

For Pero Penguin's 5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama dokt-dokt

I went to see a movie with a friend. Afterward, when we were discussing the movie, she said, "kono ega o mitakatta node yūbe wa 'waku-waku' deshita vo (I really wanted to see this movie, so I was waku-waku last night). saisho wa 'doki-doki,' tochū kara 'hara-hara,' 'hiya-hiya,' nodo wa 'kara-kara' deshita (When the movie started, I was doki-doki. In the middle, I was hara-hara and hiva-hiva. My throat was kara-kara...?). saigo wa 'hotto' shita vo (At the end, I was hotto)." While she was asking me what I thought about the movie, I wondered if she was an alien from outer space. "waku-waku, doki-doki..." It seemed like a language spoken on another planet. I had absolutely no idea what she meant.

■ ■ I went to see the same movie. Just like your friend, I was "hara-hara" (nervous), "doki-doki" (feeling like my heart was pounding) and "hiya-hiya" (scared). When it ended, my stomach was "peko-peko" (hungry). But I'm not an extraterrestrial! In fact, these expressions are onomatopoeia. They are commonly used in cartoons and spoken by young children, and they are frequently used in daily life, as well.

Generally, onomatopoeic Japanese words are made up of repeated sounds, such as "doki-doki." Onomatopoeia is used as an adjective to describe actions, feelings and situations. It is a very handy way to convey emotions, and there are more than 2,000 onomatopoeic expressions in the language. Most phrases use onomatopoeia in various ways. I will explain the general meaning of some of them.

Tense of onomatopoeia

は Subject onomatopoeia tense

present tense

69/00

• negative tense じゃないです。

past tense

でした。 deshita

past negative tense

じゃなかった です。

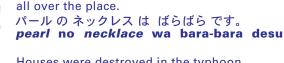
ianakatta desu

scattered/ inconsistent ばらばら bara-bara



- messy/ confused ごちゃごちゃ gocha-gocha
- 4 exhausted くたくた kuta-kuta
- 5 separately





Houses were destroyed in the typhoon. 家は台風でめちゃくちゃです。 uchi wa taifū de mecha-kucha desu

The pearls of my necklace are scattered

I'm confused. 頭の中はごちゃごちゃです。 atama no naka wa gocha-gocha desu

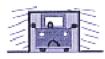
I'm exhausted after working 12 hours. 12時間 働いて くたくた です。 jū-ni-jikan hataraite kuta-kuta desu

We'd like to pay separately. 支払いはべつべつです。 shiharai wa betsu-betsu desu

- 6. empty/few peopl (ex., in a room, a shop, a train, etc がらがら gara-gara
- 7. barely/almost ぎりぎり giri-giri
- 8. not good enough more まだまだ mada-mada
- 9. sticky べたべた beta-beta
- 10. rumpled/wrinkled よれよれ yore-yore
- 11. dizzy/ with unsteady sto ふらふら fura-fura
- 12. fluently/flimsy ぺらぺら pera-pera
- 13. drenched びしょびしょ bisho-bisho
- 14. jam-packed ぎゅうぎゅう gyū-gyū



The restaurant is nearly empty. 店はがらがらです。 mise wa gara-gara desu



The car barely fit in the garage. 車はぎりぎりで車庫に入りました。 kuruma wa giri-giri de shako ni hairimashita



My Japanese is not good enough. 日本語はまだまだです。 Nihongo wa mada-mada desu

My hands are sticky with glue. 手はノリでべたべたです。





The pants were wrinkled. ズボンはよれよれでした。 zubon wa yore-yore deshita



I feel dizzy because I stayed up all night. 徹夜をしてふらふらです。 tetsuya o shite fura-fura desu



I cannot speak Japanese fluently yet. 日本語はまだぺらぺらじゃないです。 Nihongo wa mada pera-pera janai desu



(I forgot my umbrella, so) I'm drenched. 雨でびしょびしょです。 ame de bisho-bisho desu



The subway was jam-packed. 地下鉄はぎゅうぎゅうでした。 chikatetsu wa gyū-gyū deshita



Onomatopoeia

Which onomatopoeic phrase is suitable for the following sentences?

1) I had so much to drink last night that I could barely walk.

夕べは 飲み過ぎて vube wa nomi-sugite | with unsteady steps (last night) (too much drink)

dizzy/

deshita

2) Opinions are always inconsistent at meetings.

会議の時いつも意見は kaigi no toki itsumo iken wa (meeting) (when) (always) (opinion) scattered/ inconsistent

です。 desu

3) The tax hadn't been separated from the service charge.

税金 と サービス料は zēkin to service-rvo wa (tax) (and) (service charge)

separately

じゃなかったです。 ianakatta desu

4) My shirt stuck to my skin because of the humidity.

すごく 蒸し暑い ので シャツ が sugoku mushi-atsui node shirt ga (very) (humid) (so)

でした。 sticky deshita

5) Next month's schedule is already jam-packed!

来月の スケジュール はもう raigetsu no schedule wa mō (next month) (already)

jam-packed

ですよ。 desu vo

6) Most of the time, he is barely on time.

あの人 はいつも 時間に ano hito wa itsumo jikan ni (that person) (always) (time)

です。 barely/ almost desu

7) I'm exhausted because I came back from a business trip this morning and went straight to work.

けさ出張から帰ってきてそのまま会社で

shutchō kara kaette-kite sonomama (this morning)(business trip)(from) (return) (as is)

働いたので hataraita node (to work) (so)

exhausted

です。 desu

3) 5

Answers

1) 11 5) 14 2) 1 6) 7

7) 4

4) 9

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga

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