

★ Usage

It is used as a prenominal word, as in "zenjin mitō no + [noun]" (前人未到の～), which means "something unexploited by anyone." It is often followed by nouns such as kiroku (記録) "record" or chi (地) "place," as in "zenjin mitō no kiroku" (前人未到の記録), which means "unprecedented record" or "zenjin mitō no chi" (前人未到の地)," where no one has gone before."

It is generally used in a positive context, such as when someone made an



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unprecedented accomplishment.

★ Sample Sentences

彼は、前人未到大記録を達成した。

Kare wa, zenjin mitō no dai-kiroku o tassei shita.

He achieved an unprecedented perfect record.

冒険家は、前人未到の地を目指す。

Bōken-ka wa, zenjin mitō no chi o mezasu.

Adventurers head to places where no one has gone before.

彼女は、前人未到の3年連続優勝を達成した。

Kanojo wa, zenjin mitō no 3-nen renzoku yūshō o tassei shita.

She achieved an unprecedented three successive victories.

=====

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	有名無実
Kana	ゆうめいむじつ
Romaji	yūmeimujitsu
Meaning	to exist only in name

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	有	名	無	実
Kana	ゆう	めい	む	じつ
Rōmaji	yū	mei	mu	jitsu
Meaning	Exist	Name	Nothingness	Reality

★ History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「有名」 : It literally means "to have a name."

「無実」 : It literally means "not to have substance."



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「有名無実」:It means "something has only a name, but has nothing substantial" or "something is not so worth as meant by the name."

★ Usage

It is used as a na-adjective, as in "yūmeimujitsu na + [noun]" (有名無実な～) or "-- wa yūmeimujitsu da" (～は有名無実だ).

The set phrases, yūmeimujitsu ni naru (有名無実になる) or yūmeimujitsu-ka suru (有名無実化する) are used to mean "something comes to have nothing in substance."

★ Sample Sentences

男性の育児休暇制度なんて、有名無実だ。

Dansei no ikuji kyūka seido nante, yūmeimujitsu da.

Maternity leave for men exists only in name.

高速道路の最高時速は100キロだが、これは有名無実な規則だ。

Kōsoku dōro no saikō jisoku wa 100-kiro da ga, kore wa yūmeimujitsu na kisoku da.

The maximum speed on the highways is regulated as 100 km, but only in name.

ルールは、違反した場合の罰則がなければ、有名無実になる。

Rūru wa, ihan shita baai no bassoku ga nakereba, yūmei mujitsu ni naru.

Rules will come to exist only in name if there are no penalties for their violation.



Yojijukugo

Does Your Japanese Sound Half-Hearted?

25

Grammar Points

2

Grammar Points

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	臨機応変
Kana	りんきおうへん
Romaji	rinkiōhen
Meaning	to act according to circumstances

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	臨	機	応	変
Kana	りん	き	おう	へん
Rōmaji	rin	ki	ō	hen
Meaning	Confront	Occasion	Answer	Change

★ History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「臨機」 : It means "to adapt to circumstances."

「応変」 : It means "to deal with change."

「臨機応変」 : It means "to deal with things flexibly and appropriately depending on the time and situation."

★ Usage

It is often used as the adverbial phrase *rinkiōhen ni* (臨機応変に), as in *rinkiōhen ni suru* (臨機応変にする) or *rinkiōhen ni taiou suru* (臨機応変に対応する), both of which mean "to adapt to circumstances."

It can also be used as the prenominal modifier "*rinkiōhen na* + [noun]" (臨機応変な～), as in *rinkiōhen na kōdō* (臨機応変な行動), which means "flexible action depending on the situation."

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★ Sample Sentences

お客様のリクエストに合わせて、臨機応変に対応してください。

O-kyaku-sama no rikuesuto ni awasete, rinkiōhen ni taiō shite kudasai.

Please deal with our customers' requests in a flexible and appropriate manner.

ロボットは、臨機応変な行動が取れない。

Robotto wa, rinkiōhen na kōdō ga torenai.

Robots cannot adapt to circumstances.

いつもルールどおりに進めることは難しい。もっと臨機応変にした方がいい。

Itsumo rūru doori ni susumeru koto wa muzukashii. Motto rinkiōhen ni shita hō ga ii.

It's difficult to always stick to the rules. You had better act more flexibly depending on the situation.

=====

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	中途半端
Kana	ちゅうとはんぱ
Romaji	chūto hanpa
Meaning	unclear, betwixt and between, vague, half-hearted

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	中	途	半	端
Kana	ちゅう	と	はん	ぱ
Rōmaji	chū	to	han	pa
Meaning	Middle	Way	Half	End

★ History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「中途」 : It means "halfway" or "along the way."

「半端」 : It means "to be on neither side and be vague."

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「中途半端」: It indicates the state of things which are left unfinished or the state of someone or something that is vague and unclear.

★ Usage

It is used as a na-adjective, such as *chūto hanpa na* (中途半端な), which is a prenominal modifier, or *chūto hanpa ni* (中途半端に), which is an adverbial phrase.

It usually has negative connotations. For example, when you say "chūto hanpa na shigoto" (中途半端な仕事), it doesn't just mean "unfinished work," but also implies "a half-hearted and poor job."

★ Sample Sentences

中途半端な努力では、成功しない。
Chūto hanpa na doryoku dewa, seikō shinai.
You cannot make it with a half-hearted effort.

中途半端な態度をとると、誤解される。
Chūto hanpa na taido o toru to, gokai sareru.
If you have an unclear attitude, you will be misunderstood.

仕事を中途半端に終わらせてはいけない。
Shigoto o chūto hanpa ni owarasete wa ikenai.
Don't leave your work half done.

中途半端にやるな。まじめにやれ。
Chūto hanpa ni yaruna. Shinken ni yare.
Don't do it half right. Do it right.

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