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# kao ni kaite-ar

Something is written on your face!



# Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

Vol. 25

One of my colleagues asked me, "Pole-san, did something good happen to you?" I asked her why she had asked me that. She said, "datte kao ni kaite-aru yo!" (Because something is written on your face!). I thought something was on my face, even though I had washed my face in the morning. So I asked her, "Really? Where?" But she just smiled and walked away. I went to bathroom right away and checked my face in the mirror. I didn't see anything strange, just a handsome guy staring back at me in the mirror! Oh, well...here we go again! I remembered that we have a similar expression in my country: "It's written on your face." Is that what she meant?

■■■ You are right. I'm glad you're making progress, Pole-san! What she meant to say was, "I see it on your face!" But it doesn't mean something is actually written on your face. Do you remember that you have studied phrases that are expressed with body parts and i-adjectives before? For this lesson, let me show you some frequently used expressions with body parts and verbs. You might find expressions with body parts numbering more than 800 in just one dictionary. It means that those idioms are commonly used in daily conversations, so your speech will sound very natural if you use them. Your grammatical use of the expressions may be at an intermediate level, but you can start using those phrases immediately if you memorize them. Regardless of your level, they are helpful for anyone who can't find enough time to study.



face 顔 (kao) head 頭 (atama) neck 首 (kubi)

face 顔 (kao)

- A) to be written on one's face 顔に書いてある (kao ni kaite-aru) to be written
- B) to use one's influence, to have an influence 顔が利く (kao ga kiku) to have influence
- C) to appear, to come to see 顔を出す (kao o dasu) to appear

Pole-san: The guy who was hired this time is really smart.  
 今度の人 は かなり ① to be smart よ。  
 kondo no hito wa kanari yo  
 this time person very masu-form I tell you

Hasebe-san: But I heard he was fired from his last job.  
 でも 前の会社 は ② to be fired とか。  
 demo mae no kaisha wa toka  
 but previous company ta-form I'm not sure

Pole-san: Right! Because he always pokes his nose into everything and he gets mad so easily.  
 そうそう! 何にでも ③ to poke one's nose into し ちよっとの事で ④ to be angry からね。  
 sō-sō nanni-demo shi chotto no koto de kara ne  
 Right! everything dictionary-form little matter dictionary-form

Hasebe-san: But even so, I heard he can use his influence on big companies.  
 でも たとえ そうでも 大企業 には ⑤ to have an influence らしいですよ。  
 demo tatoe sō demo dai-kigyō niwa rashī desu yo  
 but even so big enterprises dictionary-form I heard

Pole-san: I heard he is coming here today, just for a visit.  
 今日は ⑥ to appear だけ とか。  
 kyō wa dake toka  
 dictionary-form just I'm not sure

Hasebe-san: And the boss told me he will fire him immediately if he finds even a slight difficulty dealing with him.  
 でも 少しでも やりにくかったら すぐに ⑦ to fire と言っていましたよ。  
 demo sukoshi-demo yariniku-kattara suguni to itte-mashita yo  
 besides slight difficulty dealing with soon dictionary-form he said to me

Pole-san: That probably won't happen because the guy is a grandson of the chairman. I don't think even the president can stand against him.

多分 無理 でしょう。だって 会長 の 孫だから、たとえ 社長でも ⑧ to be unable to stand against と思うよ。  
 tabun muri deshō datte kaichō no mago dakara tatoe shachō demo to omō yo  
 probably not because chairman grandchild even company of president nai-form I think

Hasebe-san: Well, who knows!  
 どうなる事やら ....  
 dōnaru koto yara ....

Answers	① E)	② J)	③ I)	④ H)
	⑤ B)	⑥ C)	⑦ M)	⑧ G)

head 頭 (atama)

- D) to take off one's hat 頭が下がる (atama ga sagaru) to go down
- E) to be smart, quick-witted 頭が切れる (atama ga kireru) to sharpen
- F) to cool off, calm down 頭を冷やす (atama o hiyasu) to cool
- G) to be unable to stand against, unable to compete with 頭が上がらない (atama ga agaranai) doesn't rise
- H) to be angry with, get mad 頭に来る (atama ni kuru) to come

neck 首 (kubi)

- I) to poke one's nose into 首を突っ込む (kubi o tsukkomu) to thrust in
- J) to be fired 首になる (kubi ni naru) to become
- K) to look forward to, await eagerly 首を長くして待っている (kubi o nagakushite matteiru) to make long waiting
- L) to be up to one's neck in debt 首が回らない (kubi ga mawaranai) doesn't turn
- M) to dismiss, to fire 首にする (kubi ni suru) to do

1. I take my hat off to people who do volunteer work.  
 ボランティア活動には to take one's hat off  
 volunteer katsudō niwa activity (masu-form)
2. My aunt always pokes her nose into everything.  
 叔母は何にでも to poke one's nose into  
 oba wa nanni-demo aunt whatever (masu-form)
3. I know the owner of this restaurant, so please order anything!  
 この店 は to have an influence から なんでも 頼んで下さい。  
 kono mise wa restaurant (dictionary-form) so anything please order
4. I'm up to my neck in debt.  
 借金で to be up to one's neck in debt です。  
 shakkin de debt (nai-form)
5. (praising him/her) Surely a smart person like you is one of a kind!  
 さすが to be smart 人は違いますね。  
 sasuga as was expected (dictionary-form) person different
6. Mr. A: I'm so mad! I just got fired!  
 to get mad 突然 to be fired  
 (ta-form) totsuzen suddenly (ta-form)
- Mr. B: Don't be so mad! Why don't you calm down?  
 そんなに カッカしないで to calm down らどうですか。  
 sonnani kakka-shinaide such don't be mad (ta-form) ra dō desu ka How about ~?
7. I'm looking forward to traveling abroad.  
 海外旅行を to look forward to  
 kaigai-ryokō o traveling abroad (masu-form)
8. Mr. Watanabe took very good care of me when I was a student, so I can't argue with him.  
 渡辺さんに とても お世話になった ので to be unable to oppose です。  
 Watanabe-san ni totemo osewani-natta node very took care of me so (nai-form)
9. He is careless with time and money, so I decided to fire him.  
 時間とお金にだらしない ので to fire 事にしました。  
 jikan to okane ni darashi-nai node koto ni shimashita  
 time money loose about so (dictionary-form) I decided

Answers	1. D) 2. I) 3. B) 4. L) 5. E) 6. H) J) F) 7. K) 8. G) 9. M)
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