

LESSON NOTES

# Yojijukugo #19

## Using Japanese to Find the Right Job for You

---

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

# 19

# GRAMMAR

---

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (1)	適材適所
Kana	てきざいてきしょ
Romaji	tekizaitekisho
Meaning	placing the right people in the right jobs

---

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	適	材	適	所
Kana	てき	ざい	てき	しょ
Rōmaji	Teki	Zai	Teki	Sho
Meaning	Suitable	Talent	Suitable	Place

---

---

## History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

---

「適材」: It means "a person competent for a certain job."

「適所」: It means "the right task or job for the person."

「適材適所」: It means "placing the right people in the right jobs."

---

## Usage

---

It is used as a noun. When you think that a certain person is right for a certain job, *you can say "[someone doing such and such job] wa tekizaitekisho da"* (適材適所だ), as in "kare ga kaikei-gakari o suru no wa tekizai tekisho da" which means "he is doing accounting, and he is the right person for the job."

It conveys an abstract concept, so it is often used in statements or opinions such as *tekizaitekisho ga taisetsu da* (適材適所が大切だ), which means "placing the right people in the right jobs is important."

---

## Sample Sentences

---

彼があの仕事をするのは、適材適所だ。

*Kare ga ano shigoto o suru no wa, tekizaitekisho da.*

He is the right person for that job.

彼女が社長秘書に指名された。適材適所だね！

*Kanojo ga shachō hisho ni shimei sareta. Tekizaitekisho da ne!*

She was appointed as a secretary for the president. She is the right person for the job.

人材の適材適所は、難しい。

*Jinzai no tekizaitekisho wa muzukashii.*

Placing the right people in the right jobs is tough.

=====

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語) (2)	馬耳東風
Kana	ばじとうふう
Romaji	bajitōfū
Meaning	to turn a deaf ear to something

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	馬	耳	東	風
Kana	ば	じ	とう	ふう
Rōmaji	Ba	Ji	Tō	Fū
Meaning	Horse	Ear	East	Wind

---

### History, definition, similar expression, etc.

---

「馬耳」: It literally means "horse's ears."

「東風」: It indicates wind blowing from the east in the spring.

「馬耳東風」: Originally, it meant that when wind blows from the east in the spring, people feel it and find it comfortable. But, it doesn't seem that horses feel anything when the spring wind blows. From the original meaning, it has come to be used as a metaphor meaning "to pay no attention to somebody's opinions or criticism."

It originates from the poem written by Li Po, a Chinese poet during the Tang period of the Chinese Dynasty.

---

## Usage

---

It is used as a noun to express the behavior of a person who has turned a deaf ear to other people's opinions, as in *kare wa bajitōfū datta* (彼は馬耳東風だった). Or, you can use *bajitōfū da* (馬耳東風だ) to imply that it's no use giving advice to a certain person because he or she does not pay any attention to other people's opinions.

---

## Sample Sentences

---

母が父にタバコをやめるように言っても、父は馬耳東風だった。  
*Haha ga chichi ni tabako o yameru yō ni itte mo, chichi wa bajitōfū datta.*  
My mother told my father to quit smoking, but he's deaf to her advice.

彼は、何度注意しても、馬耳東風だ。  
*Kare wa, nando chūi shite mo, bajitōfū da.*  
Even though I warned him many times, he turned a deaf ear to my advice.

あの人に何を言っても、馬耳東風だ。  
*Ano hito ni nani o itte mo, bajitōfū da.*  
Whatever you say to that guy, it would be lost on him.