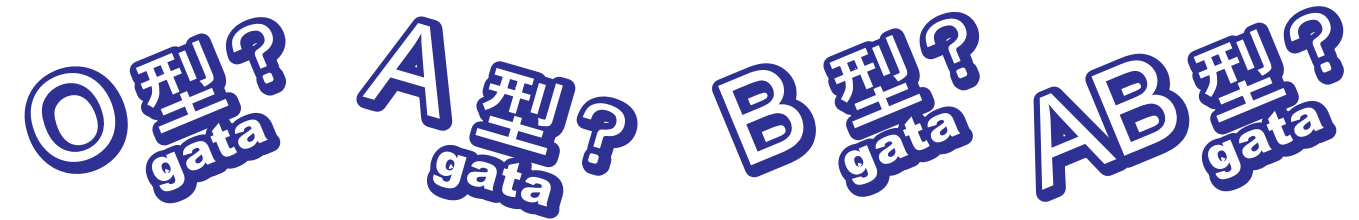


Design : Masako Ban



The other day, one of my friends asked me, "Pole-san wa **ō-gata**?" (Mr. Pole, are you **ō-gata**?). I said "Yeah, as you can see, I've been worried about my weight lately." He said, "Oh no! I'm not saying that your size is **ō-gata** (big). I'm asking if your blood type is O (**ō-gata**). A person with that blood type is bighearted and realistic. Your blood type tells me about your character." He then showed me a book on personality profiling by blood type. I was amazed that Japanese people profile their character by their blood type.

■■■ Many Japanese people like blood-type profiling. People try to figure out your personality, not by what you are but what your blood type is. They say, "Your blood type tells me so," and are complacent in their judgment. But I think this leads to stereotyping people. Some companies are said to do their recruitment partly based on blood-type profiling rather than on an applicant's ability. Although conversation about blood types can be an icebreaker when you do not have much else to talk about, blind acceptance of such profiling can be harmful.

**血液型 (Blood type)**

**ketsuekigata**

Major traits for the four main blood types are as follows:

**Blood type A : A 型 (ĕ-gata)**

methodical	commonsensical	cooperative	careful
几帳面	常識人	協調性	慎重
<b>kichōmen</b>	<b>jōshikijin</b>	<b>kyōchōsē</b>	<b>shinchō</b>

**Blood type B : B 型 (bī-gata)**

selfish	easygoing	flexible	inspirational
自己中心的	楽天的	柔軟な考え	ひらめき
<b>jiko-chūshinteki</b>	<b>rakutenteki</b>	<b>jūnan na kangae</b>	<b>hirameki</b>

**Blood type O : O 型 (ō-gata)**

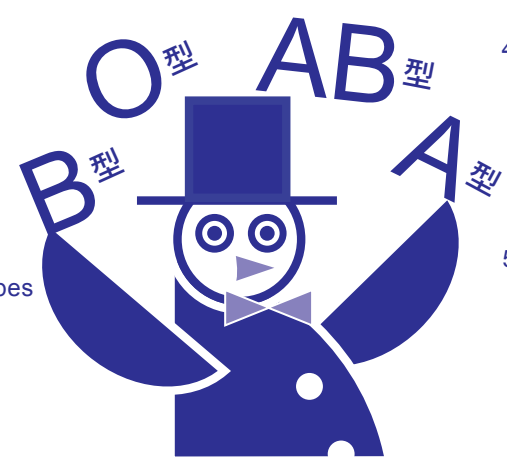
leadership	sociable	careless about details	realistic
親分肌	社交的	大雑把	現実的
<b>oyabunhada</b>	<b>shakōteki</b>	<b>ōzappa</b>	<b>genjitsuteki</b>

**Blood type AB : AB 型 (ĕbī-gata)**

practical	idealist	calm	"split" personality
合理的	理想追求型	冷静	二重人格
<b>gōriteki</b>	<b>risō-tsuikyū-gata</b>	<b>rēsē</b>	<b>nijū-jinkaku</b>

Almost all Japanese know their own blood type. Do you know yours?  
**ketsuekigata wa nani-gata desu ka?**  
(What's your blood type?)

According to the Japanese Red Cross Society, Japanese blood types are apportioned as follows:  
Type A (about 40 percent),  
Type O (about 30 percent),  
Type B (about 20 percent)  
and Type AB (about 10 percent).



Blood type profiling often exaggerates negative personalities.  
Blood Type A : Obstinate person with rigid ideas  
Blood Type B : Uncooperative and selfish, not suitable for groups  
Blood Type O : Tends to be hasty, careless about details and unyielding  
Blood Type AB : Eccentric, self-contradictory and hates interference

**Expressions that use 型**

- Size (small, medium, large)  
e.g., small camera    medium-sized dog    major typhoon  
小型カメラ    中型犬    大型台風  
**kogata-camera**    **chūgata-ken**    **ōgata-taifū**
- Characteristic and disposition  
e.g., multifunctional    early bird    thin shape  
多機能型    朝型    薄型  
**takinō-gata**    **asa-gata**    **usu-gata**
- 「型にはまる」 ..... Overly conventional, rigid (no individuality and no originality)  
**kata ni hamaru**  
e.g., rigid way of thinking  
型にはまった考え  
**kata ni hamatta kangae**
- 「型にはめる」 ..... Force some into a mold (force something or someone to believe a certain way or idea)  
**kata ni hameru**  
e.g., cookie-cutter way of raising children  
型にはめた育て方  
**kata ni hameta sodatekata**
- 「型破り」 ..... Unconventional (peculiar, eccentric)  
**katayaburi**  
e.g., unconventional way of life  
型破りな人生  
**katayaburi na jinsē**

Enter the correct Japanese words in the squares.

- A) Many small cars are more eco-friendly than big vehicles.  
エコカー    (1)    より    (2)    の方が多いです。  
**eco car wa**    big vehicles    **yor**    small cars    **no hōga ōi desu**
- B) The director presented a new film with full of unconventional ideas.  
映画監督は    (3)    の新しい作品を発表した。  
**ēga kantoku wa**    unconventional idea    **no atarashī sakuhin o happyō shita**
- C) Recently, many schools tend to reconsider their cookie-cutter way of education.  
最近、学校では    (4)    を見直す傾向にあります。  
**saikin gakkō dewa**    cookie-cutter way of education    **o minaosu kēkō ni arimasu**
- D) I can only come up with conventional ideas.  
どうしても    (5)    しか思い浮かばないです。  
**dōshitemo**    conventional ideas    **shika omoiukabanai desu**
- E) I changed my lifestyle from a night person to a morning person.  
生活スタイルを    (6)    から    (7)    に変えました。  
**sekatsu style o**    night person    **kara**    morning person    **ni kaemashita**
- F) As this mobile phone is the latest model, it is quite popular.  
この携帯電話は    (8)    で人気があります。  
**kono kētai-denwa wa**    latest model    **de ninki ga arimasu**

Answers:

(1) 大型車 <b>ōgatasha</b>	(2) 小型車 <b>kogatasha</b>	(3) 型破りな発想 <b>katayaburi na hassō</b>	(4) 型にはめた教育 <b>kata ni hameta kyōiku</b>
(5) 型にはまった考え <b>kata ni hamatta kangae</b>	(6) 夜型 <b>yoru-gata</b>	(7) 朝型 <b>asa-gata</b>	(8) 最新型 <b>saishin-gata</b>