

LESSON NOTES

All About #13

Top 5 Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

13

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You

The focus of this lesson is teaching you some very common Japanese expressions you might not learn from a Japanese teacher.

1. *Sugoi* (すごい)

Sugoi is an adjective meaning "wow," "amazing," or "great." This word is commonly heard and is often used when one hears or sees something interesting or unusual.

2. *Baka* (バカ)

Baka is a noun meaning "idiot" or "fool." When used as *baka na* (バカな), it becomes an adjective meaning "stupid." This word can either be insulting or playful depending on how it is used. When used in a serious manner, it can come across as a strong insult, so it's better to exercise caution with this word. When used as a joke among friends, it can come off as playful.

3. *Uso* (うそ!)

Uso literally means "lie," but when used as an exclamation, it corresponds to "No way!" or "Really!?" in English. If someone says this in response to something you have said, don't worry—they're not calling you a liar, but rather expressing surprise or disbelief.

4. Words used by young people:

Chō (超)

Chō is a slangy adverb that usually comes before adjectives to emphasize them, making this word the equivalent of "very," "so," or "really." For example, *muzukashii* means "difficult," so *chō muzukashii* would mean "really difficult," or "so difficult."

Yabai (やばい)

Yabai is a very slangy word that has a few different meanings. When used as an exclamation (*yabai!*), it usually indicates that something is wrong and roughly means "oh no!" or "shoot!" When used to describe something, it can have both a good meaning and a bad meaning depending on the context. For example, *Kono eiga wa yabai!* ("This movie is *yabai!*") could either mean that the movie was great or that it was bad.

Maji (マジ)

Maji is similar to *chō* in that it often comes before adjectives to emphasize them. When used as *maji de?!* (マジで?!), it becomes an exclamation meaning "Really?!" or "Are you serious?!"

Sugē (すげー)

Sugē is a colloquial version of the above-mentioned *sugoi*. In young people's speech (and particularly in young male speech), the "-oi" and "-ai" word endings turn into an "eh" sound.

5. *Aizuchi*

Aizuchi are frequent interjections listeners make during a Japanese conversation that show the listener is paying attention to and understanding the speaker. Some common ones include:

Sō sō / Da yo ne~ (そうそう / だよね~)

"Yeah" or "I know~" (expressing agreement)

Un un (うん うん)

"Okay" or "Yeah". Sometimes used just to show that you are listening.

Hē (へえー)

"Whoa!" or "Oh!" This is often used to show that you are impressed or that you didn't know something.