

Ready to improve your listening, reading, kanji, and vocabulary?

MAKOTO+ HAS IT ALL, TRY IT FOR FREE!!!

TRY TODAY
7-Day Free Trial



JAPANESE VOCABULARY

0 Comments

April 19, 2023

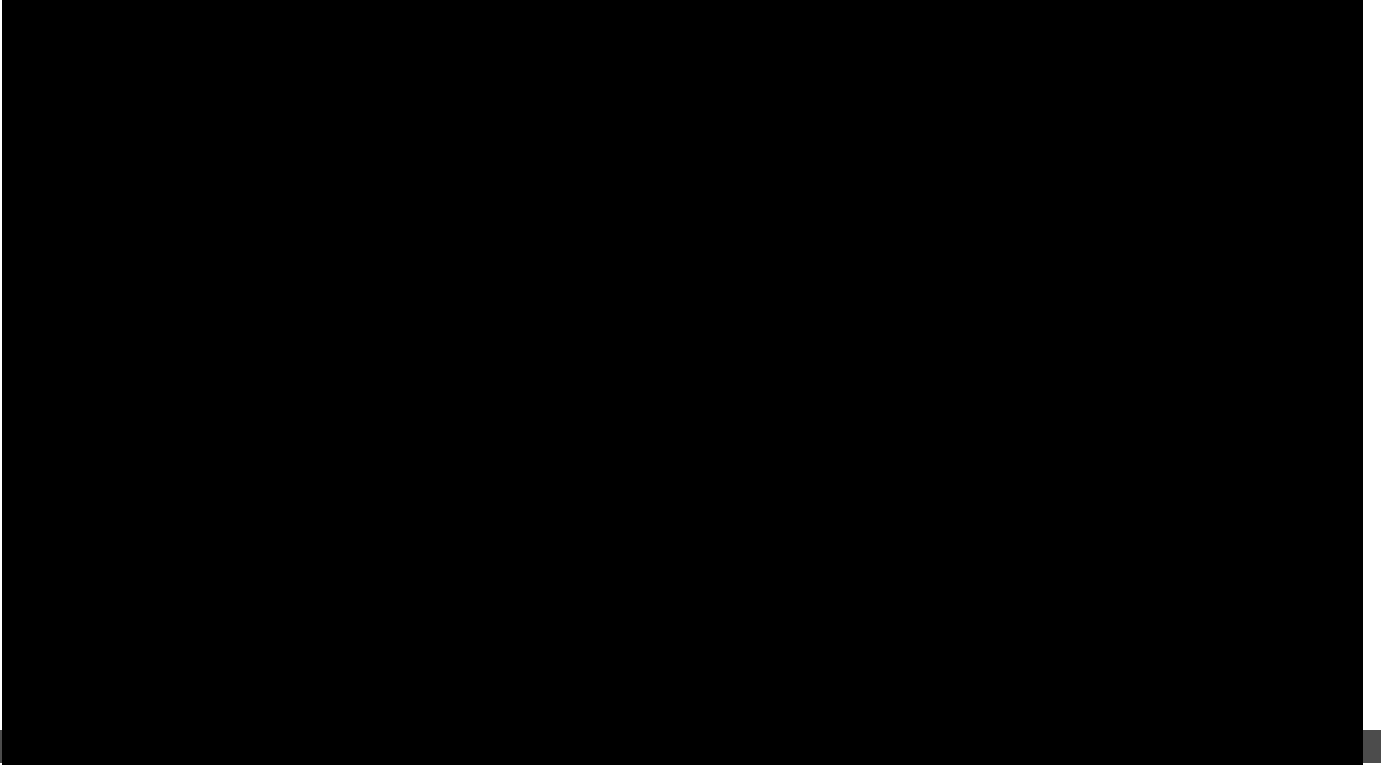


Expressing Astonishment in Japanese [Beginners – Upper Beginners]



Get our Newsletter + Free Kanji eBook

Print This Page



BONUS DOWNLOAD
FOR MAKOTO+ AND
PATREON MEMBERS

Makoto+ Members, [click here to download](#) all the sound files and a PDF with even more words and more example sentences. Practice makes perfect!

