

LESSON NOTES

# Yojijukugo #24

## How Learning Japanese can Help you Achieve Unprecedented Success

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# GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語)(1)	前人未到
Kana	ぜんじんみとう
Romaji	zenjin mitō
Meaning	unexploited or unachieved by anyone, unprecedented

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	前	人	未	到
Kana	ぜん	じん	み	とう
Rōmaji	zen	jin	mi	tō
Meaning	Before	Person	Not yet	Arrival

## History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「前人」: It literally means "people in the previous" and indicates "predecessors."

「未到」: It means "unreached yet."

「前人未到」: It means "unreached or unexploited by any predecessors," and it can be written as 前人未踏 with another kanji character.

## Usage

It is used as a prenominal word, as in "*zenjin mitō no* + [noun]" (前人未到の~), which means "something unexploited by anyone." It is often followed by nouns such as *kiroku* (記録) "record" or *chi* (地) "place," as in "*zenjin mitō no kiroku*" (前人未到の記録), which means "unprecedented record" or "*zenjin mitō no chi*" (前人未到の地)," where no one has gone before."

It is generally used in a positive context, such as when someone made an unprecedented accomplishment.

## Sample Sentences

彼は、前人未到の大記録を達成した。  
*Kare wa, zenjin mitō no dai-kiroku o tassei shita.*  
He achieved an unprecedented perfect record.

冒険家は、前人未到の地を目指す。  
*Bōken-ka wa, zenjin mitō no chi o mezasu.*  
Adventurers head to places where no one has gone before.

彼女は、前人未到の3年連続優勝を達成した。  
*Kanojo wa, zenjin mitō no 3-nen renzoku yūshō o tassei shita.*  
She achieved an unprecedented three successive victories.

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Today's Yojjukugo (四字熟語)(2)	有名無実
Kana	ゆうめいむじつ
Romaji	yūmeimujitsu
Meaning	to exist only in name

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	有	名	無	実
Kana	ゆう	めい	む	じつ
Rōmaji	yū	mei	mu	jitsu
Meaning	Exist	Name	Nothingness	Reality

### History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「有名」: It literally means "to have a name."

「無実」: It literally means "not to have substance."

「有名無実」: It means "something has only a name, but has nothing substantial" or "something is not so worth as meant by the name."

### Usage

It is used as a *na*-adjective, as in "*yūmeimujitsu na* + [noun]" (有名無実な~) or "-- wa

*yūmeimujitsu da*" (~は有名無実だ).

The set phrases, *yūmeimujitsu ni naru* (有名無実になる) or *yūmeimujitsu-ka suru* (有名無実化する) are used to mean "something comes to have nothing in substance."

### Sample Sentences

男性の育児休暇制度なんて、有名無実だ。

*Dansei no ikuji kyūka seido nante, yūmeimujitsu da.*

Maternity leave for men exists only in name.

高速道路の最高時速は100キロだが、これは有名無実な規則だ。

*Kōsoku dōro no saikō jisoku wa 100-kiro da ga, kore wa yūmeimujitsu na kisoku da.*

The maximum speed on the highways is regulated as 100 km, but only in name.

ルールは、違反した場合の罰則がなければ、有名無実になる。

*Rūru wa, ihan shita baai no bassoku ga nakereba, yūmei mujitsu ni naru.*

Rules will come to exist only in name if there are no penalties for their violation.