

よじじゅくご
四字熟語

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Level

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いちじょういちげ

up and down

一
上
一
下

みつかてんか

short-lived rule;
governments and power
are fleeting

三日天下

しょうかいっしん

coming together as one
regardless of social
status

上 下 一 心

いっせいちだい

once in a lifetime

一世一代

じゅうにんといろ

to each his own;
different strokes for
different folks

十人十色

うみせんやません

sly old dog; old fox

海 千 山 千

かちょうふうげつ

the beauties of nature

花鳥風月

ばじとうふう

utter indifference;
talking to a wall; in one
ear and out the other

馬耳東風

はっぽうびじん

everyone's friend

(Caution! typically
meant in a derogatory
way; imagine someone
who is nice to your face
and mean behind your
back)

八方美人

しちてんはつき

fall seven times, get up
eight

(Note: this is a
condensed version of a
proverb and can also
be read the same as the
proverb ななころびや
おき)

七 轉 八 起

いしんでんしん

tacit understanding;
telepathy;
communicating without
speaking

以心伝心

いちごいちえ

once in a lifetime
encounter

(Note: This is actually
used as the Japanese
title of Forrest Gump)

一期一会

いちもんいっとう

answering question by
question; exchange of
questions and answers

一問一答

ぜんちぜんのう

omniscient and
omnipotent

全知全能

はんしんはんぎ

half in doubt;
half-convinced;
dubious; incredulous

半信半疑

ききゅうそんぼう

life-and-death matter;
an emergency or crisis
where survival is
threatened

危急存亡

ぜぜひひ

free and unbiased; fair
and just; calling a
spade a spade

是々非々

たしゅたよう

diversity; a great
variety of

多種多様

じごうじとく

you reap what you sow;
paying for one's
mistakes

自業自得

しんきいってん

changing one's
attitude; turning over a
new leaf

心機一轉

たいぎめいぶん

just cause; good reason

大義名分

いんがおうほう

retribution; just
desserts

因果応報

ぎしんあんき

jumping at shadows;
once you suspect one
thing, everything will
look suspicious

疑
心
暗
鬼

せんさばんべつ

an infinite variety of;
being extremely varied
and wide-ranging

千差万别

ふへいふまん

discontent and
grumbling

不平不滿

うおうさおう

moving about in
confusion; going every
which way

右往左往

ぜんとたなん

having many difficulties
in store; grim prospects

前途多難

きそうてんがい

fantastic; bizarre;
incredible

奇想天外

あんちゅうもさく

groping in the dark;
exploring new avenues
without having any
clues

暗中摸索

てきざいてきしよ

the right person in the
right place

適材適所

しんしょうぼうだい

exaggeration; making a
mountain out of a
molehill

針小棒大

じがじさん

singing one's own
praises

自
画
自
贊

ひょうりいったい

two sides of the same
coin

表裏 一 体

しょうまつせつ

unimportant details

枝葉末節

ゆだんたいてき

unpreparedness is one's
greatest enemy

油断大敵

きゅうたいいぜん

remaining unchanged
(from the old state of
things)

旧態依然

りんきおうへん

resourcefulness; playing
it by ear

臨機応変

てきぜんとうぼう

desertion in the face of
the enemy; deserting
under enemy fire

敵前逃亡

あんちゅうひやく

behind-the-scenes
maneuvering

暗中飛躍

さいしょくけんび

being gifted with both
intelligence and beauty

才色兼備

たにんぎょうぎ

in a reserved manner;
treating a friend as a
stranger; unduly
distant; formal

他人行儀

てんかむそう

unrivaled; peerless

天下無雙

しりめつれつ

illogical; inconsistent;
disjointed

支離滅裂

ききいっぱつ

by a hair's breadth; in
the nick of time; close
call

危
機
一
髮

ぜんしんぜんれい

complete devotion;
body and soul

全身全靈

ざんしんきばつ

novel; unconventional;
cutting-edge

斬新奇拔

きどあいらく

human emotions (joy,
anger, pathos, and
humor)

喜怒哀樂

いちもうだじん

round-up (e.g. of
criminals); wholesale
arrest; catching the
whole herd with one
throw

一網打尽

しつじつごうけん

unaffected and sincere,
with fortitude and
vigor

質実剛健

ゆうしょうれっぱい

survival of the fittest

優勝劣敗

うちょうてんがい

beside oneself with joy;
in an ecstasy of delight

有頂天外

しんしゅつきぼつ

appearing in
unexpected places and
at unexpected
moments; elusive;
phantom

神出鬼没

ざんぎやくむどう

inhumanity; atrocity

殘虐無道

しっぷうじんらい

with lightning speed

疾風迅雷

かじんはくめい

the good die young

佳人薄命

てんいむほう

perfect beauty with no
trace of artifice;
flawless

天衣無縫

しんらばんしょう

all things in nature; the
whole creation

森羅万象

じゅんぷうまんぱん

smooth sailing

順風滿帆

おんこうとくじつ

having a gentle and
sincere personality

溫厚篤實

ひがいもうそう

persecution complex;
paranoia

被害妄想

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Another little book by
Coneko Press