

Nihongo (Japanese), Perapera (fluent), Newsletter.

Once a month language-focused newsletter designed for both new and seasoned Japanese learners to use as a resource for study.

Let's study! 勉強(べんきょう)しましょう!

今月の漢字

sentence

文

訓読み: ふみ, あゆ
音読み: ブン, モン

4 strokes

Associated Common Words

文月 (ふみづき) - July (old Japanese calendar)

文章 (ぶんしょう) - writing, composition

文句 (もんく) - complaint

Oracle bone script



Bronze inscriptions



Small seal script



四字熟語 - よじじゅくご (4 Character Idiom)

にそくさんもん
二束三文Dirt cheap; throwaway prices; next to nothing;
two bundles for 3 *mon* (a very small amount of money)

Example

高いお金を出して買ったブランド品を
リサイクルショップにたくさん持って行った
が、「二束三文」にしかならなかった。Takai okane wo dashite katta burando hin wo risaikurushoppu
ni takusan motte itta ga, "nisokusanmon" ni shika naranakatta.I took a lot of brand-name items that I bought with a lot
of money to a second-hand shop, but I ended up getting next to
nothing for them.

ことわざ (proverb)

さんになよ もんじゅ ちえ
三人寄れば文殊の知恵Three heads are better than two; if three people gather, the
wisdom of Manjushri (bodhisattva associated with wisdom)

Example

皆から上司への退職祝いを何にすればいいか考えたが
思いつかない。「三人寄れば文殊の知恵」というし、
同僚の田中さんと山田くんにも相談してみよう。Minna kara joushi e no taishoku iwai wo nani ni sureba ii ka
kangaeta ga omoitsukanai. "San'nin yoreba monjyu no chie" to iu
shi, douryou no Tanaka-san to Yamada-kun ni mo soudan
shitemiyou.I thought about what to get as a retirement gift from everyone to
my boss, but I can't think of anything. Like the saying "three heads
are better than two," I'm going to consult with my colleagues
Tanaka-san and Yamada-kun.

日本を旅しよう! - Exploring Japan -

五島列島(ごとうれっとう) - Gotō Islands

Fast facts!

-The *kanji* for Gotō-rettō means "five island archipelago" and refers to the
five main islands, although there are over 100 smaller islands & islets as well
- Fukue and Nakadori islands are the archipelago's two most populated and
visited islands-The Gotō Islands are perhaps most known for their history related to
Christianity. Due to their remoteness, the islands were one of the few places
"Hidden Christians" were able to continue practicing their faith in secret
during Japan's 250+ year ban on the religion-Besides churches like Fukue Island's **Dōzaki Church**, originally built in 1879
by French missionaries, the Gotō Islands are notable for their beaches,
mountains, and traditional fishing villagesSource: japan-guide.com



Gotō Islands and Whaling

In the two most northernmost islands, a territory called Shinkamigoto, whaling was the community's main industry. There is even a shrine dedicated to whales in Arikawa pictured above.

Dialect Discovery

五島列島弁 - ごとうれっとうべん

- みじよか (mijyoka; cute) 可愛い
- やぜらしか (yazerashika; noisy) うるさい
- へっぱ (heppa; lie) うそ
- おとろしか (otoroshika; scared) 怖い

To read about JET Eirene Tran Donahue's experience living and teaching on the Gotō Islands, [click here!](#)



JSB Meets JET Alum Eirene Tran Donahue!

クイズタイム!

1. 毎朝8時に家 () 出て、会社に行きます。

Every morning at 8am, I leave the house and go to the office.

- a. から b. を c. に

2. 夏休みの作文の () 方がわからない。

I don't know how to write my summer vacation essay.

- a. 書く b. 書き c. 書け

3. 今日発売のゲームを買おうと一時間も並んだ () 、
売り切れで買えなかった。

- a. あげくに b. ために c. ところに



☆夏バテ

As the temperature and humidity rise, all of us are experiencing *natsubate*, or summer fatigue. In Japan, July is a very hot month, but here are some ways Japanese people beat the heat! Summer foods such as *hiyashi soumen* (chilled noodles) and *kakigori* (shaved ice) are great ways to cool down. Additionally, in Japan, many people use handheld fans, UV blocking umbrellas, and cooling wipes.

Vocabulary to Stay Cool!

夏バテ(なつばて) - Summer fatigue

扇風機 (せんぷうき) - Electric fan

団扇 (うちわ) - Fan (handheld)

エアコン (えあこん) - A/C

水筒(すいとう) - Water bottle

浴衣 (ゆかた) - Casual cotton kimono

日陰(ひかげ) - Shade

海(うみ) - Sea/beach

日焼け止め(ひやけどめ) - Sunscreen

かき氷(かきごおり) - Shaved ice

抹茶アイス(まっちゃあいす) - Green tea ice cream

涼しい(すずしい) - Cool/refreshing

暑気払い(しょきばらい) - Beat the heat

夕涼み(ゆうすずみ) - Cool off in the evening

麦わら帽子 (むぎわらぼうし) - straw hat



Gion Matsuri

JAPAN'S MOST BELOVED FESTIVAL

Thursday, August 24th @6PM ET

Join JSB as we continue our exploration of Japanese festivals with the most famous and beloved one of all.

Every summer, Kyoto's Gion district holds the Gion Matsuri festival during the entire month of July.

More info [here!](#)

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Answer key: 1. b 2. b 3. a