

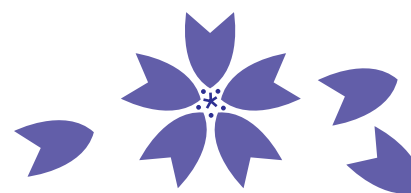


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さくら?

SAKURA?

?



Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama



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I bought strawberries the other day, and they were so delicious. I went to the same shop to buy some more. When I saw another customer trying to decide whether to buy them or not, I said, "The strawberries are very delicious!" She stared at me and asked, "sakura?" Then, I said "sakura wa senshū deshita." (The cherry blossoms ended last week.) The owner of the shop was alarmed, and said, "chigau chigau" (Oh, no! no!) Ms. **Hirayama**, what did I do wrong?

■■■ When she said "**sakura**" she was not referring to the beautiful cherry blossoms that you see on trees. It's informally written as "偽客" in kanji and means a "false customer (or decoy)." A "**sakura**" is a person who pretends to be a normal customer who says good things about a certain product encouraging other customers to buy the product. Since you said something good about the strawberries, she thought that you could be a "false customer." That obviously alarmed the owner of the shop. For today's lesson, I'll introduce some words that relate to it.

★The listed words here are used in a negative sense.★

(A) False customer / decoy :

さくら **sakura**
In addition to the explanation above, there are claqueur, a person who enters a theater for free and is employed to applaud performers as if they were popular and arouse the enthusiasm of the audience.

(B) Being undecided / uncommitted :

うやむや **uyamuya**
To make things inaccurate and ambiguous without clarifying whether a decision has been made.
● "To obscure where responsibility lies" ● "Uncommitted attitude"
「責任を_____にする」 「_____な態度」
sekinin o ni suru na taido

(C) To talk nonsense / incoherent :

でたらめ **detarame**
● "To talk nonsense" ● "To place numbers at random"
「_____を言う」 「数字を_____に並べる」
o iu sūji o ni naraberu

(D) To concoct :

捏造 (する) **netsuzō (suru)**
To write or present articles or stories as if they are true although they are not based on fact. To fabricate or invent stories

(E) To gloss over :

ごまかす **gomakasu**
1) To gloss over attitudes, facts and faults by changing the subject or saying whatever comes into one's head, so that one's real intention will not be revealed.
● "To laugh it off"
「笑って_____」
waratte
2) To cheat on numbers and prices in order to avoid a disadvantage
● "To lie about one's age"
「年を_____」
toshi o

(F) Fraud :
詐欺 **sagi**

To obtain money, goods or advantage by false pretences

● "To commit a fraud" ● "Marriage fraud"
「_____を働く」 「結婚_____」
o hataraku kekkon

(G) Counterfeit :
偽もの **nisemono**

Imitation goods or charlatan
● "This bag is counterfeit." ● "That doctor is a quack."
「このバッグは_____」 「あの医者は_____」
kono bag wa ano isha wa

Complete these sentences:

- This article can't be true!
この記事は に違いない。
kono kiji wa ni chigai nai
- Hitomi was deceived by a marriage swindler, and he cheated her out of ¥10 million.
ひとみさんは 結婚 にあって1000万円 取られたようです。
Hitomi-san wa kekkon ni atte issen-man en torareta yō desu
- It is difficult to distinguish genuine and imitation goods.
本物か か 見分けがつかないですね。
honmono ka ka miwake ga tsukanai desu ne
- I just pressed numbers at random, and I opened the cashbox!
数字を に押したら金庫が開いた!
sūji o ni oshitara kinko ga aita!
- I heard that he falsified his tax declaration.
税務署に税金を 申告したらしいです。
zēmusho ni zēkin o shinkoku shita rashī desu
- In the end, arrangements for a formal meeting with a prospective marriage partner were left up in the air.
結局、お見合いの話は になってしまった。
kekkyoku omiai no hanashi wa ni natte shimatta

Answers: (1) **netsuzō** (2) **sagi** (3) **nisemono** (4) **detarame** (5) **gomakashite** (6) **uyamuya**



The word "lie" written in the box at left does not always have a negative connotation. It is used in daily life as described in the three cases below.

- When reacting at something with surprise, young women in particular use these phrases.
No kidding! / Are you kidding? / No way!
うっそー / 嘘でしょう。 / 嘘だ。
ussō uso deshō uso da
- When something unbelievable has happened, these phrases are used in wonderment. It seems like a lie, but ___. / It is hard to believe. / It seems like a miracle but___.
嘘のように_____ / 嘘みたい (だ)。 / _____なんて嘘みたいです。
uso no yō ni uso mitai (da) nante uso mitai desu
- Sometimes, it may be necessary to stretch the truth as a method to settle matters peacefully.
Necessary to stretch truth (To tell a white lie)
嘘も方便
uso mo hōben

Complete these sentences:

- My son does not like carrots, so I cooked them in a dish so thoroughly they could not be detected. When I assured him, "There are no carrots in it," he ate it all! It is necessary to tell a white lie, isn't it?
 ですね。
desu ne
- It is hard to believe that I can take a world trip!
世界一周できる
sekai issshū dekiru
- It seems like a lie, but the pain disappeared suddenly.
痛みが突然 消えた。
itami ga totsuzen kieta
- Oh, boy... Do I need to do that, again? Are you kidding?
え~もう一回やり直し?
ē mō ikkai yarinaoshi?

Answers: (A) **uso mo hōben** (B) **nan te uso mitai desu** (C) **uso no yō ni** (D) **uso deshō**

