



水 WATER mizu

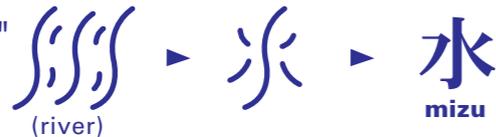
Pera Pera Penguin's 5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama Vol. 41

Last month, I took my parents to **Kyūshū** for a family trip. The **onsen** (hot spring) was relaxing, nature was awesome and the food was very delicious! Mr. Koga, who is one of my friends, is from **Fukuoka**, and I told him how much I enjoyed my trip. He said, "**sō desu ka**, (I see). **oyako 'mizu-irazu' deshita ne** (I guess there was 'mizu-irazu' [no need of water?] for your family). **demo**, Pole-san '**mizu-kusai' desu ne** (But, Mr. Pole, that's '**mizu-kusai**' [stinky water?]). **Kyūshū nara iro-iro shō kai shitakatta desu** (I could have told you a lot about **Kyūshū** if you had asked me)." Did he say "**mizu-kusai**" (stinky water)? How bad is that smell? Did he also say "**mizu-irazu**" (no need of water)? What did he mean by "no need of water"? The water in **Kyūshū** was not stinky, but delicious, and I had a lot of water during my trip. When I went to a coffee shop in **Kyūshū**, a waitress brought us glasses of water even though we did not order them. Oh, boy! I have no idea what Mr. Koga told me.

■■■ What Mr. Koga meant is, "I guess you were happy to spend time only with your parents. But, Mr. Pole, you are standoffish! I could've told you all about good spots in **Kyūshū** if you had told me that you were going there." In the Japanese language, there are many idioms that have water in them. For example, "**mizu-shōbai**," which literally means "water business." Can you imagine what kind of occupation that is? It's not the business of selling water! "**mizu-shōbai**" (chancy trade) are the kinds of business that depend on being popular with customers, like bars, restaurants and nightclubs. Let me show you more expressions that use the word "**mizu**" (water).

Design: Masako Ban

■ Kanji of "water"



- 1) To be standoffish/
to be reserved
水臭い
mizu-kusai
(water) (smell)
(Lit. stinky water)
- 2) To be alone with one's
family, without outsiders
水入らず
mizu-irazu
(water)(not coming in)
(Lit. no water coming in)
- 3) To be like oil and water
水と油
mizu to abura
(water)(and)(oil)
(Lit. water and oil)
- 4) To forgive and forget
水に流す
mizu ni nagasu
(water) (let flow)
(Lit. flushing it with water)

- 5) That was only a drop
in the bucket.
焼け石に水
yake ishi ni mizu
(burn)(stone) (water)
(Lit. water on a hot stone)
- 6) To come to nothing
水の泡
mizu no awa
(water)(bubbles)
(Lit. bubbles of water)
- 7) To find one's element
水を得た魚
mizu o eta sakana
(water) (get) (fish)
(Lit. fish returned to water)
- 8) A bolt from the blue (sounds negative)
寝耳に水
ne mimi ni mizu
(sleeping)(ears)(water)
(Lit. water into the ear
of a sleeping person)

■■■ Please enter the appropriate idiom in the following squares. ■■■

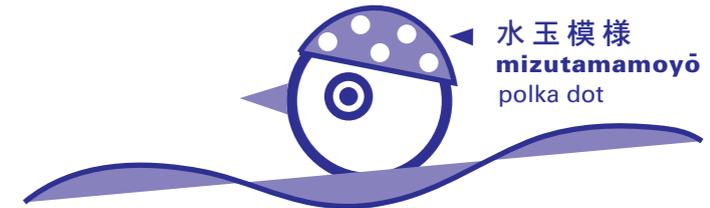
- A) I was on diet, and doing great! But I gained the weight that I had lost.
頑張ってダイエットしたのに、すぐに戻っちゃった。
gambatte diet shita noni suguni modotchatta
Oh, well, all your efforts came to nothing.
全てが **subete ga** To come to nothing だね。
dane
- B) You have been standoffish. You could have asked me without hesitation.
To be standoffish /
to be reserved なあ～、遠慮しないで言ってくればよかったのに！
nā enryo shinaide itte-kurereba yokatta noni
- C) There is nothing we can do because of the deficit. It's only a drop in the bucket.
赤字なのでいくら頑張っても That was only a drop
in the bucket. です。
akaji nanode ikura gambattemo desu
- D) Those two people are like oil and water. They always disagree with each other.
あの二人は To be like an oil and waterいつも意見が合いません。
ano futari wa ... itsumo iken ga aimasen
- E) Oh, really? That's a bolt from the blue. I've never heard of it!
えっ！ホント？ A bolt from the blue そんな事聞いてないよ！
e! honto? sonnakoto kiitenai yo
- F) Oh, what a relief! He told me that he would forgive us and forget about it.
ああ良かった！今回の事は To forgive and forget と言ってくれました。
ā yokatta! konkai no koto wa to itte-kuremashita
We should be careful next time!
これから気をつけます。
korekara ki o tsukemasu

Answers
A) 6) B) 1) C) 5) D) 3) E) 8) F) 4)



water
水
mizu; sui; zui

The kanji below (A-L) make specific words when combined with 水 **mizu** (water). Make words that mean 1) to 12) by combining 水 with one of the kanji below.



- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| A) nose | B) fragrance | C) rain |
| 鼻 | 香 | 雨 |
| D) defend; prevent | E) sea | F) road |
| 防 | 海 | 道 |
| G) warm; temperature | H) middle; inside | I) color |
| 温 | 中 | 色 |
| J) insect | K) tune; moderate | L) flood |
| 虫 | 節 | 洪 |
- 1) In the water 2) Waterproof 3) Runny nose
4) Seawater 5) Light-blue 6) Athlete's foot
7) Perfume/fragrance 8) Saving water 9) Public water
10) Water temperature 11) Flood 12) Rainwater

Answers		
1) H) 水中 sui chū	2) D) 防水 bō sui	3) A) 鼻水 hana mizu
4) E) 海水 kai sui	5) I) 水色 mizu iro	6) J) 水虫 mizu mushi
7) B) 香水 kō sui	8) K) 節水 ses sui	9) F) 水道 sui dō
10) G) 水温 sui on	11) L) 洪水 kō zui	12) C) 雨水 ama mizu

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga