

日本語のことわざ JAPANESE PROVERBS

みの あたま さ いなほ
実るほど頭の下がる稲穂かな
 minoru hodo atama no sagaru inaho kana
THE BOUGHS THAT BEAR MOST HANG LOWEST

This means, "Great people act humble." It also shows how modesty is important in Japanese culture, especially as you gain more knowledge and skill.

おも おや かね
いつまでもあると思うな親と金
 itsumademo aru to omou na oya to kane
PARENTS AND MONEY WILL NOT BE THERE FOREVER

A blunt but kind reminder to be independent and thrifty, and not take things for granted. When was the last time you showed your appreciation for your family or loved ones? Let them know!

かほう ね ま
果報は寝て待て
 kahou wa nete mate
GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO (SLEEP AND) WAIT

No, this does not mean you should just sleep and wait for good things to happen—it means that after you have done everything you can, do not worry and just wait patiently for the good result!

9月 | September

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

10月 | October

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

11月 | November

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

12月 | December

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

うおごころ みずごころ
魚心あれば水心
 uogokoro areba mizugokoro
IF A FISH IS KIND TO THE WATER THE WATER WILL BE KIND TO THE FISH

There are lots of ways to interpret this proverb, but it is a good reminder to show kindness to others, and that kindness is reciprocated.

あめふ じかた
雨降って地固まる
 ame futte ji katamaru
EARTH HARDENS WHEN IT RAINS

A hope-inspiring proverb that says difficulties make you stronger, and that after the storm comes calm. What other proverbs similar to this can you find in English?

じゅうにんといろ
十人十色
 juunintoiro
TEN PEOPLE TEN COLOURS

Similar to "Different strokes for different folks," this means that everyone is different and has their own tastes and ways of thinking, and all deserve respect.

1月 | January

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2月 | February

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

3月 | March

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

4月 | April

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

あぶはちと 虻蜂取らず
虻蜂取らず
 abu hachi torazu
CATCHING NEITHER THE HORSEFLY NOR THE BEE

"If you go after two different goals at the same time, you will get neither." It is important to have a clear goal and not try to pursue everything at once. Do you know a similar proverb in Japanese involving rabbits?

いちごいちえ 一期一会
一期一会
 ichigo ichie
ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME ENCOUNTER

Originating in Japanese tea ceremony (茶道 sadou), this is a reminder that life is temporary. Because each moment can never be repeated, we are encouraged to cherish and show sincerity and appreciation for every gathering we have and every person we meet, such that we will have no regrets.

さる き お 猿も木から落ちる
猿も木から落ちる
 saru mo ki kara ochiru
EVEN A MONKEY CAN FALL OFF A TREE

Nobody is perfect—anyone can make mistakes, and that is okay. Even monkeys (that are very good at climbing trees) can fall off sometimes, so no matter how good you are at something, stay humble and do your best.

5月 | May

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

6月 | June

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

7月 | July

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

8月 | August

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Japanese Language Learning Resources by the Japan Foundation

Challenge with Erin

HIRAGANA KATAKANA KANJI

APPS

Memory Hint

MARUGOTO Plus Japanese Learning

ひろがる

hironaru-nihongo.jp

JF Japanese e-Learning

みなと

minato-jf.jp

アニメマンガ 日本語

anime-manga.jp

日本語能力試験 JLPT

nihongodecarenavi.jp

Portal for Learning Japanese

nihongo-e-na.com

国際交流基金

にほんご できます。

erln.jp.go.jp/en

IRODORI Japanese Online Course

irodori-online.jp.go.jp