

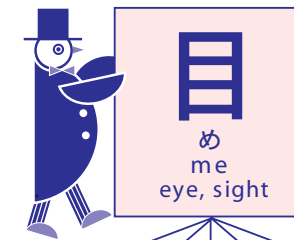
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# me ga tobideru (Eyes pop out !?)

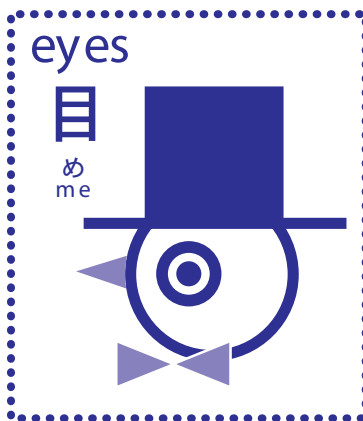
I went to Ginza to meet my friend Sunday as I had promised to do. I decided to get there a little early to do some window-shopping, when I saw an item with an unbelievable price on display in front of a famous fruit shop. One melon cost ¥20,000! As soon as my friend showed up, I asked her, "Do you know how much one mesh melon in a beautiful box costs?" She said, "Well, I guess, 'mega tobideru kurai takai', right? Probably, somewhere between ¥10,000 and ¥20,000. I bet you saw the price, and were 'me o utagatta,' weren't you? Their melons are very expensive, but delicious! I really 'me ga nai' their melons!" I could figure out what she meant to say, but I wasn't sure what "me ga tobideru kurai," "me o utagatta" and "me ga nai" meant. Ms. Hirayama, we discussed phrases that relate to our body in Vol. 25, but are they similar expressions?

## Pera Pera Penguin's 5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama Vol. 29

■■■Yes, we discussed some similar expressions in Vol. 25, so why don't we talk about them more in this lesson? The most used "body part" for such expressions is "eye," the second is "ki" (spirit, feelings, etc) and the third is "hand." Now, let me explain what your friend actually meant. The first expression "me ga tobideru kurai," means "That's an exorbitant price," while "me o utagatta" means, "unable to believe one's eyes," and the last phrase, "me ga nai," means "to be very fond of." By the way, Mr. Pole! Lately, it seems like the language of teenagers and young adults in their 20s has started to deteriorate, and many of them are no longer using such expressions. Perhaps foreigners like you who are eager to learn Japanese know those idioms better than they do!



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|---|---|--|
| A) Unable to believe one's eyes.<br>(To watch in disbelief. / To be surprised by something.)<br>目を疑う<br>me o utagau | H) To keep an eye on.<br>(To pay constant attention to. / To take care of.)<br>目が届く<br>me ga todoku                                       | L) To attract the eyes of people.<br>(To get others' attention.)<br>目を引く<br>me o hiku                                    |
| B) To skim through.<br>(To read quickly through.)<br>目を通す<br>me o tōsu  | I) Unable to take one's eyes off something. (It is a must to keep an eye on it.)<br>目が離せない<br>me ga hanasenai                             | M) To be surprised by an exorbitant price.<br>目が飛び出る<br>me ga tobideru<br>(Usually "-kurai" is attached to this phrase.) |
| C) To be very fond of.<br>(To like a lot.)<br>目がない<br>me ga nai   | N) The point aimed at.<br>(One's point of view.)<br>目のつけ所<br>me no tsukedomo  | O) Within a stone's throw.<br>(It is such a short distance.)<br>目と鼻の先<br>me to hana no saki                              |
| D) To have an excellent eye for something.<br>(To have knowledge of something.)<br>目がある<br>me ga aru                | P) Something tempting.<br>目の毒<br>me no doku   | Q) To have a bump above one's eyes.<br>(An annoyance.)<br>目の上のコブ<br>me no ue no kobu                                     |
| E) To take no note<br>(To ignore completely.)<br>目もくれない<br>me mo kurenai  | J) To be thrown into despair.<br>(Everything before one's eyes goes black.)<br>目の前が真っ暗になる<br>me no mae ga makkura ni naru                 | R) An eye for eye, a tooth for a tooth.<br>(Quotation from the Bible.)<br>目には目を 歯には歯を<br>me niwa me o ha niwa ha o       |
| F) To change one's countenance<br>(To glare in anger. / To be absorbed completely.)<br>目の色を変える<br>me no iro o kaeru | K) To feel as if the scales had fallen from one's eyes.<br>(To suddenly realize the truth.)<br>目からウロコ (が落ちる)<br>me kara uroko (ga ochiru) |  |
| G) To avoid being seen.<br>(To do something in secret without being seen by anyone.)<br>目を盗む<br>me o nusumu         |   |  |



### Let's practice !

- I can't take my eyes off today's politics.  
最近の政治は can't take my eyes off です。  
saikin no seiji wa saikin no seiji wa desu
- Flamboyant clothes get other people's attention.  
ハデな服装は get others' attention  
hade-na fukusō wa hadena fukusō wa desu (masu form)
- I really like wine.  
ワインには be fond of んです。  
wine niwa wine niwa n desu
- On hearing the news of the horrible tragedy, I was thrown into despair.  
大事故のニュースを聞いて was thrown into despair  
dai-jiko no news o kite dai-jiko no news o kite desu (past tense)
- Underage kids smoked without being seen by adults.  
未成年者は without being seen  
misenen-sha wa misenen-sha wa desu (te- form)
- The convenience store is right next to my house.  
コンビニは within a stone's throw  
conveni(ence store) wa conveni(ence store) wa desu
- He is always annoying.  
あの人は annoyance です。  
ano hito wa ano hito wa desu
- After the explanation, I felt as if the scales had fallen from my eyes.  
その説明を聞いて as if the scales had fallen from my eyes ました。  
sono setsumē o kite sono setsumē o kite mashita (past tense)
- People who have a good eye for high-quality items can find them even at a sale.  
バーゲンでも have a good eye for  
bargain demo bargain demo desu (dictionary form)  
人は良い品を選びます。  
hito wa yoishina o erabimasu

Answers	1. I	2. L	3. C	4. J	5. G	6. O	7. B	8. Q	9. K	10. D
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- People who are optimistic don't feel too much stress.  
楽 主義の人はストレスがたまりにくいです。  
rakkan-shugi no hito wa stress ga tamarinikui desu  
optimistic people don't feel too much stress
- Many hospitals are in trouble because of the lack of nurses.  
護 婦 不足でどの病院も困っています。  
kangofu busoku de dono byōin mo komatte-imasu  
nurse lack of are in trouble
- It's not fair to look at things from a biased viewpoint.  
色 鏡で物を 見るのは良くないです。  
iro-megane de mono o miru nowa yokunai desu  
biased viewpoint look at
- I can't settle down, because of insomnia.  
不 症でフラフラです。  
fuminshō de fura-fura desu  
insomnia unsteady
- "Seeing is believing," isn't it?  
「百聞は一 に見るに似たり」ですね。  
hyakubun wa ikken ni shikazu desu ne  
one hundred times listening seeing once
- When I went to the optician, I was shocked because they told me to use old people's reading glasses.  
鏡屋に行ったら老 と言われショックでした。  
megane-ya ni ittara rōgan to iware shock deshita  
optician's shop when I went presbyopia
- I have changed my view of life since the accident.  
あの事件以来 人生 が変わりました。  
ano jiken irai jinsēkan ga kawarimashita  
the accident since view of life changed

Answers	1. 観	2. 看	3. 眼/見	4. 眠	5. 見	6. 眼/眼	7. 観
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With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga