

LESSON NOTES

All About #15

The Best Japanese Phrases - Learn Your Japanese Teacher's Favorite Phrases

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is The Best Japanese Phrases - Learn Your Japanese Teacher's Favorite Phrases

1. *sō ieba* (そういえば)

This phrase means "speaking of which" or "now that you mention it, and you use it when you are reminded of something and want to talk about it. For example, let's say your friend is talking about party A that took place last week, and that reminds you of party B coming up next week. You can change the subject to party B by saying *sō ieba*, "speaking of parties," and start talking about it. Using *sō ieba* is a natural way to segue into something related to the conversation at hand.

2. *toriaezu* (とりあえず)

Toriaezu (とりあえず) is a handy phrase that means, "in the meantime" or "for now." You can use it to talk about some kind of action you take or decision you make "in the meantime" because for now, you feel like it's better than doing nothing. For example, if you don't know what to order at a restaurant, but at least you know what you want to drink, you can order your drinks using *toriaezu*; *toriaezu bīru* (とりあえずビール), which means, "I'll have a beer for now." The "while we're trying to decide" part is implied.

3. *ryōkai desu* (了解です)

Ryōkai is a word that means "comprehension" or "consent." It is often used as an exclamation in the following ways: by itself (*ryōkai!*), with the copula *desu* (*ryōkai desu!*), and with the past tense verb *shimashita* (*ryōkai shimashita!*). These are all used to show that you have understood and will comply with what someone has told you. The literal meaning of all of these variations is very close to "roger!" or "ten-four!" in English, but they can be used in a variety of formal and informal situations.

4. *tekitō ni* (適切に)

Tekitō (適切) is an adjective that literally means "suitable" or "relevant." When the particle *ni* (に) is added, however, it becomes an adverb. When used as an adverb to describe an action, the original meaning was that the action was done properly, but recently it has started to mean that the action was done "half-heartedly" or "without much care."

Example sentences

Tekitō ni benkyō shimashita. (適切に勉強しました。) - "I studied half-heartedly."

Tekitō ni chūmon shite. (適切に注文して。) - "I'll leave it to you to order/Just order whatever."

5. *tashika ni* (確かに)

The phrase *tashika ni* (確かに) is often used as *aizuchi*, a type of word that was introduced in All About Japanese No.13. *Aizuchi* are interjections that we say in response to someone who is speaking. When you use *tashika ni* after something that someone has said, it means that you agree with them on that point, even if you don't agree with them on other things. In this way, it's very similar to the phrases "true," "indeed," or "for sure!" in English.