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1 4
i shi
(delicious) i



Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

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Last time, you showed me how to read kanji numerals, and I have realized how common they are in daily life. But although Chinese numerals are convenient, I have encountered a new problem with numbers. It happened when I asked a friend to for the telephone number of a recommended yakiniku restaurant. She gave me the name of one and said, "koko wa ichiban oniku oishii (The most delicious meat is served here)." When I told her again that I wanted the telephone number, she said she had just given it to me! We are going to the restaurant next week, but I won't be able to find it is if I can't call them for directions! What should I do?

■ Pronunciation (In addition to these pronunciations, similar sounds can be used in exceptional cases.)

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 0 (zero, rē, maru, o, wa) | 4 (shi, yottsu, yon, yo) | 8 (hachi, ha, yattsu, ya) |
| 1 (ichi, i, hitotsu, hi) | 5 (go, ko, itsutsu, itsu) | 9 (kyū, ku, gu, kokonotsu, ko) |
| 2 (ni, futatsu, fu) | 6 (roku, ro, muttsu, mu) | 10 (jū, ju, tō, to) |
| 3 (san, sa, mittsu, mi) | 7 (shichi, nana, nanatsu, na) | |

■ Let's try goro-awase!

1. "Korean steak house"

(Lit. The best and most delicious meat is served here.)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	—	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
ko	ko	wa	i(chiban)		o	ni	ku	o(ishī)
(here)		(No.1)	(meat)		(delicious)			

2. "Temporary personnel service"

(Lit. It's a job for everyone who is kind.)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	—	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
shi	go	to	o		shi(nse)	tsu	na	mi(nasan)
(work)		(kind)	(everybody)		(smiling)			

3. "Moving service"

(Lit. It's always afternoon to thank you for your business.)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	—	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
go	go	wa	i(tsumo)		go	ku	rō	san
(after noon)		(always)	(thank you for working)					

4. "Flower shop"

(Lit. A smiling flower is a cherry blossom.)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	—	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
ni	ko	ni	ko		ha	na	wa	sa(kura)
(smiling)		(flower)	(cherry blossoms)					

Answers 1. 5501-0290 2. 4510-4273 3. 5501-5963 4. 2525-8703

■ goro awase is also used for dates. (month: 月 / day: 日)

1. 『mi mi』 no hi (Ears day)

月 日

2. 『niku』 no hi (Meat day)

月 日

3. 『mushiba』 no hi (Cavity day)

月 日

4. 『ichigo』 no hi (Strawberry day)

月 日

5. 『fumi』 no hi (Letter day)

月 日

6. 『yakiniku』 no hi (Steak day)

月 日

7. 『fugu』 no hi (Blowfish day)

月 日

8. 『gomizero』 no hi (No trash day)

月 日

Answers 1. 3月3日 2. 2月9日 3. 6月4日 4. 1月5日 5. 2月3日 6. 8月29日 7. 2月9日 8. 5月30日

■■■ Don't worry, Mr. Pole! I've got the number! It must be 5501-0290. It's easy to figure out. Do you know how I got it? Japanese often use a method called goro-awase, which refers to comical variations of proverbs and punning (or word play) to remember certain things. Many businesses use goro-awase techniques to create some interesting telephone numbers—such as combinations that describe the services they provide—to help potential customers remember the number.

■ Money: Old kanji numerals, such as 壹(one) 貳(two) 参(three) and 萬(10,000), are used in finance today. These characters are commonly used on bills, money orders and so on. We will not discuss these in detail since they are not commonly used in daily life.

10	100	1,000	10,000	100 million	trillion	yen
十	百	千	万	億	兆	円
jū	hyaku	sen	man	oku	chō	en
	pyaku	zen				

1. 10 円 en	2. 1,000 円 en	3. 700 円 en	4. 500,000 円 en	5. 40 million 円 en
<input type="text"/> jū	<input type="text"/> sen	<input type="text"/> nana	<input type="text"/> go	<input type="text"/> yon
		<input type="text"/> hyaku	<input type="text"/> jū	<input type="text"/> sen
			<input type="text"/> man	<input type="text"/> man

Answers 1. 十 2. 千 3. 七百 4. 五十万 5. 四千万

■ Newspapers: Articles in Japanese newspapers are written vertically, but Arabic numerals are commonly used.

¥400 million	¥19,000	7 million people	150 million people
<input type="text"/> oku	<input type="text"/> sen	<input type="text"/> man	<input type="text"/> man
		<input type="text"/> nana	<input type="text"/> ichi
		<input type="text"/> hyaku	<input type="text"/> oku
		<input type="text"/> man	<input type="text"/> go
		<input type="text"/> nin	<input type="text"/> sen
			<input type="text"/> man
			人 nin



六	七	八	九	十
six	seven	eight	nine	ten

- To attain success through family names/ familial connections
(Seven beams of parents)

(親の)	<input type="text"/>	光 (り)
(oya no)	nana	hikari
parents		light
 - To struggle with / to have difficult time doing (Four agonies, eight groans)

<input type="text"/>	苦	<input type="text"/>	苦
shi	ku	hak	ku
	agony		agony
 - Most likely / Ten to one (Eight or nine out of 10)

<input type="text"/>	中	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
jū	chū	hak	ku
	middle		
 - Day and night / always (used critically) (During four times six hours) (4×6=24 hours)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	時中
shi	roku	ji chū
		o'clock within
 - To take a chance / sink or swim (One or eight)

<input type="text"/>	か	<input type="text"/>	か
ichi	ka	bachi	ka
	or		
 - To get back on one's feet (Falling seven times, but standing up eight times)

<input type="text"/>	転	<input type="text"/>	起
nana	korobi	ya	oki
	tumble		get up
- A) My daughter watches nothing but TV.
娘は テレビばかり見えています。
musume wa televi(sion) bakari miteimasu
my daughter only watching
- B) I'm struggling with the new computer.
新しいコンピューターに しています。
atarashi computer ni shiteimasu
new struggle with
- C) Stop worrying about it! Why not take a chance and do it?
悩んでないで やって見たらどうですか。
nayande naide take one's chances yattemitara dou desu ka
stop worrying why not try to do
- D) Don't feel so bad! You may have failures in life, but you can get back on your feet.
そんなに ですよ。
sonnani gakkari shinaide desu yo.
like that don't be disappointed of life / never give up I'll tell you
- E) I heard that the general manager's son landed a good full-time job through his father's influence.
部長の息子さんは で就職したらしいですよ。
buchō no musuko-san wa de shūshokushita rashi desu yo
manager one's son thanks to family connections got a job it seems
- F) Most likely, it is impossible.
 無理でしょう。
most likely; in nine cases out of ten muri deshō
impossible

Answers A) 4 B) 2 C) 5 D) 6 E) 1 F) 3