

LESSON NOTES

# Yojijukugo #20

## Japanese You'll Have a Hard Time Believing!

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# GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語)(1)	年功序列
Kana	ねんこうじょれつ
Romaji	nenkō joretsu
Meaning	seniority-based system, promotion by seniority

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	年	功	序	列
Kana	ねん	こう	じょ	れつ
Rōmaji	Nen	Kō	Jo	Retsu
Meaning	Year	Achievement	Order	Row

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「年功」: It means "seniority" or "long service."

「序列」: It means "ranking," "grading" or "hierarchy."

「年功序列」: It means "rise in salary and job position in accordance with age and length of service for a company."

Usage

It can be used as an adverbial form of a na-adjective, as in *nenkō joretsu de shōshin shita* (年功序列で昇進した), which means "someone got a promotion because of seniority."

It can also be used with no and as a pronominal modifier, as in *nenkō joretsu no kyūyo shisutemu* (年功序列の給与システム), which means "seniority-based salary system."

When you want to refer to the seniority system, you can use *nenkō joretsu sei* (年功序列制)

with the word *sei* (制), which means "system."

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Sample Sentences

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彼は、年功序列で部長になった。

*Kare wa, nenkō joretsu de buchō ni natta.*

He was promoted to general manager because he had seniority.

私の会社は、年功序列の給与システムをとっている。

*Watashi no kaisha wa, nenkō joretsu no kyūyo shisutemu o totte iru.*

My company has a seniority-based salary system.

最近、年功序列制から実力主義に変える会社が多い。

*Saikin, nenkō joretsu sei kara jitsuryoku shugi ni kaeru kaisha ga ōi.*

Recently, many companies have been shifting from the seniority system to the merit system.

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Today's Yojjukugo (四字熟語)(2)	半信半疑
Kana	はんしんはんぎ
Romaji	hanshinhangi
Meaning	to be half in doubt, only half believing

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	半	信	半	疑
Kana	はん	しん	はん	ぎ
Rōmaji	Han	Shin	Han	Gi
Meaning	Half	Trust	Half	Doubt

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History, definition, similar expression, etc.

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「半信」: It means "half believing."

「半疑」: It means "to be half in doubt."

「半信半疑」: It means "unable to be completely certain that something is true."

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### Usage

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It can be used as an adverbial form of a *na*-adjective, like "[someone] *wa hanshinhangī de kiku*" (～は、半信半疑で聞く), which means "someone listens to -- only half believing it."

When you want to express that someone cannot be completely certain of something, you can say "[someone] *wa hanshinhangī da*" (～は半信半疑だ).

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### Sample Sentences

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私は、彼の自慢話を半信半疑で聞いた。

*Watashi wa, kare no jiman hanashi o hanshinhangī de kiita.*  
I listened to his big talk only half believing it.

夫は残業で遅くなると言ったが、私は半信半疑だった。

*Otto wa zangyō de osokunaru to itta ga, watashi wa hanshinhangī datta.*  
My husband told me that he would be home late because he had to work overtime. But, I only half believed it.

彼は、必ずお金を返すと私に約束したが、私は半信半疑だ。

*Kare wa, kanarazu o-kane o kaesu to watashi ni yakusoku shita ga, watashi wa hanshinhangī da.*  
He promised that he would pay the money back to me, but I'm half in doubt.