

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #5

Are You Really Interested, or Is It Just Lip Service?

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GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語)(1)	興味津々			
Kana	きょうみしんしん			
Romaji	Kyōmishinshin			
Meaning	highly interested / with great interest / with much interest			
	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	興	味	津	々
Kana	きょう	み	しん	しん
Rōmaji	Kyō	mi	shin	shin
Meaning	Interest	Taste	Port	Repetition of Kanji

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

The character of 津 means "bay" or "harbor," and by using 津 in double, 津々 means "water springs up again and again." So, 興味津々 essentially means "interest continuously springs up again and again."

Usage

It is often used with *de* attached and used as an adverbial phrase which is "*kyōmishinshin de*" (興味津々で). For example, "*kyōmishinshin de kiku*" (興味津々で聞く; to listen with much interest), or "*kyōmishinshin de yomu*" (興味津々で読む; to read with much interest).

Also, you can use such a sentence structure as "[someone] *wa* [something] *ni kyōmishinshin da*. (~は~に興味津々だ。)" which means "someone is very curious about something."

It can also be written as

興味津津, without using 々 which means repetition of kanji.

Sample Sentences

子供達は、宇宙の話を興味津津で聞いていた。

Kodomo-tachi wa, uchū no hanashi o kyōmishinshin de kiite ita.

The kids were listening to space conversation with much interest.

人々は、スターのゴシップ報道に興味津津で見ている。

Hitobito wa sutā no goshippu hōdō o kyōmishinshin de mite iru.

People are following the star's gossip reports with great interest.

ファンは、彼女のバッグの中身に興味津津だ。

Fan wa, kanojo no baggu no nakami ni kyōmishinshin da.

Her fans are very curious about what she has in her bag.

Today's Yojjukugo(四字熟語)(2)

社交辞令

Kana

しゃこうじれい

Romaji

Shakō jirei

Meaning

diplomatic remarks

1st Kanji

2nd Kanji

3rd Kanji

4th Kanji

四字熟語

社

交

辞

令

Kana

しゃ

こう

じ

れい

Rōmaji

sha

kō

ji

rei

Meaning

Company

Association

Term

Decree

History, definition, similar expression, etc.

It means courtesy words or greetings which people use to get along with each other.

Sometimes, it means "empty compliment or flattery" and can be used in a negative sense.

Shakō (社交) means "social relationship."

Jirei (辞令) means "perfunctory or formulaic expression or phrase."

Sample Sentences

若いですねと言われた。社交辞令でも嬉しい。

Wakai desu ne to iwareta. Shakō jirei de mo ureshii.

I was told that I look young. I'm glad even though I know it's just an empty compliment.

社交辞令かもしれないが、彼女は「また会いたいです」と言った。

Shakō jirei kamo shirenai ga, kanojo wa "mata aitai desu" to itta.

It's probably just an empty promise, but she said "I want to meet you again."

あまり楽しくなかったが、社交辞令として楽しかったと言った。

Amari tanoshikunakatta ga, shakō jirei to shite, tanoshikatta to itta.

It wasn't very much fun, but I told it was just to be polite.