

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #21

Japanese that Hits the Mark Every Time

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GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語)(1)	百発百中			
Kana	ひゃっぱつひやくちゅう			
Romaji	hyappatsuhyakuchū			
Meaning	to hit the mark every time, every prediction comes true			
	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	百	発	百	中
Kana	ひゃっ(ひやく)	ぱつ	ひやく	ちゅう
Rōmaji	Hyatsu (Hyaku)	Patsu	Hyaku	Chū
Meaning	Hundred	Counter for gunshots	Hundred	Center

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「百発」: It means "one hundred gunshots."

「百中」: It means "to make one hundred gunshots that hit the mark."

「百発百中」: It literally means "every time someone shoots an arrow or gun, he/she can hit the mark" and has come to also mean "every prediction that someone makes comes true."

This phrase originated during the historical event in China where an expert archer shot a bow at a leaf 100 times and hit the mark with every shot.

Usage

This is usually used when you succeed in predicting something, such as calling a horse race or answering exam questions. You can say "-- *wa hyappatsuhyakuchū da*," as in "*keiba no yosō wa hyappatsuhyakuchū datta*," which means "every time I called a horse race, I was correct."

Sample Sentences

弘のシュートは、百発百中だ。

Hiroshi no shūto wa, hyappatsuhyakuchū da.
Every time Hiroshi shoots, he can score a goal.

この占いは、百発百中だ。

Kono uranai wa, hyappatsuhyakuchū da.
This fortuneteller is always right.

彼のテスト問題の予想は、百発百中だ。

Kare no tesuto mondai no yosō wa hyappatsuhyakuchū da.
He can always predict the answer to every question on an exam.

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Today's Yojjukugo (四字熟語)(2)	無理難題
Kana	むりなんだい
Romaji	muri nandai
Meaning	impossible demand, unjust proposal

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	無	理	難	題
Kana	む	り	なん	だい
Rōmaji	Mu	Ri	Nan	Dai
Meaning	Nothing	Reason	Difficult	Topic

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「無理」: It literally means "without reason."

「難題」: It literally means "difficult problems."

「無理難題」: It means an "impossible and unreasonable demand."

It is used to indicate problems that you know are impossible to solve from the beginning or conditions that are unreasonable which you can never accept.

Usage

When someone makes an impossible and unreasonable demand of someone, you can say

"[someone A] wa [someone B] ni muri nandai o iu" (~は~に無理難題を言う).

Muri nandai o fukkakeru (ふっかける) is also used as a set phrase to mean "to make an unreasonable demand on --."

Sample Sentences

このクライアントは、いつも無理難題を言う。

Kono kuraianto wa, itsumo muri nandai o iu.

This client always makes unreasonable demands of us.

最近の親は、先生に無理難題をふっかけてくる。

Saikin no oya wa sensei ni muri nandai o fukkakete kuru.

Recently, parents have been making unreasonable demands of teachers.

僕は、ホームランを打てと言われたが、それは無理難題だ。

Boku wa, hōmuran o ute to iwareta ga, sore wa muri nandai da.

I was told to hit a homerun, but it is an impossible demand for me.