[Click Here for Bonus Content](#)

[Not yet a member? Let's fix that! It's cheap and full of benefits!](#)

About



Here are a few useful ways to express astonishment or incredulity about something difficult to imagine or comprehend. They are all useful for Japanese conversation. Mix them up to give your conversational skills an upgrade.

The List

The following list of phrases and variations are all used in conversation when showing surprise or astonishment.



うそ！

[casual] you're joking! I can't believe it [literally, "lie!"]



ほんとう？, ほんとうに？ or ほんとに？

[casual] really? are you serious? [literally, "true"]



まじで

[casual] seriously? for real? [literally, "with seriousness"; informal]



やばい！

[casual] not good; it's bad; oh no!; wow!; amazing!; that's sick (in a good way) [literally, "dangerous" or "terrible" but today it can also be used to mean, "terrific" or "amazing"; when

showing astonishment, it can have both positive and negative connotations: you don't say! really?!

That's horrible! That's great!; informal]



信じられない

I can't believe it; unbelievable; incredible [literally, "Unable to believe"]



信じられないほど

an unbelievable amount; unbelievably; to an incredible extent [literally, "to the extent of unbelievability"]



想像もつかない

unimaginable; beyond one's imagination [literally, "imagination can't stick"]



想像できない

unimaginable; beyond one's imagination [literally, "can't imagine"]



想像を絶する

beyond imagination or unimaginable [literally, “imagination cut off”]



想像を遥かに超える

far beyond imagination [literally, “surpasses far beyond imagination”]



想像が及ばない

beyond one's wildest imagination [literally, “imagination can't reach”]



想定外

beyond expectations; unexpected [literally, “outside assumption”]



予想外

unexpected; unforeseen [literally, “outside estimation”]



不可思議

mysterious; inexplicable; baffling; perplexing [literally, “not possible conjecture”]



予想もできない

unpredictable or unimaginable [literally, “can’t even predict”]



言葉にできない

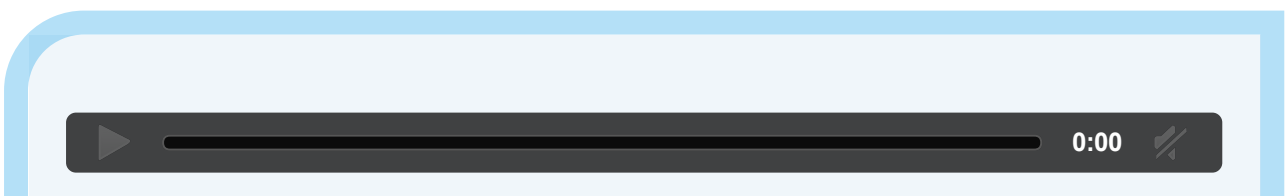
indescribable or inexpressible [literally, “can’t (express) in words”]

Explanation and Example Sentences

This page has example sentences with complete vocabulary breakdowns for about half of the above words. If you would like more example sentences, please [become a Makoto+ member](#) (Samurai or Shogun) and you can instantly download a PDF with more example sentences plus all the sound files. [Click here for this Makoto+ member exclusive bonus.](#)

うそ！

[casual] you’re joking! I can’t believe it [literally, “lie!”]



うそ！そのニュース本当に驚きだね。

Are you serious?! That news is really surprising.

▶ Vocabulary



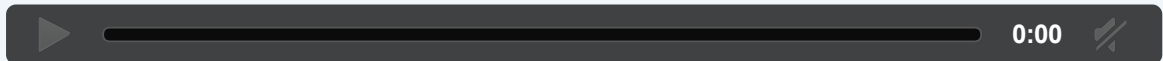
えっ、彼女と別れた？うそでしょ！

Wait, you broke up with your girlfriend? Are you serious?!

▶ Vocabulary

ほんとう？ or ほんとうに？

[casual] really? are you serious? [literally, "true"]



ほんとう？君がプロジェクトリーダーに選ばれたの？

Really? You were chosen as the project leader?

▶ Vocabulary



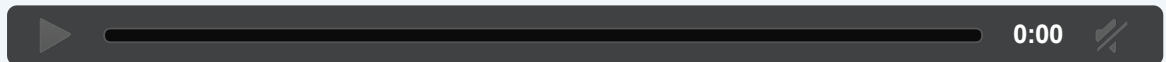
このケーキは彼が作ったんだって？ほんとう？

He made this cake? Really?

▶ Vocabulary

まじで

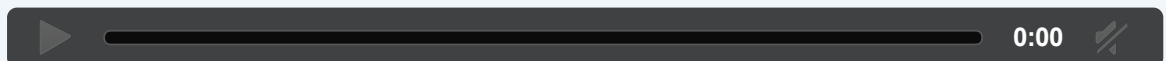
[casual] seriously? for real? [literally, “with seriousness”; informal]



彼女がまじで有名人とデートしてるって？

She's really dating a celebrity? Seriously?

▶ Vocabulary



まじで、このアプリは無料で使えるの？

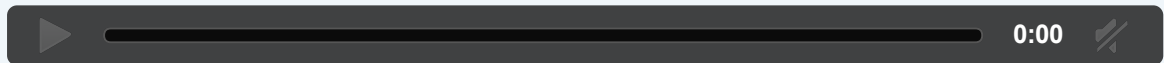
For real, this app can be used for free?

▶ Vocabulary

やばい！

[casual] not good; it's bad; oh no! wow! amazing! that's sick (in a good way) [literally, "dangerous" or "terrible" but today it can also be used to mean, "terrific" or "amazing"; when showing astonishment, it can have both positive and negative connotations: you don't say! really?! That's horrible! That's great!; informal]

Good meaning:

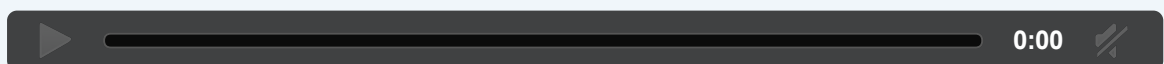


やばい、このラーメンは本当に美味しい！

Wow, this ramen is seriously delicious!

▶ Vocabulary

Bad meaning:



やばい、会議に遅刻しそうだ！

Oh no, I'm going to be late for the meeting!

▶ Vocabulary

信じられない

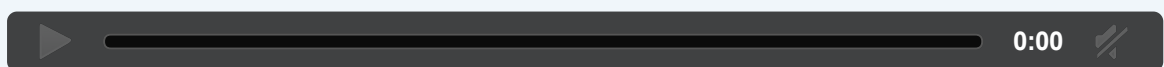
I can't believe it; unbelievable; incredible [literally, "Unable to believe"; *なんて* (such a thing as) is often used for emphasis]



信じられない、彼が会社を辞めることになったなんて。

I can't believe he's quitting the company.

▶ Vocabulary



信じられないほどの美しい景色だ。

The scenery is so beautiful, it's unbelievable.

▶ Vocabulary

信じられないほど

an unbelievable amount; unbelievably; to an incredible extent [literally, “to the extent of unbelievability”]

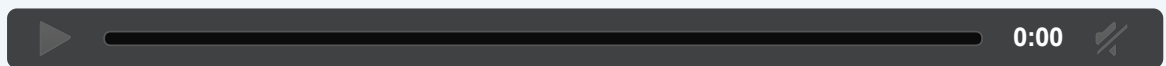
Enter your text here...



信じられないほどの大雪で、街中が真っ白になった。

There was such an incredible amount of snow that the entire town turned white.

▶ Vocabulary



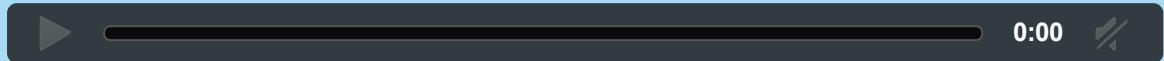
彼女の歌声は信じられないほど美しくて感動した。

Her singing voice was so unbelievably beautiful that it was very moving.

▶ Vocabulary

想像もつかない

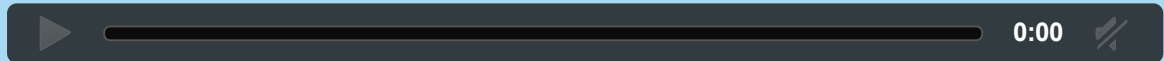
unimaginable; beyond one's imagination [literally, “imagination can’t stick”]



彼がそんなに速く走れるなんて、想像もつかなかった。

I never could have imagined that he could run so fast.

