

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #16

Don't Get Confident until You Read This!

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GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo(四字熟語)(1)	油断大敵
Kana	ゆだんたいてき
Romaji	<i>yudan taiteki</i>
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
Rōmaji	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! Shōhai 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.)

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Today's Yojjukugo(四字熟語)(2)	自画自賛
Kana	じがじさん
Romaji	<i>jiga jisan</i>
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
Rōmaji	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か) 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か、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.