

Design : Masako Ban



がんがん
gangan



むかむか
mukamuka

ちかちか
chikachika



ふらふら
furafura



Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

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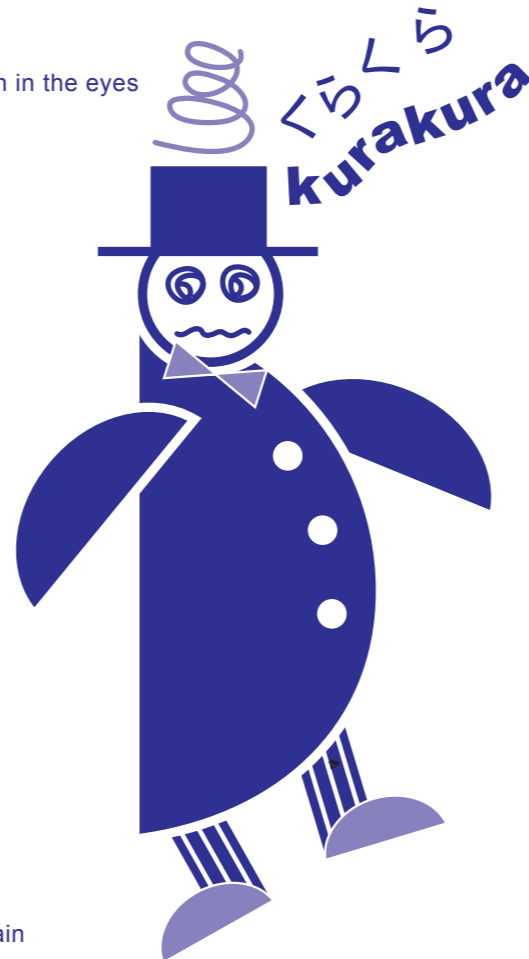
*This morning, I noticed my friend had a sickly look on his face. When I asked him what was wrong, he said, "atama wa **gangan**, i wa **mukamuka**, me wa **chikachika...mō furafura desu**" and collapsed in a chair. I said, "**gangan, mukamuka, chikachika, furafura, ganzan, mukamuka, chikachika, furafura..it sounds like samba music.**" "I drank too much last night. I'm feeling sick," he replied and dashed to the toilet.*

■■■ The Japanese language uses echoic words to depict human and animal voices or sounds, and mimetic words to depict motion, appearances and psychological actions. Collectively, echoic words and mimetic words are called onomatopoeia. Your friend used onomatopoeia. He said, "I have a thumping headache — it's as if my head is splitting (**gangan**). I'm feeling sick in my stomach (**mukamuka**), my eyes are flickering (**chikachika**), and I'm dizzy (**furafura**)." As you can see in these examples, onomatopoeic terms are very useful because they use simple expressions to explain complex situations.

<Onomatopoeia> Many onomatopoeic terms are used in Japanese comic and graphic novels. A typical Japanese onomatopoeia dictionary includes more than 1,600 words. Onomatopoeia function not only as adjectives; they also help describe things by omitting nouns and verbs in simple sentences. It's very difficult not to use onomatopoeia in everyday language. Though onomatopoeic terms are frequently used in everyday life, they're not really learned at school. Onomatopoeia differ from person-to-person and by area because Japanese people learn about and experience them in daily conversation. Therefore, it is very difficult for Japanese learners to master onomatopoeia.

The following onomatopoeia are commonly used to describe physical conditions.

<eye>	ごろごろ gorogoro to feel something in the eye	ちかちか chikachika a flickering sensation in the eyes
<tooth>	ずきずき zukizuki Continuous, severe pain	しくしく shikushiku dull, repetitive pain
<nose>	むずむず muzumuzu itchy	ぐずぐず guzuguzu to have the sniffles
<throat>	ひりひり hirihiri a burning in one's throat	いがいが igaiga frog in the throat
<head>	くらくら kurakura dizzy	がんがん gangan pounding
<chest>	どきどき dokidoki pounding	ずきずき zukizuki throbbing
<skin>	ひりひり hirihiri burning	ぜいぜい zēzē wheezing
<body>	ふらふら furafura unsteady	むずむず muzumuzu crawling
<stomach>	しくしく shikushiku gripping pain	ちくちく chikuchiku prickly/stinging
	きゅーっ kyū stinging pain	きりきり kirikiri sharp, continuous pain



★ One of the characteristic features of onomatopoeia is that the intensity of the movement or feeling being described differs depending on whether it is a clear sound or a dull sound.★

- Clear sound images: small in scope, bright, lightweight, small, beautiful, sharp
- Dull sound images: big in scope, dark, prominence, big, dirty, dull

e.g.,	Clear sound	→	Dull sound
	くるくる		ぐるぐる
	kurukuru		guruguru
	twiddle		swirl
	ひりひり		びりびり
	hirihiri		biribiri
	burning		tingle

[Exercises]

Complete the following sentences by using the appropriate onomatopoeia.

- 目にゴミが入って _____ します。
me ni gomi ga haitte _____ shimasu
My eyes are feeling gritty as I got dust in them.
- 指先が _____ すると思ったら、小さなトゲが刺さっていました。
yubisaki ga _____ suru to omottara chīsa na toge ga sasatte imashita
I felt a sharp pain in my finger, and I found that I had a tiny thorn in it.
- 奥歯が _____ して、夕べはほとんど眠れませんでした。
okuba ga _____ shite yūbe wa hotondo nemuremasen deshita
My molar gave me constant pain, keeping me awake most of the night.
- 胃薬を飲んでも _____ と痛いので、明日病院に行きます。
igusuri o nondemo _____ to itai node asu byōin ni ikimasu
I feel a dull pain in my stomach even after taking some medicine. I'll visit the hospital tomorrow.
- 花粉症で鼻が _____ して、くしゃみが止まらない。
kafunshō de hana ga _____ shite kushami ga tomaranai
I have a tickle in my nose due to hay fever and I can't stop sneezing.
- 寒くないのに身体が _____ し、のどが _____ するので、早めに薬を飲んだ。
samukunai noni karada ga _____ shi nodo ga _____ suru node hayame ni kusuri o nonda
Even though it wasn't cold, I got a chill and felt as if I had a frog in my throat, so I took some medicine just in case.

1) **gorogoro** 2) **chikuchiku** 3) **zukizuki** 4) **shikushiku** 5) **muzumuzu** 6) **zokuzoku igaiga**