



5 m inute Japanese Class by Hitom iHirayama

A lot of girls gave me chocolates on Feb. 14, but one of my friends said, "All you got is girichoco!" I looked at all the chocolates, but it doesnt say giri anywhere. Ms. Hirayama, what is airi-choco?

■ ■ In the past, it was not common for Japanese women to declare their love for a man—a woman used to wait for a man to approach her. But St. Valentine's Day is now an occasion when Japanese women can make their feelings known by giving chocolates. There are two different kinds of chocolates. One is called giri-choco. Women give them to male acquaintances so they don't feel left out. Such chocolates are given out of friendship or a sense of duty and they are usually cheap. Women who work in offices usually give qiri-choco to male colleagues and it is estimated that the average amount of giri-choco received by a man last year was 12.2 pieces. (giri means "obligation"!)

On the other hand, giving **honme-choco** indicates real feelings for the recipient. honme-choco is expensive (sometimes more than ¥10,000) or sometimes homemade. The average price of honme-choco is ¥3,166, while the average girichoco is ¥595. According to a survey, if a man receives chocolate that seems to be worth more than ¥3,000, he is likely to assume it is **honme-choco**. Interestingly, St. Valentine's Day in Japan did not start until 1958. The first chocolates were heartshaped, and sold for \(\frac{450}{50}\). (honme means "favorite"!)

## Grammar nete...........

guess ...rashī / ...mitai / ...yō

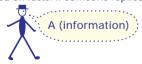
As you can see from the diagram, these expressions are similar and sometimes their meanings overlap.

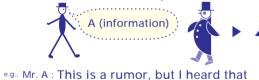
...mitai ...yō ...rashi (polite form)

23 ...rashi: I think/quess that "A" is... / Someone said that "A" is... etc

"...rashi" is better use when you are guessing from indirect information or less credible rumors.

This refers to a statement based on rumors. There is no confidence in the information because it's not based on facts. If someone replies, "sorashi desune", it means, "That's what I heard, but I'm not sure."







Mr.B: I guess so. (someone was talking about it)

rashi desu

そうらしいですね。 so rashi desu ne

(implying: I also heard the rumor, but I'm not sure.)

山田さんは離婚をするらしいです。 Yamada san wa rikon o suru rashi desu (implying: I'm not sure, but someone said that.)

Mr. Yamada is getting divorced.

①④⑤⑥ ...mitai: It seems that/like "A" is .../ I sense that "A" is

"...mitai" is used for statements based on direct information or facts.

"...mitai" signifies that the information is more credible than "...rashi"

It refers to discernment by using the five senses. If someone replies, "so mitai desu ne", it means, "I know, because I have some evidence."



Mr. A: It seems Mr. Yamada is getting divorced. 山田さんは離婚をするみたいです。

yamada san wa rikon o suru mitai desu (implying: Mr. Yamada confided in me about it.)

Mr.B: I guess so. (I knew it.) そうみたいですね。

so mitai desu ne (implying: I got some evidence.) Mr. Pole and Ms. Hirayama are talking about chocolates.

Hirayama: Yes, someone told me that (but I'm not really sure).

ikko dake wa tezukuri

And I got homemade chocolates, too!

watashi no mo tezukuri desu yo

Hirayama: Let me see...hm...they look like homemade,

gi ri choco

Mr. Pole: Well...it does look like homemade, though...

Hirayama: Don't feel bad! There's always next year!

がっかりしないで、来年がありますよ!

Don't be disappointed next year have

6 using the

gakkari shinaide rainen ga arimasu yo

power of sight

I'm really not sure (I heard that rumor)

Mr. Pole: It seems that Mr. Okada got many chocolates. (I saw some of them.)

手作り

unnn tezukuri

desu ne

I'm really not sure

(I heard that rumor)

I heard from him

using the

ですよね ...

desu vo ne

power of sight

岡田さんは たくさん もらった okada san wa takusan moratta many recieved

But I heard it was all giri-choco

demo zembu giri-choco

いいえ いっこだけは 手作り

one only

one also

でも全部ギリチョコ

私のも手作りですよ。

but...(I don't think so)

show me

Mr. Pole: What!? Is this qi...ri...choco...!?

え ...? ギ ..リ ..チョコ ...?

tezukuri

どれ見せて。

what?

dore misete

う~ん ... 手作り

using power of sight (l saw that)

です。 desu

to make a mistake ③ (Ms. Yabe had a baby last month. She calls me sometimes.

evidence (sight: because

らしいです。 rashi desu

みたい です。

mitai desu

ですよ。

desu yo

です。

desu

です。

desu

desu

ですね。

desu ne

Lunderstand that Ms. Yabe is going through the most difficult time right now.

ima ichiban

大変 な taihen na hard, tough

Let's practice!

noun

i-adj.

verb

おいしい rumor (I got the information

from a magazine, television, etc.)

na-adj. na

evidence (direct information: because she calls me sometimes)

(Recently, Miss. Mori has been all by herself. There is a rumor that she broke up with her boyfriend.) I heard that Miss. Mori might have broken up with her boyfriend.

ボーイフレンドと boyfriend to wakaremasu

別れます

rumor (implying, "I'm not sure, but someone said about that.")

to break up

⑤ (I bought a curio at a flea market.) It seems that this is old.

old

evidence (sight/feeling, because of the furui shape and the texture)

**ne** = confirmation 大変 みたい

' taihen mitai

oishi rashi

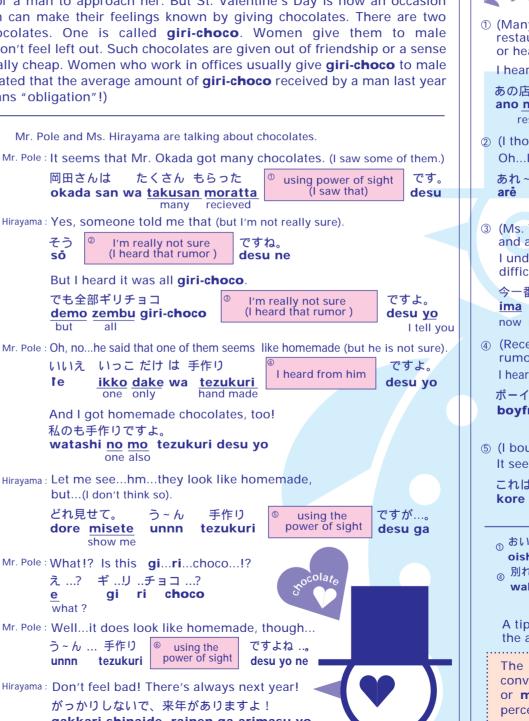
間違えた みたい machigaeta mitai

s 古い みたい furui mitai

A tip for people who feel that it is too difficult to make the above distinctions.

The word **mitai** is more commonly used in conversation. If you are not sure whether to use rashi or mitai, use mitai. You will probably be right 80 percent of the time.

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga



information ① (Many people stand in line to get into a particular restaurant because they had read about it in a magazine or heard about it.) I heard that restaurant's food is delicious. ano mise wa oishi restaurant delicious ② (I thought the concert was today, but nobody is here.) Oh...It seems that I had the wrong date. あれ~ 日にちを 間違えます hinichi o machigaemasu nobody is here) and asks me about child-care.) 今一番 now most これは kore wa