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# ウツソ〜 USSŌ〜

Last week, I went to see a movie with Ms. **Ueno** and her friends, Ms. **Ikeda** and Ms. **Igarashi**. After the movie, we had a chat over a meal. Every time I said something, Ms. **Ueno** said, "**Uso**~," while Ms. **Ikeda** said, "**Uso-mitai**," and Ms. **Igarashi** said, "**Uso desho, uso~, usso~**." Since they said that word so many times, I went to a restroom and secretly checked it in my dictionary. The dictionary said "**uso**" meant "lie." As soon as I was back, I said to them, "**Uso janai desu** (What I said wasnot a lie)." Three girls started to laugh and said, "We know that." Ms. **Hirayama**, why did they keep saying "**uso**"?

Well, I also say that word sometimes when I talk with my friends. For some people, "**uso**" becomes their favorite word. In particular, it seems that young people and those who lack sufficient vocabulary tend to use the phrase. those girls did not mean you were lying when they said "**uso**". Let me explain "**uso**" for today's lesson. "**Pole-san wa uso-mitai ni Nihongo ga jōzu ni naru deshō** (It seems a miracle that you start speaking in excellent Japanese)."

## ◆ Kanji for "lie" ◆

mouth	falsity	lie
口	虚	嘘
kuchi	kyo	uso

口 + 虚 → 嘘

★ I would like to explain two different usages in this lesson.

A. To say something as if it were the truth or a fact (same meaning as "lie")

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|--|---|
| 1) Telling a lie<br><b>嘘をつく</b><br>uso o tsuku   | 2) A lie is exposed.<br><b>嘘がばれる</b><br>uso ga bareru |
| 3) Outright lie<br><b>真っ赤な嘘</b><br>makka na uso  | 4) Shedding crocodile tears<br><b>嘘泣き</b><br>usonaki  |
| 5) Necessary to stretch the truth (in a good sense, such as telling a white lie)<br><b>嘘も方便</b> (positive meaning)<br>uso mo hōben |   |

B. To emphasize the feeling of surprise when some amazing or unbelievable thing has happened, rather than implying that it is a "lie." (in this case, "**uso**" is usually written in **hiragana** or **katakana**.)

6) The phrases vary according to the person. Although some typical phrases are selected here, it may be better not to use them too often because they sound very informal. (Although every phrase has been translated into English, it does not necessarily mean that they are precise equivalents.)

eg.,  
No kidding!  
うっそ〜  
ussō

Oh, no, no, no...  
(repeating several times)  
うそ、うそ、うそ  
uso uso uso

Are you kidding?  
(woman speaking)  
うそでしょ  
uso desho

No way!  
(man speaking)  
うそだろ  
uso daro

Oh, boy! I had no idea!  
うそ〜ちっとも知らなかった〜  
usō chittomo shiranakatta

7) To emphasize the feeling of "It's a miracle!" or "That's unbelievable!" They are used in the form of "\_\_\_**mitai**" or "\_\_\_**no yo**"

It can't be! (woman speaking)  
うそみたい  
uso mitai

e.g.,  
No kidding! You mean they've got married? That's unbelievable!  
え〜! あの二人が結婚? ウソみたい!  
ē ano futari ga kekkon? uso mitai!

It seemed like a miracle to return to good health after such a severe illness.  
大病をしたのにウソのように元気になった。  
taibyō o shita noni uso no yō ni genki ni natta

## 嘘 uso

Insert the proper expression in the box by choosing from those at left.

- (a) A-san: Mr. Tsunoda has won the lottery for ¥300 million!  
角田さん、3億円の宝くじに当たったんだって!  
**Tsunoda-san san-oku en no takarakuji ni atattan datte!**  
B-san: No kidding! (Expressing the feeling of "That's unbelievable!" because the surprise was so great)
- (b) After I spent the whole day cleaning my house, it seemed like a miracle how nice it had become.  
一日かけて掃除をしたら  にきれいになった。  
**ichinichi kakete sōji o shitara ni kirei ni natta**
- (c) A-san: What? Did you really say such things to Ms. Yamada?  
え、山田さんにそんなこと言ったんですか?  
**E, Yamada-san ni sonna koto ittan desu ka?**  
B-san: Yes, but, that way it went well. It is necessary to stretch the truth, you know.  
でも、それでうまくいったでしょ。  ですよ。  
**demo sore de umakuitta desho desu yo**
- (d) It must be an outright lie because there can't be a good explanation for an investment to make such a lot of money.  
そんなに儲かる投資話は  に違いありませんよ。  
**sonna ni mōkaru tōshibanashi wa ni chigainai desu yo**
- (e) I believe that the suspect is telling a lie.  
容疑者は  と思います。  
**yōgisha wa to omoimasu**
- (f) Every time I quarrel with my wife, she always sheds crocodile tears.  
夫婦げんかをするとう妻はいつも  をする。  
**fūfugenka o suru to tsuma wa itsumo o suru**
- (g) The suspect tried to cover up what he did, so that his lies would not be found out.  
犯人は  ように偽装工作をした。  
**hannin wa yōni gisōkōsaku o shita**

Answers (a)-(6) (b)-(7) (c)-(5) (d)-(3) (e)-(1) **uso o tsuiteiru** (f)-(4) (g)-(2) **uso ga barenai**