

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #6

Japanese Wisdom to Live By

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

6

GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo(四字熟語)(1)	一挙兩得
Kana	いっきよりょうとく
Romaji	Ikkyo ryōtoku
Meaning	to work both ways (= killing two birds with one stone)

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	一	挙	兩	得
Kana	いち (いっ)	きょ	りょう	とく
Rōmaji	Ichi(ittsu)	Kyo	Ryō	Toku
Meaning	One	Behavior	Both	Gain

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

Ikkyo (一挙) means "one action."
Ryōtoku (兩得) means "to gain both."

It's an expression that comes from a history book about Jin Chinese dynasty.

A similar expression is "*Isseki nichō* (一石二鳥)" which means "killing two birds with one stone."

Usage

When you derive two kinds of benefit by doing one action, you can say "--- wa(は) *ikkyo ryōtoku* (一挙兩得) *da*(だ)."

Sample Sentences

このツアーは、山と海の両方が楽しめて、一挙両得だ。

Kono tsuā wa, yama to umi no ryōhō ga tanoshimete, ikkyo ryōtoku da.

This tour is like killing two birds with one stone because you can enjoy both the mountains and the sea.

英語で学ぶ料理教室は、英語も料理も一度に学べて、一挙両得だね！

Eigo de manabu ryōri-kyōshitsu wa, eigo mo ryōri mo ichido ni manabete, ikkyo ryōtoku da ne!

Cooking school taught in English works both for learning English and cooking.

ディナーショーは、おいしい料理を食べながら、ショーが見られて、一挙両得だ。

Deināshō wa, oishii ryōri o tabenagara, shō ga mirarete, ikkyo ryōtoku da.

A dinner show is like killing two birds with one stone because you can enjoy a show while eating delicious food.

Other Information

Opposite Expression:

* 虻蜂取らず (*abu hachi torazu*)

It literally means that if you try to catch a horsefly and a bee at the same time, you can't get anything.

* 二兎を追う者は一兎をも得ず (*ni to o ou mono wa itto o mo ezu*)

It literally means that if you try to catch two rabbits, you won't be able to catch even one rabbit.

So, both of the expressions above are used to mean "between two stools you fall to the ground."

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Today's Yojjukugo(四字熟語)(2)	一心不乱		
Kana	いっしんふらん		
Romaji	Isshin furan		
Meaning	single-mindedness, deep concentration		
1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji

四字熟語	一	心	不	乱
Kana	いち (いつ)	しん	ふ	らん
Rōmaji	Ichi(itsu)	Shin	Fu	Ran
Meaning	One	Mind	Negative	Disorder

History, definition, similar expression, etc.

To concentrate single-mindedly on your work, without being distracted by other things

Similar expression: 無我夢中 (*muga muchū*) which means "to be completely absorbed in something to the extent that you could lose yourself."

Usage

When you do something with deep concentration, you can say "*isshin furan ni --- suru.*"

Sample Sentences

彼は、一心不乱にシュートの練習をした。
Kare wa, isshin furan ni shūto no rensyū o shita.
He concentrated single-mindedly on shooting.

私は、テレビも見ず、一心不乱に勉強した。
Watashi wa, terebi mo mizu, isshin furan ni benkyō shita.
I studied heart and soul without watching TV.

私は、お昼ごはんも食はず、一心不乱に絵を描き続けた。
Watashi wa, o-hiru go-han mo tabezu ni, isshin furan ni e o kaki tuduketa.
I was intensely involved in drawing pictures even without eating lunch.