

Last night, there was an earthquake (jishin). It was really scary, so I called a friend to say "tetsudatte" (Help). But he said "nani o?" (What with?)! Why did he say such a cruel thing? A few minutes after the earthquake, there was a news flash on television that said where I live was shindo 3. What does that mean?

# earthquake 地震 jishin

"shindo" is the seismic intensity (level of the earthquake). After the quake, television and radio announce "shingenchi" (the seismic center), and how big it was in the scale called "shindo."

- ·shindo-ichi / 震度1... slight earthquake (bishin)
- felt by people who are static ·shindo-ni / 震度2... light earthquake (kēshin)
  - felt by many people; doors shake slightly
- ·shindo-san / 震度3... minor earthquake (iakushin)
- - a clattering sound is heard; hanging objects move
- ·shindo-yon / 震度4... medium earthquake (chūshin)
  - felt by people while walking; cups and glasses fall from shelves
- ·shindo-go / 震度5... violent earthquake (kyōshin) walls crack; gravestones fall
- ·shindo-roku / 震度6... disastrous earthquake (resshin) landslides; houses collapse
- · shindo-nana / 震度7... severe earthquake (gekishin) cracks in the ground, fault

## 防災の日 (bōsai no hi) .... Disaster Prevention Day

On Sept. 1, 1923, a severe earthquake occurred in the Kantō region (Kantō daishinsai = Great Kanto Earthquake), causing approximately 90,000 deaths. Since then, Sept. 1 has been Disaster Prevention Day. If you go to stores around this time, you will find special sections for disaster prevention goods (e.g., dried biscuits, emergency provisions, drinking water, flashlights, firstaid kits). Many households in Japan keep these items handy, so you should make sure you have them too, just in case.

緊急電話 (kinkyū denwa).....Emergency Telephone (All public pay phones have a red botton for you to push to make a free call to 110 and 119.)

ill ... **byōki** Average number of dispatched vehicles ... 6.6 ambulances a minute; one fire engine a minute accident ... jiko · Ambulance .........救急車 (kyūkyūsha) Phone: 119 fire .... kaji · Fire Department ..消防署 (shōbōsho) Phone: 119 thief ... dorobō · Police ......警察 (kēsatsu) Phone: 110 lost items ...wasuremono Usage note-----

・in case of any danger or emergency 助けて **tasukete**・when you need a hand with something 手伝って **tetsudatte** 

e.g., A) "Help" when your cooking pan catches fire

- B) "Help" when your job keeps you up all night
- C) "Help" when you are molested on a crowded train
- D) "Help" when you have an urgent errand to take care of

A) tasukete

B) tetsudatte

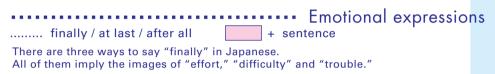
C) tasukete

D) tetsudatte

# - Pero Pero Penguin's

5 m inute Japanese Class by Hitom iHirayam a

Japan suffers many earthquakes. Back in January 1995, "Hanshin daishinsai" (the Great Hanshin Earthquake) caused 6,430 deaths and some victims are still suffering the aftereffects. If you notice an earthquake, make sure to put out all fires and gas flames, then open your windows and/or doors. This will secure an escape route in case the house or apartment block itself starts leaning.



- やっと **vatto** ...... longing; waiting
  - e.g., Finally, it's done.

when one has been looking forward to the event

やっと できました。 vatto dekimashita

Answers

助けて

vatto

やっと

vatto

とうとう

tötö

ついに

tsuini

tasukete

- •とうとう tōtō ...... with emotion (happy, upset, etc); often used in negative form
- e.g., After all (finally), I wasn't able to do it. とうとう できませんでした。 when one feels upset about not being able to do it toto dekimasendeshita
- TIC tsuini ..... Stressing the result at the moment of finding it out (used when one was not sure what the result would be)
- e.g., At last, I did it.

ついに できました。

when one was unsure if it would be completed

tsuini dekimashita

At the scene of a fire in Mr. Pole's neighborhood

Help!

Mr. Pole: The fire engine still has not come ... it's taking a long time.

消防車...... 遅いですね。 shōbōsha ..... osoi desu ne fire engine late

Oh, it finally arrived.

来ました。 kimashita

20 minutes after fire fighting started

Mr. Pole: Finally, the fire has been put out.

火 が きえましたね。 hi ga kiemashita ne fire "ga" ... emphasis on fire

Fireman: After all, the fire has been put out.

火が消えた。 finally hi ga kiemashita ne

(feeling relieved after all the efforts)

TV Reporter: At last, the fire was put out. (in live broadcast)



火 が きえました。 hi ga kiemashita

(stressing that the fire was "finally" put out)



emergency kinkvū

■ 急がば回れ isoga ba maware

More haste, less speed, (When in a hurry, you make a detour.)

- ■備えあれば憂いなし sonae areba urei nashi Be prepared. (If prepared, there is no anxiety.)
- ■油断大敵 yudan taiteki

Never let down your quard. (Feeling secure is a great enemy.)

Mr. Pole: I'm used to it, so there is nothing to worry about.

慣れています ので 心配ない です。

narete-imasu node shimpai naidesu don't worry

SO

Do not let down your guard.

desu vo

Mr. Pole fails to do as advised.

Friend: See, just as I expected.

ほら やっぱり! hora yappari I thought so look

Mr. Pole: It's much faster to go this way (short cut).

こっちのほうがずっと近道ですよ。

kocchi no hō ga zutto chikamichi desu yo more shortest way: short cut

Friend: No, even if it's a roundabout way, it's safer to take the way we know better.

> いいえ、遠回りでも、確実性の高いほうが安全です。 ie, tomawari demo kakujitsuse no takai ho ga anzen desu no round about way even reliable

When in a hurry, make a detour

ですよ。 desu vo

Mr. Pole: You are always perfectly prepared. さすが いつも 準備 は 完璧 です ね。

sasuga itsumo jumbi wa kampeki desu ne

always preparation perfection

Friend: If prepared, there is no anxiety.

desu yo

②『急がば回れ』 isogaba maware

③『備えあれば憂いなし』 sonae areba urei nashi

With cooperation from Akiko E. Yasukawa