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なかみ INSIDE



LIKE TO BUY IN BULK?

You're not alone if you go crazy buying up your favorite manga or DVD series. Hiroko Yamafuji says it in trendy Japanese. [Page 2](#)



"SAFE PUN, JEAN!"

Err... how about "fun Japanese!" Wordplay expert Yutaka Aso entertains again with an anagram-filled poem of his own. [Page 4](#)



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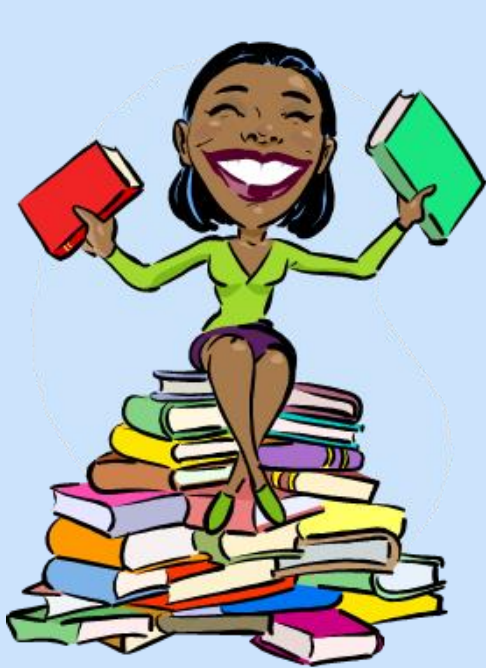
当世流行り言葉

お と な が

大人買い

A: ^み見て ^{ぼん}見て！ワンピースのマンガ本、^{ぜんかん}ついに全巻、**大人買い**しちゃった！

B: すっ、すごいね。



大人買い ^きということばを聞いたことがありますか。

大人買い ^ことは、^{おとな}子どもの^かとき^{もの}には^{しかた}できなかった、^{ひと}大人に^{けいざいりよく}しかできない^{むちゅう}買い物の^い仕方の一つです。
大人になって^{いちど}経済力が^{たいりょう}ついてから、^い夢中になっている物を一度に大量に買うことを言います。

^{たと}例えば、^きお気に入りの^いマンガ本を一度に全巻
買ったり、^つおもちゃ付きの^{かし}お菓子をケースで
買ったりすることなどです。^{ころ}子どもの頃、^{おとな}だれもが「大人になったら、ぜひやってみたい!!」
^{ゆめ}と夢見た^{かた}買い方でしょう。

^{わたし}私は、^{あきはばら}よく秋葉原へ^い買い物に行きます。そこで、アニメやアイドルのグッズなどを
大人買い ^{ひと}する人^みをよく見かけます。

^{まえ}この前、私は、^{むすこ}息子といっしょに秋葉原のおもちゃ屋さんへ行きました。息子は、
^{だいす}大好きなアニメのおもちゃが^つ付いているお菓子を見て「全部欲しい！」と言いました。
しかし、私は、「ダメだよ。一つだけにしなさい。」と言いました。そのとき、私たちの前
に^{すがた}スーツ姿の^{だんせい}男性が^き来ました。そして、その男性は、そのアニメのおもちゃ付きお菓
子^{のこ}を1つも残らず、ケースで買って行ってしまいました。息子は、それを見て悔しそうに
^{ひとこと}一言、^{はや}言いました。「ぼくも早く大人になりたい・・・。」



YAMAFUJI Hiroko
Nihongo-Pro Teacher

Yamafuji-sensei teaches private lessons at all levels except introductory, as well as JLPT N3 and Basic 2 group classes.

Yamafuji-sensei lives in the heart of Tokyo, and teaches at a well-known Tokyo-area Japanese language school.

Yamafuji-sensei enjoys a variety of Japanese traditions, including *mikoshi-katsugi* (carrying portable shrines during festivals) and wearing kimonos. She has also achieved the 3-dan (third grade) in *kendo* (fencing).

Her teaching style uses the direct method, where instruction and explanation are in Japanese as much as possible. Yamafuji-sensei also speaks Chinese.

Popular Word: *Otona-gai* (“buy like there’s no tomorrow”)

A: Hey, look! I bought up every issue of that manga *ONE PIECE*!

B: Wow, that’s incredible.

Have you ever heard the word “*otona-gai*”? *Otona-gai* refers to a way of buying things that only adults—not children—can do. All grown up and with some financial freedom, only an adult can go crazy buying lots of stuff all at once. That’s *otona-gai*. (Translator’s note: “*Otona-gai*” literally means “adult buying” or “buying by an adult”.)

For example, it’s buying all the issues of one’s favorite manga in one fell swoop, or buying a case of candy that comes with a free toy. It’s a way of buying we all dreamt about as children: “I want to do that when I grow up!”

I often go shopping in [Akihabara](#), and often see people *otona-gai* buying anime, idol merchandise, and so on.

Last time, my son and I went to a toy store in Akihabara. He saw some candy that came with an anime toy and said, “I want it all!” However, I told him, “No way—pick just one.”

