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# 一肌脱ぐ? hitohada nugu?

## "take a piece of skin off"?

One of my colleagues, Mr. **Ikeda**, has to translate materials into English. He was stressed out yesterday because he is not good at English. When we had lunch together, he said, "I have to finish my work by this evening, but it's impossible!" Then, barely touching his lunch, he returned to work. When Mr. **Akimoto** heard that, he said, "**Pole-san, hitohada nuide agetara?** (Mr. Pole, why don't you take a piece of skin off?)" I was surprised and asked him, "**ima?** (Now?) **koko de?** (You mean here?) **nugimasu ka?** (Do you want me to take my clothes off?)" Mr. **Akimoto** started to laugh and said, "**fuku o nugun ja arimasen yo!** (Don't take your clothes off!)" Did I misunderstand something, again?



Yes! But don't worry, Mr. Pole, "**hitohada nugu**" means "to lend a helping hand." You don't really have to take your clothes off! The word "**hitotsu**" is combined with other words to create different meanings. Here are some phrases that show up frequently in daily life.

Insert the appropriate characters below the exercises into the square.

— → e.g., —  (hitotsu) → (hitotsu)

In a Japanese sentence, this may be written in **hiragana** as "ひと."

1) What feels like a long time ago  (past)

2) Being remarkable in comparison with others  (verge)

3) A glance  (eye)

4) Making a short statement  (say)

5) A single digit, first digit (One digit)  (digit)

6) Sweating, working hard (A good sweat)  (sweat)

7) A short period  (leg)

8) A little more effort  (breath)

1) One size up/down (One size larger/smaller)  (round)

2) At least, on the whole  (throughout)

3) A little bit, a small amount  (grip)

4) A lot of hard work (Having a hard time)  (travail)

5) Gaining a certain amount of profit at once  (profit)

6) Taking a short rest  (rest)

7) Being relieved for the moment  (relief)

8) To tweak  (tweak)

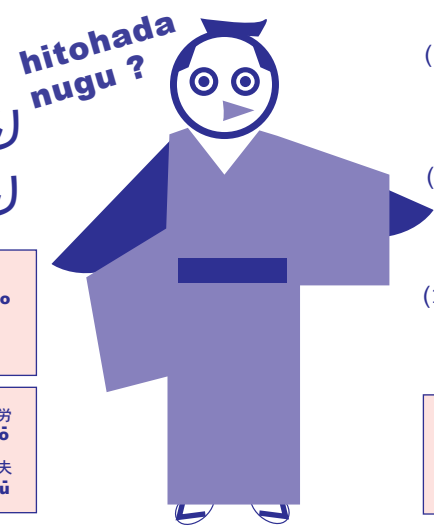
休み 工夫 苦勞 握り  
安心 通り 儲け 回り

Answers to exercise at left:

1) 一言	2) 一際	3) 一目	4) 一言
hitomukashi	hitokiwa	hitome	hitokoto
5) 一桁 (けた)	6) 一汗	7) 一足	8) 一息
hitoketa	hitoase	hitoashi	hitoiki

Answers to exercise above:

1) 一回り	2) 一通り	3) 一握り	4) 一苦勞
hitomawari	hitotōri	hitonigiri	hitokurō
5) 一儲 (もう) け	6) 一休み	7) 一安心	8) 一工夫
hitomōke	hitoyasumi	hitoanshin	hitokufū



Insert the appropriate words to complete the following sentences.

- That's the old way of thinking!  
それは  前の考え方ですよ。  
**sore wa  mae no kangaekata desuyo**
- Before I bought it, I got a rough explanation, but I've forgotten everything.  
買う時に  の説明を受けたが、すっかり忘れてしまった。  
**kautoki ni  no setsumē o uketa ga sukkari wasurete shimatta**
- After hearing the news, I was momentarily relieved.  
ニュースを聞いて  しました。  
**News o kīte  shimashita**
- I had a hard time explaining it.  
説明するのに  しました。  
**setsumē suru noni  shimashita**
- There are only a handful of people who receive this honor.  
この恩恵を受けられるのは  の人です。  
**kono onkē o ukerareru no wa  no hito desu**
- Excuse me, but do you have the next size up?  
すみません、 大きいのありますか?  
**sumimasen  okī no arimasu ka?**
- (Talking to a colleague) Excuse me for leaving early!  
 お先に!  
 **osaki ni !**
- With a bit of tweaking, it was changed beyond recognition.  
 したら見違えるようによくになりました。  
 **shitara michigaeru yō ni yoku narimashita**
- I can tell just by looking that you are parent and child!  
 で、親子とわかるくらい似ていますね!  
 **de oyako to wakaru kurai nite imasu ne**
- Sir, please give us a word!  
社長  お願いします。  
**shachō  onegaishimasu**

Answers:

(1) 一言	(2) 一通り	(3) 一安心	(4) 一苦勞	(5) 一握り
hitomukashi	hitotōri	hitoanshin	hitokurō	hitonigiri
(6) 一回り	(7) 一足	(8) 一工夫	(9) 一目	(10) 一言
hitomawari	hitoashi	hitokufū	hitome	hitokoto

息 足 昔 汗 目 桁 際 言