

Strategic Japanese: Giving responses—Aizuchi words

1 List

f..formal, c..casual, b..both

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|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. hai, ee : yes/formal[f] | 12. tashikani : certainly [b] |
| 2. un, aa : yup,yah/casual[c] | 13. zettai? : absolutely [c] |
| 3. sō, sōdesuka : yeah,is that so? [c,f] | 14. sono tōri : exactly [c] |
| 4. yosasō : sounds good/both[b] | 15. honto ni?, maji de?, hē? : really? [b,c,c] |
| 5. sō omou : I think so [b] | 16. sō nano? : is that so? [c] |
| 6. desunē : it is! [b] | 17. osoraku, tabun : probably [b,b] |
| 7. ee mattaku : totally [b] | 18. kamo : can be, could be [c] |
| 8. ii, iidesune : ok [b] | 19. kamoshirenai : can be, could be [b] |
| 9. iiyō : ok, you can/I will [c] | 20. sore wa yokatta : that's good, cool [b] |
| 10. naruhodo : I see [b] | 21. daro? : see? it's right! [c] |
| 11. sokka : I see [c] | 22. desho? : see? I knew it! [c] |

2 Game

1. Make a three member group.
2. A says an aizuchi-word to B, B says an aizuchi-word to C, C says an aizuchi-word to A. Repeat this as quickly as possible.
3. Who failed to say any words as quickly as possible, will lose the game.

3 Activity

Chat with your partners with aizuchi words with the following topics.

1. An impression of this class: kono kurasu dou?.
2. An impression of Japanese people: nihonjin dou omou?.
3. An impression of prices of foods in Japan: tabemono no nedan dou omou? takai?.
4. An impression of Japanese anime: anime suki?.

4 Discussion

1. What other Aizuchi words do you know? Share them with us.
2. How many times aizuchi words can you continue to use, and how many times more can you not use? Discuss the limits of aizuchi words.
3. Besides aizuchi words, what other techniques can be used to keep the conversation going?