

# 水 WATER mizu

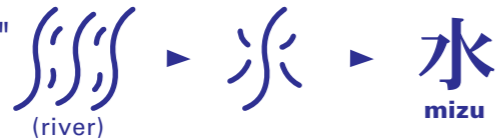
## Pera Pera Penguin's 5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama Vol. 41

Last month, I took my parents to **Kyūshū** for a family trip. The **onsen** (hot spring) was relaxing, nature was awesome and the food was very delicious! Mr. Koga, who is one of my friends, is from **Fukuoka**, and I told him how much I enjoyed my trip. He said, "**sō desu ka**, (I see). **oyako 'mizu-irazu' deshita ne** (I guess there was 'mizu-irazu' [no need of water?] for your family). **demo**, Pole-san '**mizu-kusai' desu ne** (But, Mr. Pole, that's '**mizu-kusai**' [stinky water?]). **Kyūshū nara iro-iro shō kai shitakatta desu** (I could have told you a lot about **Kyūshū** if you had asked me)." Did he say "**mizu-kusai**" (stinky water)? How bad is that smell? Did he also say "**mizu-irazu**" (no need of water)? What did he mean by "no need of water"? The water in **Kyūshū** was not stinky, but delicious, and I had a lot of water during my trip. When I went to a coffee shop in **Kyūshū**, a waitress brought us glasses of water even though we did not order them. Oh, boy! I have no idea what Mr. Koga told me.

■■■ What Mr. Koga meant is, "I guess you were happy to spend time only with your parents. But, Mr. Pole, you are standoffish! I could've told you all about good spots in **Kyūshū** if you had told me that you were going there." In the Japanese language, there are many idioms that have water in them. For example, "**mizu-shōbai**," which literally means "water business." Can you imagine what kind of occupation that is? It's not the business of selling water! "**mizu-shōbai**" (chancy trade) are the kinds of business that depend on being popular with customers, like bars, restaurants and nightclubs. Let me show you more expressions that use the word "**mizu**" (water).

Design: Masako Ban

■ Kanji of "water"



- 1) To be standoffish/ to be reserved  
**水臭い**  
**mizu-kusai**  
(water) (smell)  
(Lit. stinky water)
- 2) To be alone with one's family, without outsiders  
**水入らず**  
**mizu-irazu**  
(water)(not coming in)  
(Lit. no water coming in)
- 3) To be like oil and water  
**水と油**  
**mizu to abura**  
(water)(and)(oil)  
(Lit. water and oil)
- 4) To forgive and forget  
**水に流す**  
**mizu ni nagasu**  
(water) (let flow)  
(Lit. flushing it with water)

- 5) That was only a drop in the bucket.  
**焼け石に水**  
**yake ishi ni mizu**  
(burn)(stone) (water)  
(Lit. water on a hot stone)
- 6) To come to nothing  
**水の泡**  
**mizu no awa**  
(water)(bubbles)  
(Lit. bubbles of water)
- 7) To find one's element  
**水を得た魚**  
**mizu o eta sakana**  
(water) (get) (fish)  
(Lit. fish returned to water)
- 8) A bolt from the blue (sounds negative)  
**寝耳に水**  
**ne mimi ni mizu**  
(sleeping)(ears)(water)  
(Lit. water into the ear of a sleeping person)

■■■ Please enter the appropriate idiom in the following squares. ■■■

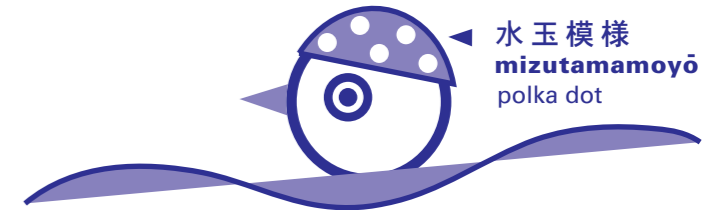
- A) I was on diet, and doing great! But I gained the weight that I had lost.  
頑張ってダイエットしたのに、すぐに戻っちゃった。  
**gambatte diet shita noni suguni modotchatta**  
Oh, well, all your efforts came to nothing.  
全てが **subete ga** To come to nothing だね。  
**dane**
- B) You have been standoffish. You could have asked me without hesitation.  
To be standoffish / to be reserved なあ～、遠慮しないで言ってくればよかったのに！  
**nā enryo shinaide itte-kureeba yokatta noni**
- C) There is nothing we can do because of the deficit. It's only a drop in the bucket.  
赤字なのでいくら頑張っても That was only a drop in the bucket. です。  
**akaji nanode ikura gambattemo desu**
- D) Those two people are like oil and water. They always disagree with each other.  
あの二人は To be like an oil and water .....いつも意見が合いません。  
**ano futari wa ... itsumo iken ga aimasen**
- E) Oh, really? That's a bolt from the blue. I've never heard of it!  
えっ！ホント？ A bolt from the blue そんな事聞いてないよ！  
**e! honto? sonnakoto kiitenai yo**
- F) Oh, what a relief! He told me that he would forgive us and forget about it.  
ああ良かった！今回の事は To forgive and forget と言ってくれました。  
**ā yokatta! konkai no koto wa to itte-kuremashita**  
We should be careful next time!  
これから気をつけます。  
**korekara ki o tsukemasu**

Answers A) 6) B) 1) C) 5) D) 3) E) 8) F) 4)



water  
**水**  
mizu; sui; zui

The kanji below (A-L) make specific words when combined with 水 **mizu** (water). Make words that mean 1) to 12) by combining 水 with one of the kanji below.



- |                      |                   |          |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| A) nose              | B) fragrance      | C) rain  |
| <b>鼻</b>             | <b>香</b>          | <b>雨</b> |
| D) defend; prevent   | E) sea            | F) road  |
| <b>防</b>             | <b>海</b>          | <b>道</b> |
| G) warm; temperature | H) middle; inside | I) color |
| <b>温</b>             | <b>中</b>          | <b>色</b> |
| J) insect            | K) tune; moderate | L) flood |
| <b>虫</b>             | <b>節</b>          | <b>洪</b> |
- 1) In the water    2) Waterproof    3) Runny nose  
4) Seawater    5) Light-blue    6) Athlete's foot  
7) Perfume/fragrance    8) Saving water    9) Public water  
10) Water temperature    11) Flood    12) Rainwater

Answers		
1) H) <b>水中</b> sui chū	2) D) <b>防水</b> bō sui	3) A) <b>鼻水</b> hana mizu
4) E) <b>海水</b> kai sui	5) I) <b>水色</b> mizu iro	6) J) <b>水虫</b> mizu mushi
7) B) <b>香水</b> kō sui	8) K) <b>節水</b> ses sui	9) F) <b>水道</b> sui dō
10) G) <b>水温</b> sui on	11) L) <b>洪水</b> kō zui	12) C) <b>雨水</b> ama mizu

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga