

6

花鳥風月

kachou fuugetsu

"THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE."

This one is really interesting. The kanji each represent one beautiful aspect of nature:

花: "Flower"
鳥: "Bird"
風: "Wind"
月: "Moon"

But together, it represents the beauty of everything around us. It serves as a reminder to enjoy the great outdoors.

9

7

猫に小判

neko ni koban

"GOLD COINS TO A CAT."

This saying refers to giving something of value to someone who does not appreciate it. The English equivalent would be "casting pearls before swine." I prefer the image of giving gold to a cat. No animal seems more indifferent than a cat.

2

8

相手のない喧嘩はできない

aite no nai kenka wa dekinai

"YOU CAN'T FIGHT WITHOUT AN OPPONENT."

This proverb means basically the same thing as "it takes two to tango." There can't be a fight without both parties, so neither party is innocent.

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9

水に流す

mizu ni nagasu

"THE WATER FLOWS."

This Japanese proverb is like the English expression "water under the bridge." It means to forgive and forget, and let things go.

6

10

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異体同心

itai doushin

"TWO BODIES, SAME HEART."

When a couple gets married, it's often said that "two become one." That's the same idea here!

It could be used to say someone is your soulmate or to describe the union of love.

9

7

口は災いの元

kuchi wa wazawai no moto

"THE MOUTH IS THE SOURCE OF DISASTER."

Running our mouths tends to get us into trouble, doesn't it? The saying is a reminder to, more or less, shut your trap. Because sometimes, it's better to not say anything at all.

2

8

死人に口なし

shinin ni kuchinashi

"DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES."

Someone who's been killed can't reveal big secrets, so that's where this phrase comes in. Sounds like something the yakuza (Japanese mafia) might say, huh?

8

9

知らぬが仏

shiranu ga hotoke

"NOT KNOWING IS BUDDHA" OR
"IGNORANCE IS BLISS"

I love this Japanese idiom. It might seem confusing at first, but let me explain. Buddha here represents nirvana - the state of enlightenment. To be in a state of enlightenment, you have to give up earthly concerns and be at peace.

6

10

弱肉強食

jakuniku kyoushoku

"THE WEAK ARE MEAT" OR
"SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST"

Hardcore! This one means the same as the English saying "survival of the fittest", but it sounds way more diabolical.

10

6

雨降って地固まる

ame futte chikataru

"WHEN IT RAINS, EARTH HARDENS" OR
"ADVERSITY BUILDS CHARACTER"

9

7

継続は力なり。

keizoku wa chikara nari

"CONTINUING ON IS POWER," OR
"DON'T GIVE UP."

Even when things get hard, pushing through leads to power and strength. That's why this Japanese proverb means, "There's strength in continuing on. Don't give up."

2

8

猪突猛進

chototsumoushin

"CHARGE HEADLONG."

It's funny because this saying is calling someone a "wild boar". But that's how boars act, isn't it? They're stubborn and charge head-first.

8

9

SUPPORTING YOUR FRIENDS
IN JAPANESE

応援しています
(OUEEN SHITE IMASU)

応援しています (OUEEN SHITE IMASU) phrase translates to "I'm supporting you" or "I'm rooting for you." It's warmer and more personal, often used when you want to express ongoing support for someone's endeavors, such as a friend involved in a long-term project or embarking on a new venture.

This is the neutral polite way to say it. If you want to show close friends or family members support, you can change it to 応援している (OUEEN SHITE IRU).

6

10

井の中の蛙大海を知らず

i no naka no kawazu taikai wo shirazu

"A FROG IN A WELL KNOWS NOTHING OF THE SEA."

This famous Japanese quote means someone sees the world through their limited perspective. They're quick to judge and think very big of themselves. It's used to remind someone that there are things bigger than them in the world.

10

6

出る杭は打たれる

derukui wa utareru

"THE NAIL THAT STICKS OUT IS STRUCK."

This one is so culturally unique to Japan.

Japanese society is a collectivist country, meaning people are expected to work together for the greater good of all. While that's a good thing, it can also lead to a lot of conformity and resistance to change.

This saying means "When you stick out, you're likely to get criticized." Those who try to be different in Japan often meet with a lot of resistance. So, this phrase is quite common.

9

7

疑心暗鬼

gishin'angi

"SUSPICION WILL RAISE BOGIES."

Feel like someone's watching you? Are you "jumping at shadows"? That's where this Japanese saying comes in. If you're looking for demons in the dark, you'll find them.

2

8

見ぬが花

minu ga hana

"NOT SEEING IS A FLOWER,"
"REALITY IS NEVER AS GOOD AS YOUR
IMAGINATION"

This is one of those Japanese proverbs that would be confusing to hear without context.

The idea is, you can picture how beautiful the flower will be when it blooms... But often your imagination builds up the beauty of this flower and the reality doesn't compare.

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J

Kintsugi

In Japan, broken objects are often repaired with gold. The flaw is seen as a unique piece of the object's history, which adds to its beauty. Your healing is your story. Fix yourself with love.

(金継ぎ)

f

Q

Shikata ga nai
(仕方がない)

- Acceptance of the Situation

Accept things as they are and take action without overthinking. Don't let perfectionism stop you—progress is better than waiting for the perfect moment.

0

K

Ikigai (生き甲斐)

- Finding Purpose

Identify your purpose by connecting tasks to what you love, what you're good at, and what benefits others. A sense of meaning makes it easier to stay motivated.

K

Q

武士道
Bushido

Your mind is your best weapon

0

K

Eliminate distractions – your mind is your greatest weapon.