▶ Vocabulary



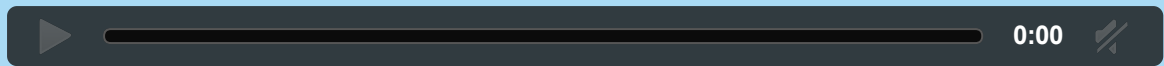
この新型ロケットの性能は、想像もつかないほど高い。

The performance of this new rocket is unimaginably high.

▶ Vocabulary

想像できない

unimaginable; beyond one's imagination [literally, “can’t imagine”]



この映画のストーリーは想像できないほど複雑だ。

The story of this movie is so complex that it's unimaginable.

▶ Vocabulary



彼女の成長は想像できないほど速かった。

Her growth was so fast that I couldn't have imagined it.

▶ Vocabulary

想像を絶する

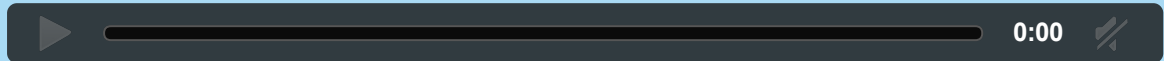
beyond imagination or unimaginable [literally, "imagination cut off"]



想像を絶するほどの暑さで、外に出るのが困難だった。

The heat was so unbearable that it was difficult to go outside.

▶ Vocabulary



この絶景は想像を絶するほど美しい。

This breathtaking view is so beautiful that it's beyond imagination.

▶ Vocabulary

Want more?

Makoto+ members can download a PDF with many more similar expressions with example sentences.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Expressing



COMMENTS

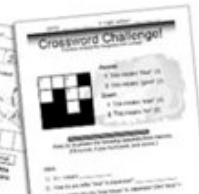
- The more you say these examples, the easier it will be to use these forms in conversation. Shadow and repeat after the sound files as much as possible.
- If you are a Makoto+ member, [please click here for a PDF with more examples and all the sound files for this lesson](#). Not a member? [Click here to learn more about Makoto+](#), our magazine and membership site.

Sharing is caring!



Level up your Japanese!

Grab your **FREE** copy of our **HIRAGANA** eBook





Join our Newsletter for discounts, lessons, and get another **FREE eBook**:
Includes **PDF**, **ePub**, Kindle **MOBI**, and **FREE sound files**.

Download For FREE

FOR TOTAL BEGINNERS

JLPT **N5** Beginner

初心者
BERI- BERI- SHOSHINSHA

For Total Beginners of Japanese

13-BOOK BUNDLE (+ WORKSHEETS)

This 13-book study guide + worksheets bundle is ON SALE. For just one-time payment only, you will get this bundle for a very low price plus you will get future contents for free (no additional charge).

[Click Here Now](#)

66

Easy to follow and understand

This bundle is perfect for absolute beginners. It's thorough without being wordy, giving you exactly enough information to understand the concepts without overloading you with information.

TheJapanShop.com Customer

MAKOTO+ MEMBERSHIP



You'll notice many TheJapanesePage.com lessons have bonus content for Makoto+ Members. Well, membership goes well beyond that. Members also get our monthly magazine for learners of Japanese (Beginners to Intermediates), weekly exclusive lessons, Podcast bonus content, and much more.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

“ Your website (Makoto+) is easy to use, has lots of authentic, interesting language and I LOVE all of the audio clips for practicing.

Current Makoto+
Member

About The Japanese Page

Since 1999, The Japanese Page (TJP) has helped thousands and thousands of people get a start with Japanese. With its free Japanese lessons online and now its [Makoto+ membership club](#), we want TJP to be your quality source for learning Japanese. Many, many thanks to all our wonderful Makoto+ members and [TheJapanShop](#) customers who make TJP possible.

Free Downloads

- [Free Hiragana, the Basics of Japanese](#)
- [Free Kanji \(100 Most Essential Japanese Kanji\)](#)
- [Makoto Japanese e-Zine #1](#)

[Follow & Subscribe:](#)

- [Facebook](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Pinterest](#)
- [Linkedin](#)

For Inquiries Contact Us!

- [Via Contact Form](#)
- [Via Messenger](#)

Subscribe to Makoto+ today. [Click here to learn more.](#)

