

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #11

Cutting to The Chase

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VOCABULARY

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

GRAMMAR

Today's Yojjukugo (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.

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Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	单刀直入
Kana	たんとうちよくにゆう
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	单	刀	直	入
Kana	たん	とう	ちよく	にゆう

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 straightforward way with only one sword. It has since come to mean "get right to the point without any introductory remarks or greetings."

Usage

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

Sample Sentences

单刀直入に言うよ。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.

单刀直入に言って、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.

单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?