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Mēji-dōri?

tōri?

I got into a taxi the other day, but as the place I wanted to go was very difficult to explain, I handed a map to the taxi driver and said, "Meiji-dōri tōtte-kudasai" (Please take Meiji-dōri avenue.) The driver looked at the map and said to me, "kono tōri desu ne" (This avenue, isn't it!) so I told him, "iie, Meiji-dōri desu" (No, take Meiji-dōri avenue.) Then, he pointed the map and said again, "desukara, kono tōri desu yo ne?" (So, this is the avenue, isn't it?) The car behind beeped at us and the driver's glare obviously meant, "Get moving!" The taxi driver was looking at me like he was confused, and I didn't know what to do. Ms. Hirayama, "kono tōri" means "this street," right? Why couldn't the taxi driver understand?

■■■ Actually, neither you nor the taxi driver was wrong. There are many words that have the same pronunciation but different meaning in Japanese. This expression "kono tō-ri" has two meanings: "this street" and "as it is." So, I think you misunderstood him. As "tōri" is a very useful expression, let's study it in this lesson!

通り tōri / dōri

There are four main usages.

- 1) Street: e.g., 青山通り...**Aoyama dōri** (Aoyama Street), 通り... **tōri** (street)
- 2) Traffic: e.g., 車の通りが激しい...**kuruma no tōri ga hageshī** (The traffic is heavy.)
- 3) Flow of water or air:
e.g., 水の通りが悪い... **mizu no tōri ga warui** (The water is not running well.)
風の通りがいい部屋 **kaze no tōri ga īheya** (a well-ventilated room)
- 4) The same state: e.g., いつも通り... **itsumodōri** (as usual)
This expression is introduced in this lesson.

e.g., These are some of many expressions using tōri.

- | | |
|--|--|
| A) That's right.
その通り
sonotōri | F) As one told
話した通り
hanashitatōri |
| B) As shown in instructions
説明書の通り
setsumēsho no tōri | G) As one expected
思った通り
omottatōri |
| C) Glancing over
ひと通り
hitotōri | H) As one heard
噂通り
uwasadōri |
| D) You're right.
おっしゃる通り
ossharutōri | I) as reputed
評判通り
hyōbandōri |
| E) As one said
言った通り
ittatōri | J) As one calculated
計算通り
kēsandōri |

- | |
|---|
| K) Literally
文字通り
mojidōri |
| L) Ninety percent
九分通り
kubudōri |
| M) As it used to be
元通り
motodōri |

Put the appropriate word in the boxes.

通り

- (1) Just as I heard, the food here is good, isn't it?

の美味しい店ですね。
no oishi mise desu ne

- (2) Their relationship is not what it used to be.

2人の仲は にならなかった。
futari no naka wa ni naranakatta

- (3) You're absolutely right!

です。
desu

- (4) That was what I expected!

だった!
datta!

- (5) Yes, that's right!

はい、
hai,

- (6) The concert really lived up to its reputation.

の素晴らしい演奏会でした。
no subarashī ensōkai deshita

- (7) I glanced over the documents.

書類に 目を通しました。
shorui ni me o toshimashita

- (8) As I told you the whole truth, please believe me!

全て です。信じて下さい。
subete desu shinjite kudasai

- (9) Things did not go as I planned

にはいきませんでした。
niwa ikimasen deshita

Answers

(1)-(H) (2)-(M) (3)-(D) (4)-(G) (5)-(A) (6)-(I) (7)-(C) (8)-(F) (9)-(J)

