

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #15

Passionate Japanese?

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GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo(四字熟語)(1)	二人三脚
Kana	ににんさんきゃく
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	きゃく
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.

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Today's Yojijukugo(四字熟語)(2)	無我夢中			
Kana	むがむちゅう			
Romaji	muga muchū			
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 *Yojjukugo* #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."

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.