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Giri-choco Made in Giri

A lot of girls gave me chocolates on Feb. 14, but one of my friends said, "All you got is giri-choco!" I looked at all the chocolates, but it doesn't say giri anywhere. Ms. Hirayama, what is giri-choco?

■■■ In the past, it was not common for Japanese women to declare their love for a man—a woman used to wait for a man to approach her. But St. Valentine's Day is now an occasion when Japanese women can make their feelings known by giving chocolates. There are two different kinds of chocolates. One is called giri-choco. Women give them to male acquaintances so they don't feel left out. Such chocolates are given out of friendship or a sense of duty and they are usually cheap. Women who work in offices usually give giri-choco to male colleagues and it is estimated that the average amount of giri-choco received by a man last year was 12.2 pieces. (giri means "obligation"!)

Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

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Grammar note

guess ▶ ...rashī / ...mitai / ...yō

As you can see from the diagram, these expressions are similar and sometimes their meanings overlap.



②③ ...rashī: I think/guess that "A" is... / Someone said that "A" is... etc.

"...rashī" is better use when you are guessing from indirect information or less credible rumors.

This refers to a statement based on rumors. There is no confidence in the information because it's not based on facts. If someone replies, "sōrashī desune", it means, "That's what I heard, but I'm not sure."



e.g. Mr. A: This is a rumor, but I heard that Mr. Yamada is getting divorced.
山田さんは離婚をするらしいです。
Yamada san wa rikon o suru rashī desu
(implying: I'm not sure, but someone said that.)

Mr. B: I guess so. (someone was talking about it)
そうらしいですね。
sō rashī desu ne
(implying: I also heard the rumor, but I'm not sure.)

①④⑤⑥ ...mitai: It seems that/like "A" is... / I sense that "A" is...

"...mitai" is used for statements based on direct information or facts.

"...mitai" signifies that the information is more credible than "...rashī".

It refers to discernment by using the five senses. If someone replies, "sō mitai desu ne", it means, "I know, because I have some evidence."



e.g. Mr. A: It seems Mr. Yamada is getting divorced.
山田さんは離婚をするみたいです。
yamada san wa rikon o suru mitai desu
(implying: Mr. Yamada confided in me about it.)

Mr. B: I guess so. (I knew it.)
そうみたいです。
sō mitai desu ne
(implying: I got some evidence.)

Mr. Pole and Ms. Hirayama are talking about chocolates.

Mr. Pole: It seems that Mr. Okada got many chocolates. (I saw some of them.)

岡田さんは たくさん もらった ① using power of sight です。
okada san wa takusan moratta (I saw that) desu

Hirayama: Yes, someone told me that (but I'm not really sure).

そう ② I'm really not sure ですね。
sō (I heard that rumor) desu ne

But I heard it was all giri-choco.

でも全部ギリチョコ ③ I'm really not sure ですよ。
demo zembu giri-choco (I heard that rumor) desu yo
but all I tell you

Mr. Pole: Oh, no...he said that one of them seems like homemade (but he is not sure).

いいえ っことだけは手作り ④ I heard from him ですよ。
ie ikko dake wa tezukuri (I heard from him) desu yo
one only hand made

And I got homemade chocolates, too!
私のも手作りですよ。
watashi no mo tezukuri desu yo
one also

Hirayama: Let me see...hm...they look like homemade, but...(I don't think so).

どれ見せて。 う～ん 手作り ⑤ using the power of sight ですが...
dore misete unnn tezukuri (using the power of sight) desu ga
show me

Mr. Pole: What!? Is this gi...ri...choco...!?

え...? ギ...リ...チョコ...?
e gi ri choco
what?

Mr. Pole: Well...it does look like homemade, though...

う～ん...手作り ⑥ using the power of sight ですよ...
unnn tezukuri (using the power of sight) desu yo ne

Hirayama: Don't feel bad! There's always next year!

がっかりしないで、来年がありますよ!
gakkari shinaide rainen ga arimasu yo
Don't be disappointed next year have

Let's practice!



information	は wa	noun	らしいです。
		na-adj. ne	rashī desu
		i-adj.	みたいです。
		verb	mitai desu

① (Many people stand in line to get into a particular restaurant because they had read about it in a magazine or heard about it.)

I heard that restaurant's food is delicious.

あの店は ① ② ③ ですよ。
ano mise wa oishī rumor (I got the information from a magazine, television, etc.) desu yo
restaurant delicious

② (I thought the concert was today, but nobody is here.)

Oh...It seems that I had the wrong date.

あれ～日にちを ④ ⑤ ⑥ です。
are hinichi o machigaemasu evidence (sight: because nobody is here) desu
date to make a mistake

③ (Ms. Yabe had a baby last month. She calls me sometimes, and asks me about child-care.)

I understand that Ms. Yabe is going through the most difficult time right now.

今一番 ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ です。
ima ichiban taihen na evidence (direct information: because she calls me sometimes) desu
now most hard, tough

④ (Recently, Miss. Mori has been all by herself. There is a rumor that she broke up with her boyfriend.)

I heard that Miss. Mori might have broken up with her boyfriend.

ボーイフレンドと ⑩ ⑪ ⑫ です。
boyfriend to wakaremasu rumor (implying, "I'm not sure, but someone said about that.") desu
to break up

⑤ (I bought a curio at a flea market.)

It seems that this is old.

これは ⑬ ⑭ ⑮ です ね。
kore wa furui evidence (sight/feeling, because of the shape and the texture) desu ne
old ne = confirmation

- ① おいしいらしい oishī rashī
- ② 間違えたみたい machigaeta mitai
- ③ 大変みたい taihen mitai
- ④ 別れたらしい wakareta rashī
- ⑤ 古いみたい furui mitai

A tip for people who feel that it is too difficult to make the above distinctions.

The word mitai is more commonly used in conversation. If you are not sure whether to use rashī or mitai, use mitai. You will probably be right 80 percent of the time.