

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #8

Problems Coming From All Directions

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

8

GRAMMAR

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語)(1)	四苦八苦
Kana	しくはっく
Romaji	Shiku hakku
Meaning	to be in great trouble; to have a lot of trouble doing something; struggle to do something

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	四	苦	八	苦
Kana	し	く	はち (はっ)	く
Rōmaji	Shi	Ku	Hachi(Hatsu)	Ku
Meaning	Four	Suffering	Eight	Suffering

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

This is originally a Buddhist term.

「四苦」means four sufferings of life "生," getting old "老," sick "病," and death "死."

「八苦」means the four sufferings above and another four sufferings "from parting from people who you love," "from having to see people who you hate," "from being unable to get what you want" and "pain in your mind or body."

Usage

This is often used as a "suru" compound verb, as in "*shikuhakku suru*" (四苦八苦する).

Sample Sentences

むずかしい数学の問題に四苦八苦した。

Muzukashii sūgaku no mondai ni shikuhakku shita.

I had big trouble solving difficult math problems.

コンタクトレンズを探すのに四苦八苦した。

Kontakuto renzu o sagasu no ni shikuhakku shita.

I struggled to find my contact lens.

新しいソフトの使い方が分からなくて、四苦八苦した。

Atarashii sofuto no tsukai-kata ga wakaranakute, shikuhakku shita.

I didn't know how to use a new software, and I was in big trouble.

=====

Today's Yojijukugo (四字熟語)(2)	四方八方
Kana	しほうはっほう
Romaji	Shihō happō
Meaning	all directions

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	四	方	八	方
Kana	し	ほう	はち (はっ)	ほう
Rōmaji	Shi	Hō	Hachi(Hatsu)	Pō
Meaning	Four	Direction	Eight	Direction

History, definition, similar expression, etc.

「四方」indicates the four directions of east (東), west (西), south (南) and north (北).

「八方」indicates the eight directions of the four directions above and also north east(北東), north west(北西), south east(南東) and south west(南西).

Usage

It is used with particles like *o* (を), *ni* (に), *kara* (から), like "*shihō happō o sagasu* (四方八方を探す; to look for in all directions), or "*shihō happō ni hirogaru* (四方八方に広がる; to spread out to all directions) or "*shihō happō kara kuru* (四方八方から来る; coming from every direction).

When it is used in a sentence expressing the situation where someone is looking for something in all directions, you can say "*shihō happō sagasu*" without particle *o*.

Sample Sentences

四方八方(を)探したが、見つからない。

Shihō happō (o) sagashita ga, mitsukaranai.

I can't find it although I looked for it everywhere (in all directions).

敵が四方八方から襲ってくる。

Teki ga shihō happō kara osotte kuru.

Enemies are attacking us from all directions.

警官が来たので、彼らは四方八方に逃げた。

Keikan ga kita node, karera wa shihō happō ni nigeta.

Because the police came, they fled in all directions.