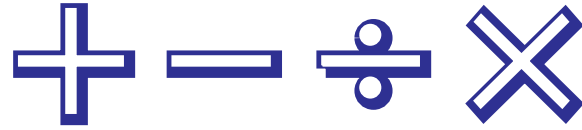


Design: Masako Ban



Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

Vol. 61

One of my friends called me to ask for some advice. His boss had told him he was being transferred to a provincial office, but when he told his wife, she said he would have to go there alone (**tanshin-funin**). He was upset and he asked me how he could persuade his wife to change her mind. So, I asked him, "**kazoku ga issho ni itta bāi, nani ga tasu de, nani ga hiku desu ka?** (If your family goes with you, what do you get and what do you lose?)." He said, "**tasu? hiku?**" and he started to think deeply. I didn't realize that he was feeling so upset, and I felt sorry for him. A few minutes later, he started to laugh and said, "**aa, plus to minus ne** (You mean, the merits and demerits)." One moment he looked troubled, but then suddenly he burst into laughter. I wondered what was wrong with him.

■■■ No, it's not what you think. He just didn't understand what you said. Since you said "**tasu**" for "plus" (merits) and "**hiku**" for "minus" (demerits), he was baffled. Did you like mathematics when you were in school? "Plus and minus" in conversation is used differently from its use in mathematics. You'll see the difference in the examples below.

Mathematics

= → wa	+ → tasu	- → hiku
× → kakeru	÷ → waru	. → ten
: → tai	○ → bun no (without cardinal number)	△○ → to bun no (with cardinal number)

a) add 足す tasu	b) discount 引き 引き落とし biki hikiotoshi	c) withdrawal from one's account 引き落とし hikiotoshi	d) negotiation /bargain 駆け引き kakehiki	e) to 対 (:) tai	f) without emotional attachment 割り切る warikiru	g) forgo 割愛する katsuai suru	h) split the bill (go Dutch) 割り勘 warikan
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ADDITION : 足し算 tashizan	e.g., 1 plus 4 equals 5. 1 + 4 = 5 ichi tasu yon wa go
SUBTRACTION : 引き算 hikizan	e.g., 9 minus 7 equals 2. 9 - 7 = 2 kyū hiku nana wa ni
MULTIPLICATION : かけ算 akezan	e.g., 34 times 2 equals 68. 34 × 2 = 68 sanjū-yon kakeru ni wa rokujū-hachi
DIVISION : 割り算 warizan	e.g., 70 divided by 5 equals 14. 70 ÷ 5 = 14 nanajū waru go wa jū-yon
DECIMALS : 小数点 shōsūten	e.g., 2 point 78 2.78 ni ten nana hachi
RATIOS : 比率 hiritsu	e.g., 4 to 1 4 : 1 yon tai ichi
FRACTIONS : 分数 bunsū	e.g., three-quarters e.g., 6 and 2 fifths 3/4 6 2/5 yon bun no san roku to go bun no ni

- Although we're divorced, she and I work at the same office, so I just talk to her as part of my work.
離婚したが会社が同じなので 仕事をしている。
rikonshita ga kaisha ga onaji nanode shigoto o shiteiru
(divorced) (company) (same) (so) te-form (are working)
- Everything was so good that it was hard to forgo any part of it.
すべてよくできているので のは 難しかったです。
subete yoku dekiteiru node no wa muzukashikatta desu
(everything)(well,good) (so) Dic. form (hard)
- I go Dutch every time I go drinking with a friend.
友達と飲む時はいつも です。
tomodachi to nomu toki wa itsumo desu
(friend) (with) (drink) (every time)
- My rent and utility charges are automatically withdrawn from my bank account.
光熱費と家賃は にしています。
kōnetsu-hi to yachin wa ni shiteimasu
(lighting and heating expenses)(rent)
- I discussed it but did not make concessions. なしで話し合いをした。
nashi de hanashiai o shita
(without) (discussion)
- I bought it at a 40% discount. 4割 で買いました。
yon-wari de kaimashita
(40%) (with) (bought)
- South Korea defeated Japan 3-0 in yesterday's soccer match.
きのうのサッカーは 3 0 で韓国が日本に勝ちました。
kinō no soccer wa san zero de Kankoku ga Nihon ni kachimashita
(yesterday) (South Korea) (won)
- I added water to my rice paddies because the water level was low.
水不足で田んぼに水
mizu-busoku de tambo ni mizu o
(lack of water) (rice paddies) (water)



Answers

- f) **warikitte**
- g) **katsuaisuru**
- h) **warikan**
- c) **hikiotoshi**
- d) **kakehiki**
- b) **biki**
- e) **tai**
- a) **tashimashita**



- Choose either plus or minus to make complete sentences.
- Scandals are bad for politicians, don't they?
スキャンダルは政治家にとって ですね。
scandal wa sējika ni totte desu ne
(politicians) (for)
 - I think this is perfect, but I'll see if I can come up with some extra points just in case.
これで完璧ですが、念の為に αを 考えておきます。
kore de kampeki desu ga nen no tame ni alpha o kangaete-okimasu
(perfect) (just to make sure) (I'll think)
 - This subject is advantageous for both of us, isn't it?
この話は お互いにとって ですね。
kono hanashi wa otagai ni totte desu ne
(this) (subject) (each other's)(for)
 - Now, we're even!
これで ゼロです！
kore de zero desu!
 - No matter what you do, it is always better to avoid using objectionable material as much as possible.
何を するにも 材料は 極力 避けた 方が 無難です。
nani o suru nimo zairyō wa kyokuryoku saketa hō ga bunan desu
(no matter what you do) (data) (as~as possible)(avoid) (safe)
 - I'm relieved to be in the black this month.
今月は 収支が になった ので 一安心です。
kongetsu wa shūshi ga ni natta node hitoanshin desu
(this month) (balance) (relieved about one thing)
 - The behavior of the actress gave her a negative image.
あの女優の 振る舞いは イメージと なってしまいました。
ano joyū no furumai wa image to natte shimaimashita
(that)(actress) (behavior)
 - When you are pessimistic, you are inclined to think of the bad aspects in life.
悲観的になると どうしても 面ばかり 見てしまいます。
hikanteki ni naruto dōshitemo men bakari mite-shimaimasu
(pessimistic) (whatever happens) (side) (only) (look)
 - The turnout in the election was 2.1 percentage points below that of the previous one.
選挙の 投票率は 前回に 比べて 2.1% でした。
senkyo no tōhyōritsu wa zenkai ni kurabete 2.1% deshita
(election turnout) (previous) (compared)
 - That person will do anything that is likely to be advantageous to him.
あの人は 自分にとって になることは 何でも やりますよ。
ano hito wa jibun ni totte ni naru koto wa nandemo yarimasu yo
(that person) (for himself) (anything) (to do)

Answers

① minus	② plus	③ plus	④ plus minus	⑤ minus
⑥ plus	⑦ minus	⑧ minus	⑨ minus	⑩ plus