Body parts

Hello, in this vocab overview we actually won’t be really covering and/or clarifying any of this week’s vocab which is largely about body parts and family members because it’s all pretty straight forward

* Now since there’s not really much that needs to be clarified for the vocabulary of this week
* I’ll be taking the opportunity in this video to demonstrate, something I used to have a big problem with, why you should be very careful when you’re trying to express yourself with idioms
* For those who don’t know a idiom is a phrase like “a chip of the old block” or “beating around the bush”
* So phrases those meaning can’t be taken literally like you it’s…
* Which brings us to the word “首”
* I chose this word because it shows pretty clearly why you can’t always, and be mindful when you’re trying to use an English idiom in another language
* Take the idiom “Cutting off the head”
* Now if trying to say this in Japanese you would rightfully assume that it would be something like this:
* However this is not right, if you want to convey the meaning that cutting off the head has in English
* Instead you would say:
* The reason for this is just simply a different view on the same idea, which can happen in differing cultures and can sometimes be, like here, be reflected in the language used
* So we who may have grown up in a Western or heavily westernised culture may see, when we think of the phrase ‘cutting off the head’ in the literal sense as well the head of something or…hopefully not really, coming off
* But the same image can be interpreted differently by someone growing up in Japan, after all your literally cutting the neck not the head of say the chicken
* And so that’s why we have a difference in expressing this idea in the English and Japanese
* This is why when you want to say your fired in Japanese you say:
* So “Your neck is cut”
* Or in English, we really wouldn’t use it but you’ll get the idea: “Your head is cut off”
* Both giving the same expression that your lifeline is gone really
* So what to take from this? This is definitely a problem that plagues people who are still thinking English in their heads and then translating, which is common in beginners
* But something I’ve tried to alleviate as I’ve explained in my Week 1 video when I was explaining about image associations
* That if you’re thinking of an expression/idiom, to make sure your understood, make sure you look it up or find its equivalent in a dictionary before using it
* I’ve made a pdf of some common phrases and their Japanese equivalents which you can find just below this video just to make it easier for you guys
* But note I personally hardly if ever use them in my conversations, because and this is leading into my next point, that if you’re stuck or unsure just avoid using it and find another way to say what you want to say in a more literal sense
* Speaking new languages is a lot of this, thinking in news ways and finding…
* I just wanted to bring this up so you your aware, because some of these idioms are that ingrained in our day to day speech that you may not be making as much sense as you think you are
* And if you ever do wonder if a phrase you want to use is an idiom, just the meaning make any sense literally? This should help you with about 80% of them

And that’s it for this video, if you’ve got any questions, as always, please put a comment down below or email me by my email which you can find on the courses homepage. I’ll see you guys in the next video.