

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #25

Does Your Japanese Sound Half-Hearted?

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GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語)(1)	臨機応変
Kana	りんきおうへん
Romaji	rinkiōhen
Meaning	to act according to circumstances

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	臨	機	応	変
Kana	りん	き	おう	へん
Rōmaji	rin	ki	ō	hen
Meaning	Confront	Occasion	Answer	Change

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「臨機」: It means "to adapt to circumstances."

「応変」: It means "to deal with change."

「臨機応変」: It means "to deal with things flexibly and appropriately depending on the time and situation."

Usage

It is often used as the adverbial phrase *rinkiōhen ni* (臨機応変に), as in *rinkiōhen ni suru* (臨機応変にする) or *rinkiōhen ni taiou suru* (臨機応変に対応する), both of which mean "to adapt to circumstances."

It can also be used as the prenominal modifier "*rinkiōhen na* + [noun]" (臨機応変な~), as in *rinkiōhen na kōdō* (臨機応変な行動), which means "flexible action depending on the situation."

Sample Sentences

お客様のリクエストに合わせて、臨機応変に対応してください。

O-kyaku-sama no rikuesuto ni awasete, rinkiōhen ni taiō shite kudasai.

Please deal with our customers' requests in a flexible and appropriate manner.

ロボットは、臨機応変な行動が取れない。
Robotto wa, rinkiōhen na kōdō ga torenai.
Robots cannot adapt to circumstances.

いつもルールどおりに進めることは難しい。もっと臨機応変にした方がいい。
Itsumo ruru doori ni susumeru koto wa muzukashii. Motto rinkiōhen ni shita hō ga ii.
It's difficult to always stick to the rules. You had better act more flexibly depending on the situation.

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Today's Yojjukugo (四字熟語)(2)	中途半端
Kana	ちゅうとはんぱ
Romaji	chūto hanpa
Meaning	unclear, betwixt and between, vague, half-hearted

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	中	途	半	端
Kana	ちゅう	と	はん	ぱ
Rōmaji	chū	to	han	pa
Meaning	Middle	Way	Half	End

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「中途」: It means "halfway" or "along the way."

「半端」: It means "to be on neither side and be vague."

「中途半端」: It indicates the state of things which are left unfinished or the state of someone or something that is vague and unclear.

Usage

It is used as a *na*-adjective, such as *chūto hanpa na* (中途半端な), which is a prenominal modifier, or *chūto hanpa ni* (中途半端に), which is an adverbial phrase.

It usually has negative connotations. For example, when you say "*chūto hanpa na shigoto*" (中途半端な仕事), it doesn't just mean "unfinished work," but also implies "a half-hearted and poor job."

Sample Sentences

中途半端な努力では、成功しない。

Chūto hanpa na doryoku dewa, seikō shinai.

You cannot make it with a half-hearted effort.

中途半端な態度をとると、誤解される。

Chūto hanpa na taido o toru to, gokai sareru.

If you have an unclear attitude, you will be misunderstood.

仕事を中途半端に終わらせてはいけない。

Shigoto o chūto hanpa ni owarasete wa ikenai.

Don't leave your work half done.

中途半端にやるな。まじめにやれ。

Chūto hanpa ni yaruna. Majime ni yare.

Don't do it half right. Do it right.