

LESSON NOTES

# Yojijukugo #7

## A Unanimous State of Confusion!

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CONTENTS

2 Grammar

# 7

# GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo(四字熟語)(1)	異口同音
Kana	いくどうおん
Romaji	Iku Dōon
Meaning	unanimously

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	異	口	同	音
Kana	い	く	どう	おん
Rōmaji	I	Ku	Dō	On
Meaning	Different	Mouth	Same	Sound

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

"異口" literally means "different mouths" and it means "words said by many people." "同音" literally means "same sounds" and it means "to say the same thing." So, "異口同音" means "many people saying the same thing." In this case, even if words are not exactly the same, the meaning is the same.

Usage

It is followed by a particle *ni* (に) and is used as an adverb, as in *iku dōon ni* (異口同音に) which means "unanimously."

Sample Sentences

皆は、異口同音に賛成した。  
*Minna wa, iku dōon ni sansei shita.*  
Everyone agreed unanimously.

八兵衛の友達は、異口同音に、「八兵衛はいいやつだ」と言う。

*Hachibei no tomodachi wa, iku dōon ni, "Hachibei wa ii yatsu da" to iu.*

All of Hachibei's friends unanimously say "he is a good guy."

子供達は、異口同音に「夏休みは楽しかった」と言った。

*Kodomo-tachi wa, iku dōon ni, "natsuyasumi wa tanoshikatta" to itta.*

All the kids unanimously said "the summer vacation was a lot of fun."

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Today's Yojjukugo(四字熟語)(2)	右往左往
Kana	うおうさおう
Romaji	Uou saou
Meaning	become panic-stricken / go this way and that way

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	右	往	左	往
Kana	右	往	左	往
Rōmaji	U	Ou	Sa	Ou
Meaning	Right	Go	Left	Go

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History, definition, similar expression, etc.  
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It indicates the state in which a person is so confused or upset and their mind is running around all all sort of directions. It can be also used as a metaphor to express how confused people are, even if they are not actually running about or going up and down.

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Usage  
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It is often used as a *suru* compound verb, *uousaou suru* (右往左往する).

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## Sample Sentences

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トイレが見つからなくて、ビルの中を右往左往した。

*Toire ga mitsukaranakute, biru no naka o uousaou shita.*

I couldn't find a bath room and I ran all over the building (looking for one).

あのビル火災の時、人々は出口を探して右往左往した。

*Ano biru kasai no toki, hitobito wa deguchi o sagashite uousaou shita.*

When the building caught fire, people ran about in confusion looking for an exit.

突然、社長が辞めたので、社員は右往左往していた。

*Totsuzen, shachō ga yameta node, shain wa uousaou shite ita.*

Because the president of the company unexpectedly resigned, the employees were in a state of confusion.