©Rare Broad Mentality

K

A

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V

2

危機一髪
kiki ippatsu

"A CLOSE CALL"
OR "IN THE NICK OF TIME"

Almost got in an accident? Phew! "危機一髪!" That was a close call.

This has the nuance of "a close call with death" or "a close shave" but it's also used like "just in the nick of time," too.

7

3

HI
HELLO
HELLO ON THE PHONE
GOOD MORNING
GOOD EVENING
YOOHOO
HEY
YO!
HOW ARE YOU?
HOW'S IT GOING?

やあ!
こんにちは
もしもし
おはようございます
こんばんは
ヤッホ
おす!
よー!
お元気ですか
調子はどうですか



8

4

酒は本心を表す
sake wa honshin wo arawasu

"SAKE SHOWS TRUE FEELINGS."

The word 本心 (honshin) means "true heart" or "true feelings." So this phrase means that what's said while drinking is often how a person truly feels.

A mumbled 大好き (daisuki, "I love you") while drinking isn't just the sake talking!

7

5

八方美人
happou bijin

"EVERYBODY'S FRIEND."

This isn't a positive idiom, but rather, to describe someone who tries to please everyone. They try to be everyone's friend, and so they're not loyal to anyone.

9

A

負けるが勝ち
makeru ga kachi

"TO LOSE IS TO WIN."

Ever feel like it's a lose-lose situation? Well, that's where this proverb comes in. The wisdom it shares says that it's sometimes better to lose and avoid worse conflict than to continue foolishly fighting.

V

2

馬鹿は死ななきゃ治らない
baka wa shinanakya naoranai

"AN IDIOT CAN'T BE CURED
OF IDIOCY UNLESS THEY DIE."

Talk about harsh! This saying more or less means "you can't fix stupid" but... more intense.

7

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4

石の上にも三年
ishi no ue nimo san'nen

"3 YEARS ON A STONE."

If you stay consistent and stick with it through hard times, eventually things will change. That's the meaning behind this Japanese proverb.

Think of the stone as your strength and perseverance foundation. If you continue to sit there and stick with it, things will slowly get better.

7

5

あほに取り合うばか
aho ni toriau naka

"ONLY A FOOL DEALS WITH A FOOL."

9

A

自業自得
jigoujitoku

"SELF-WORK, SELF-PROFIT."

Depending on how this phrase is used, it could mean something more positive like "you get what you give" or "hard work pays off."

But most of the time, it's used negatively to mean "what goes around comes around". Because karma.

V

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7

3

自ら墓穴を掘
mizukara boketsu wo horu

"DIG YOUR OWN GRAVE."

8

4

花より団子
hana yori dango

"DUMPLINGS OVER FLOWERS" OR
"SUBSTANCE OVER STYLE"

7

5

鯛も一人はうまからず
taimo hitori wa umakarazu

"EVEN A SEA BREAM LOSES ITS FLAVOR WHEN
EATEN ALONE."

Sea bream is considered to be one of the tastiest fish, and it's often eaten whole with others as a shared family dish.

So even though sea bream is delicious, eating it alone isn't good.

This saying shows Japan's emphasis on shared meals with friends and family, and how it's always better to eat food with those you care about.

9

A

三日坊主
mikka bouzu

"A MONK FOR 3 DAYS."

This expression describes someone who's an inconsistent worker or lacks the determination to see something through. They're like the person who chooses to be a monk and gives up after only 3 days.

V

2

猿も木から落ちる
saru mo ki kara ochiru

"EVEN MONKEYS FALL FROM TREES."

If monkeys can fall from trees, even the great can fail. This phrase means, "nobody's perfect, but keep trying anyway."

7

3

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4

悪戦苦闘
akusenkutou

"AN UPHILL BATTLE."

This idiom can also mean "a hard fight" or "struggle" -- anything where the odds are against you, and it'll be difficult to overcome!

7

5

以心伝心
ishindenshin

"HEART TO HEART."

This yojijukugo phrase means "heart to heart" or to share your true heart's emotions to connect with someone else.

9

J

GOOD LUCK
IN JAPANESE

頑張って
(GANBATTE)

The phrase 頑張って (GANBATTE) is one of the most common ways to wish someone good luck in Japanese. Roughly equivalent to "do your best" or "hang in there," it's a versatile expression of support used among close friends and family. While it doesn't directly translate to "good luck," its underlying sentiment conveys encouragement to put forth one's best effort, no matter the circumstance.

It's a bit informal, so if you need to use it with someone higher ranking than you or someone you don't know well, just add ください (KUDASAI) to it. So it'll be 頑張ってください (GANBATTE KUDASAI).

f

Q

HOW TO SAY
"GOOD EVENING"
IN JAPANESE

こんばんは
(KONBANWA)

In the evening, greet others by saying こんばんは (Konbanwa). It's a polite and formal way to say "good evening." You can use this with almost anyone, but it's definitely more common to greet friends and family with a more informal greeting.

Find more Japanese greetings in the linked article!

9

K

Every day is a battle – show up
and win.





K

Q

Pain is temporary, but discipline
lasts forever.





9

K

Hansei (反省)
– Self-Reflection

Practice self-reflection daily. Review what went well, where you fell short, and how you can improve the next day. This builds discipline over time.





K

J♣

♣

King

Kaizen (改善)

-Continuous Improvement

Focus on small, consistent actions. Start with just 1 minute of a task daily, like stretching or organizing, to build momentum and reduce resistance.



♣

King

f

J♥

♥

King



It's not about being better than someone else, it's about being better than you were the day before.

♥

King

f

JOKER



JOKER

JOKER



JOKER