At that point, a man dressed in a suit stepped in front of us. Leaving not one behind, he bought the entire case of candy and toys and then left. My son looked on unhappily and said simply, “I can’t wait till I’m grown up.” (Translator’s note: A more literal translation is, “I want to become an adult, like him, soon.”)



HOW TO LEARN KANJI

- ➔ **Write!** You may never need to write kanji by hand, but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t practice writing. Writing kanji is a fast way to learn kanji—and remember them!
- ➔ **Read!** Even if you don’t know many kanji, there are free tools to help you read Japanese. [Pop Jisyo](#) and [Rikai](#) will pop up the pronunciation and meaning of the word under your mouse. Or, paste Japanese text into [Reading Tutor](#), and it will make a nicely formatted vocabulary list.



Try our [free kanji games](#)! Easy kanji lookup with animated stroke orders, too!



CLICK ME!

おもしろい日本語<3>

はじめに 短い詩を読んでみましょう。これは私が昔、東京で日本語学校に勤めていたとき、作った詩です。



ASO Yutaka

Nihongo-Pro Teacher

Aso-sensei, a veteran instructor with decades of teaching experience, teaches private lessons at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. He also teaches JLPT N3 and JLPT N4 group classes.

In between lessons, you are likely to find Aso-sensei fishing, writing poetry, or, when the season is right, mountain-climbing.

シンガポールの学生が帰りがけ

先生の部屋をのぞいて言った

大きな声で

「あ・た・ま・し・た！」

あたました？

頭、下？

いぶかる顔に

あわてて

「ノー、ノー、あ・し・た・ま・た」

あ・た・し・ま・た

まちがいました

この詩では、「あ」「し」「ま」それに2つの「た」で、3つの意味のちがうことばが作られています。「あたました」と「あしたまた」と「あたしました」ですね。漢字を使うと、「頭、下」「明日、また」「あたし（「私」のくだけた言い方）、また」となります。こんなふうに、単語または文の中の文字をいくつか入れ替えて別のことばを作ることば遊びを「アナグラム(anagram)」と言います。英語にもたくさんありますね。例えば、“one plus twelve : two plus eleven”とか、“Statue of Liberty : built to stay free”などは有名なアナグラムです。

昔見たアメリカの映画で、隣に住んでいる男の人の名前をいろいろ入れ替えると悪魔の名前になり、実はその人は本当に悪魔だったという場面がありました。私の名前は「ゆたか」ですが、このアナグラムは？そうです、「浴衣」ですね。よくからかわれました。

では、最後に問題。宮崎駿監督アニメの初期の傑作、「風の谷のナウシカ」を入れ替えると、どんなちがう言葉になるのでしょうか。難しいかな。

答えは次のページにあります。

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Fun(ny) Japanese No. 3

Let's start with a short poem I wrote way back when I worked at a Japanese language school in Tokyo.

A student from Singapore, about to go home for the day,
Popped his head in the teacher's room,
And, in a loud voice, said
"A-ta-ma-shi-ta!"

A-ta-ma-shi-ta?
Atama (head), shita (underneath)?
With a doubtful look,
I hurriedly said,
"No, no, a-shi-ta-ma-ta"

A-ta-shi-ma-ta
machigai shita (made a mistake). (Translator's note: see below for explanation.)

Check out these anagram sites:



アナグラム自動作成 creates Japanese anagrams from 8 to 10 hiragana characters.



Internet Anagram Server creates anagrams in English, such as "safe pun, Jean" for "fun Japanese".

In this poem, words with three different meanings are formed from *a*, *shi*, *ma*, and two *ta*'s: *atama-shita*, *ashita-mata*, and *atashi-mata*. Written in kanji, they are 「頭、下」(Head, underneath), 「明日、また」(see you tomorrow), and 「あたし、また」(I, again). (*あたし* is an informal way of saying 私 .) Rearranging letters like this to make new words is a form of word play called an anagram. English has many anagrams as well—a couple of famous ones are: "one plus twelve : two plus eleven", "Statue of Liberty : built to stay free".

In an American movie I once saw, the name of the guy next door could be rearranged into a demonic name, but the fact was that guy was an evil-doer. My own name "Yutaka" can be anagrammed into guess what—yes, "yukata" (summer-season robe). I get teased about it a lot.

Alright now, let's finish with a problem. If you take director [Hayao Miyazaki](#)'s early masterpiece *「風の谷のナウシカ」* ([Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind](#)) and rearrange the characters, what do you get? Kinda tough? The answer is below.

Translator's note: The final two-line stanza of the poem has two alternative meanings:

- 1) The student says (or thinks), "I made a mistake again."
- 2) Trying to repeat the correction from the teacher, the student incorrectly says, "A-ta-shi-ma-ta". The teacher then says (or thinks), "He missed it (made a mistake)."



The Answer (see Aso-sensei's article)

のうか した
なぜか農家の下に
nazeka nouka no shita ni
For some reason, under the farm house