

Mr. Pole

Design: Masako Ban

ōare really stormy

After a meeting at work, a colleague told me “**kyō wa ōare desu kara ki o tsuketa-hō ga i desū yo** (Today is really stormy, so you should be careful.)” But it looked nice and sunny outside, so I said, “**i tenki desū yo** (It’s sunny).” My colleague laughed at me. Afterward, I found out the word “**ōare**” doesn’t necessarily refer to the weather. Are there any other weather-related words that can be used to mean something completely different?

Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama **Vol. 6**

■■■ Yes, there are many more. The weather-related words you are talking about are often used when greeting others. This may be the case in other languages as well. There are special words for each of the four seasons (**shiki**), especially autumn (**aki**) (about 100 words), then winter (**fuyu**), summer (**natsu**) and spring (**haru**). But you can also use weather-related words and phrases to say things indirectly. Some of these metaphorical phrases can be used tactfully to avoid mentioning something unpleasant, such as a bad mood or an argument.

A bolt out of the blue
『青天の霹靂』
sēten no heki-reki
blue sky old Chinese word meaning lightning

Tomorrow will take care of itself.
『明日は明日の風が吹く』
ashita wa ashita no kaze ga fuku
tomorrow wind blow

in the elevator
Mr. Mori: It is humid today, isn't it?

今日 は **kyo wa** is humid **desu ne**
today isn't it

Mr. Pole: Yes, it is.

Mr. Mori: By the way, Mr. Taki resigned yesterday.
そう言えば、昨日 滝さん **sō ieba kinō Taki-san** **kaisha o yamemashita yo**
by the way emphasizing the person company quit

Mr. Pole: What? I had no idea.

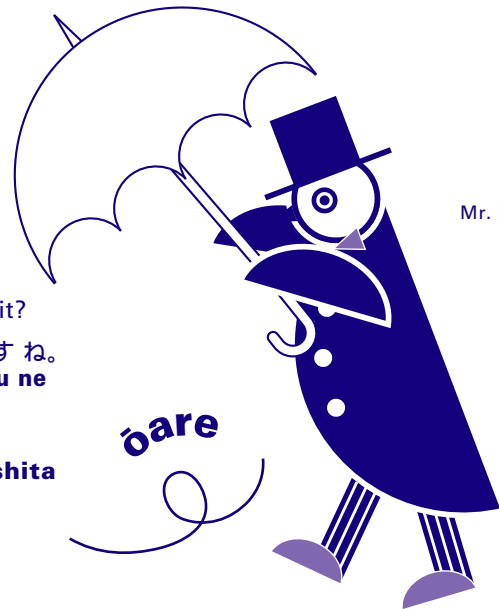
ええ？ 全然 知りませんでした。
ee zen-zen shirimasendeshita
what? not at all didn't know

It's a bolt out of the blue. Oh, no. I'm in trouble.
A bolt out of the blue desu uwā komatta nā
Oh, no. I'm in trouble...

Mr. Mori: You will be all right. Don't worry.
大丈夫ですよ 心配しないで！
daijōbu desu yo shimpai-shinaide
No problem. Don't worry!

You know, tomorrow will take care of itself.
Tomorrow will take care of itself desu **particle**
giving information

- Answers
- ① 蒸し暑い **mushiatsui**
 - ② そうですね **sō desu ne**
 - ③ が **ga**
 - ④ 『青天の霹靂』 **sēten no heki-reki**
 - ⑤ 『明日は明日の風が吹く』 **ashita wa ashita no kaze ga fuku**
 - ⑥ よ **yo**



Weather greetings

Japanese frequently comment on the weather as a way of greeting each other. When you meet a colleague in the elevator or on the street, try greeting them by commenting on the weather. You will often hear these phrases in the elevator. It dispels those uncomfortable silences as the floors flash by.

For example, if someone says : All you need to say in reply is:
It's a nice day, isn't it? Yes, it is.
いい天気ですね。 そうですね
i tenki desu ne sō desu ne
Don't contradict them. ...I don't think so. / No, it's not a nice day.
This is not really a conversation but more of a greeting!

Let's practice ...fill in the numbered boxes using these i-adjectives:

humid	hot	cool	cold	warm
蒸し暑い	暑い	涼しい	寒い	暖かい
mushiatsui	atsui	suzushī	samui	atatakai
				(polite form)
				attakai
				(friendly form)

It's i-adjective.

i-adjective **desu**
e.g., **mushiatsui desu**
It's humid today, isn't it?
今日 は **蒸し暑い** **kyō wa mushiatsui** **desu ne**
today

It was i-adjective.

first omit : **i** then add : **katta**
e.g., **mushiatsu × katta desu**
It was humid yesterday, wasn't it?
きのうは **蒸し暑** **kinō wa mushiatsu** **katta desu ne**
yesterday

It's getting i-adjective.

first omit : **i** then add : **kunarimashita**
e.g., **mushiatsu × kunarimashita**
It's getting humid, isn't it?
蒸し暑 **mushiatsu** **くなりましたね。**
kunarimashita ne



weather forecast

天気予報

ten ki yo hō

大荒れ **ōare** heavy storm
[show unrestrained emotion and get angry with everybody]

The company president was very angry yesterday.
昨日 社長は 『大荒れ』 でした。
kinō 『**ōare**』 **deshita**
yesterday president

低気圧 **tēkiatsu** depression
[low atmospheric pressure / bad mood]

Mr. Mori is in a bad mood now, so you'd better be careful.
今、森さんは 『低気圧』 ですから 気をつけたほうがいいですよ。
ima Mori-san wa 『**tēkiatsu**』 **desu kara ki o tsuketa-hō ga i desu yo**
now so had better be careful I tell you

雷が落ちます **kaminari ga ochimasu** lightning strikes
[be severely scolded]

He was severely scolded again.
また 『雷が落ちました』。
mata 『**kaminari ga ochimashita**』
again

雨降って地固まる **ame futte ji katamaru** The ground becomes firm after rain.
[Calm comes after a storm. / An argument clears away bad feelings between people.]

After all, the argument cleared the air, didn't it?
結局 『雨降って地固まる』 でした ね。
kekkyoku 『**ame futte ji katamaru**』 **deshita ne**
after all

雲泥の差 **undē no sa** the difference between clouds and mud
[great difference]

There is a big difference between the first rank and the 10th.
1位 と 10位 では 『雲泥の差』 です。
ichi-i to jū-i dewa 『**undē no sa**』 **desu**
first rank

五里霧中 **gori muchū** a dense fog over 20 kilometers long
[be at a loss; be utterly bewildered]

We are at a loss over this matter.
この件は 『五里霧中』 です。
kono ken wa 『**gori muchū**』 **desu**
this matter

With cooperation from Akiko E. Yasukawa