

'My nail is sweet'? つめがあまい? tsume ga amai?

Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

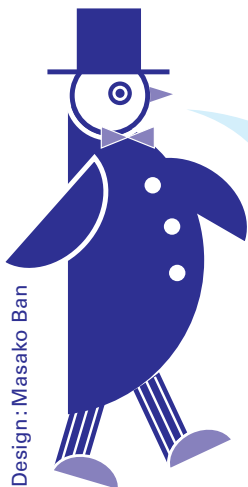


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When I was in the elevator, one of my colleagues came in and asked me how the project was going. I said, "Well, the project was almost finished, but now we've had to go back and start again." He then said, "**Pole-san wa tsume ga amai kara na**" I know "**tsume**" means "nail" and "**amai**" means "sweet"; So does he mean "my nails are sweet"? After all, I hadn't eaten any doughnuts that day, so no sugar had "sweetened" my nails. Puzzled, I responded, "**watashi no tsume wa amakunai desu**" (my nails are not sweet). He said, "**ha? chigau chigau**" (Eh! That's not what I meant), and he started to laugh. Ms. Hirayama, what did he really mean?

■■■ Do you eat doughnuts very often? They are delicious, aren't they? Recently, there has been a doughnut boom in Japan, and I see many stores offering all kinds of doughnuts. Oops, sorry...I'm getting off the subject. What he meant by saying "**tsume ga amai**" was that your project did not end in the way it was supposed to.

Design: Masako Ban



Let me introduce expressions featuring the four basic "tastes" in today's lesson.

酸っぱい Sour
suppai

- (1) to tell something over and over again / to give a warning
口を酸っぱくして言う (注意する)
kuchi o suppakushite iu (chūi suru)
(to give the same counsel over and over again. It implies a negative meaning.)

辛い Hot
karai

- (2) outspoken criticism
辛口の批評
karakuchi no hihyō
(a biting criticism)
- (3) dry / salty
辛口
karakuchi
- (4) a drinker
辛党
karatō

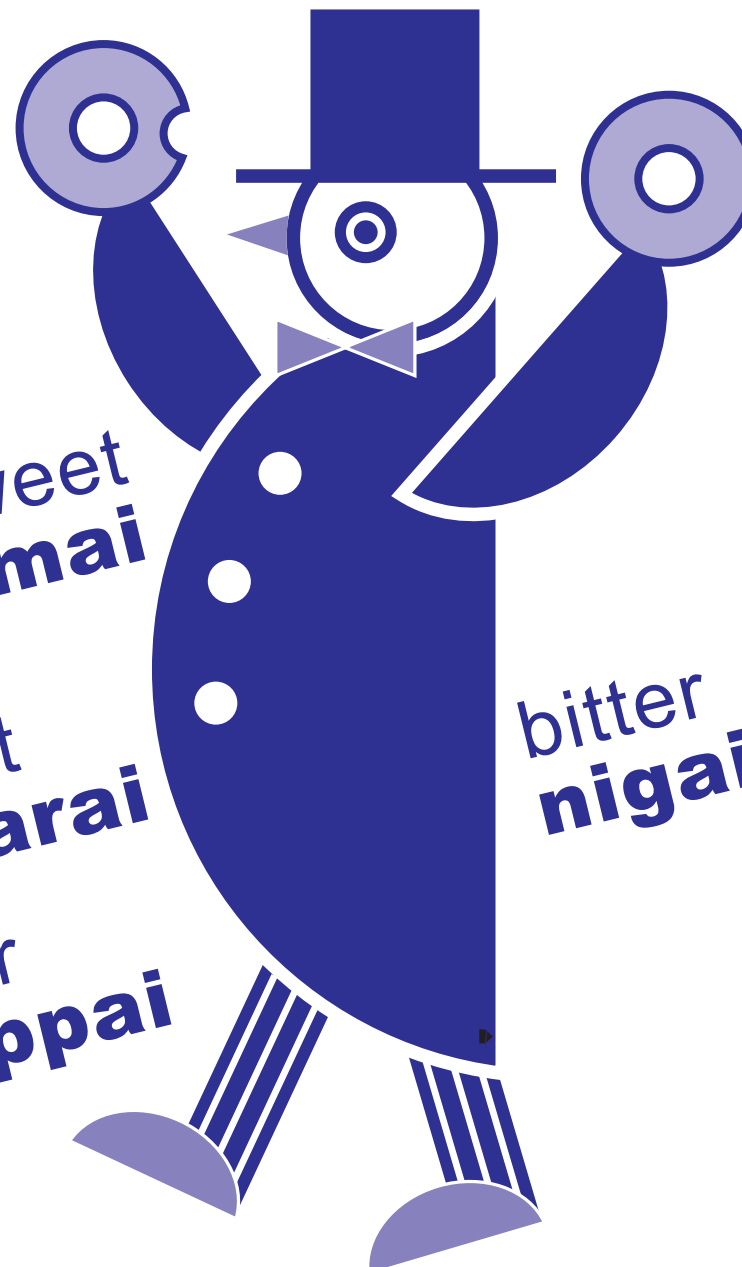
苦い Bitter
nigai

- (5) bitter experience
苦い経験
nigai kēken
(Bitter and hard experiences that one does not even want to recall)

(6) wry smile
苦笑い
nigawarai

甘い Sweet
amai

- (7) weak conclusion
詰めが甘い
tsume ga amai
- (8) to underestimate
甘く見る
amaku miru
- (9) to have a sweet tooth
甘党
amatō
- (10) sweet / mild
甘口
amakuchi
- (11) to spoil
甘やかす
amayakasu
- (12) sweet talk
甘い言葉
amai kotoba
(Flattering or seductive words)
- (13) superficial idea
甘い考え
amai kangae



Choose one of the 13 expressions to complete the following sentences.

- (A) I became a guarantor and had a bitter experience.
保証人になって をした。
hoshōnin ni natte o shita
- (B) I underestimated my opponent and lost the match.
相手を te form 試合に負けた。
aite o shiai ni maketa
- (C) Mothers are too indulgent of their children these days.
最近の母親は子供を 過ぎです。
saikin no hahaoya wa kodomo o masu form sugi desu
- (D) I was sweet-talked into investing.
 に乗って投資をしたら失敗した。
 ni notte tōshi o shitara shippaishita
- (E) If you have such superficial ideas, your studies will be a failure.
そんな では留学は無理ですね。
sonna dewa ryūgaku wa muri desu ne
- (F) When I gave my proposal to the general manager, he rejected it and said that the conclusion was weak.
企画書を出したら部長に と突き返された。
kikakusho o dashitara buchō ni to tsukikaesareta
- (G) Outspoken criticism of the new administration appeared in today's morning newspapers.
今朝の新聞に新政権について が載っていた。
kesa no shimbun ni shinsēken ni tsuite ga notteita
- (H) Ito-san, a dental hygienist, is always telling her patients to brush their teeth.
歯科衛生士の伊藤さんは患者に“歯を磨くよう”にと
shikaēsēshi no Itō-san wa kanja ni "ha o migaku yō ni" to

Answers

- (A) - (5) (B) - (8) **amaku mite** (C) - (11) **amayakashi** ~~masu~~ (D) - (12) (E) - (13)
(F) - (7) (G) - (2) (H) - (1)