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What day is donichi?

My friends and I were making plans to go to an onsen (a hot spring) together. One of them asked me, "donichi isogashi desu ka?" (Are you busy on donichi?) I didn't know what donichi meant, but I didn't want to embarrass myself, so I told her that I would be busy. Another friend told us that donichi was better for her, but we finally decided to go to the onsen on a weekday. I preferred the weekend to a weekday. Why did they choose the weekday? Is donichi a special day?

Pera Pera Penguin's

5 minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama Vol. 24

■■■ No, donichi is not a special day. I think foreigners probably say, getsu-yōbi to sui-yōbi (Monday and Wednesday) in Japanese. But Japanese people prefer to use a shorter term in their daily conversations, such as ges-sui, which is the combination of getsu-yōbi and sui-yōbi. Another example is kā-kin, the combination of ka-yōbi (Tuesday) and kin-yōbi (Friday). I think you've got the point by now. Yes! donichi is the combination of do-yōbi (Saturday) and nichi-yōbi (Sunday). Let me show you the days of the week with kanji.

Shōkē moji (pictographic characters): Shōkē moji originated with an image of the object / objects (in some cases, concepts) and shows highly pictographic features.

Even if you cannot write the kanji, try to memorize the shapes, so you can recognize the corresponding characters.

sun, day		日 にち nichi	Sunday	日曜日 にちようび nichi-yōbi	Sunday originated with sun and day.
moon		月 げつ getsu	Monday	月曜日 げつようび getsu-yōbi	Monday originated with moon.
fire		火 か ka	Tuesday	火曜日 かようび ka-yōbi	Tuesday originated with fire.
water, liquid		水 すい sui	Wednesday	水曜日 すいようび sui-yōbi	Wednesday originated with water and liquid.
tree, wood		木 もく moku	Thursday	木曜日 もくようび moku-yōbi	Thursday originated with trees, plants and wood.
gold, money		金 きん kin	Friday	金曜日 きんようび kin-yōbi	Friday originated with gold, money and metal.
soil, land		土 ど do	Saturday	土曜日 どようび do-yōbi	Saturday originated with soil, land and ground.

Let's practice! How to pronounce the days of the week:
 getsu, ge (Monday), kā (Tuesday), sui (Wednesday), moku (Thursday), kin (Friday), dō, do (Saturday), nichi (Sunday)
 (tips: The words kā and dō should be pronounced with a long vowel.)

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Wednesday and Sunday | 5. Sunday and Monday |
| 2. Friday and Saturday | 6. Thursday and Saturday |
| 3. Monday and Tuesday | 7. Monday and Wednesday |
| 4. Tuesday and Friday | 8. Monday and Thursday |
- Answers
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|--------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. sui-nichi | 2. kin-dō | 3. getsu(gek)-kā | 4. kā-kin | 5. nichi-getsu | 6. moku-dō | 7. ges-sui | 8. getsu-moku |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|------------|---------------|

----- Kanji -----

<p>日</p> <p>A) everyday occurrences / daily happenings</p> <p>日常茶飯事 にちじょうさはんじ nichi jō sa han ji (day)(always)(tea)(meal)</p>	<p>月</p> <p>B) a quitter (a person who cannot finish what he starts)</p> <p>三日坊主 みっかぼうず mik ka bō zu (three days) (boy)</p>	<p>火</p> <p>E) There's no smoke without fire.</p> <p>火のない所に煙りは立たない ひ ところ けむ た hi no nai tokoro ni kemuri wa tatanai (fire) (without) (place) (smoke)</p>	<p>水</p> <p>F) like oil and water (being incompatible with each other)</p> <p>水と油 みず あぶら mizu to abura (water)(and)(oil)</p>	<p>土</p> <p>J) at the last minute / at the critical moment</p> <p>土壇場 どたんば do tan ba (soil)(platform)(place)</p>
<p>金</p> <p>H) being unable to see the forest for the trees</p> <p>木を見て森を見ず き み もり ki o mite mori o mizu (tree) (look at) (forest) (not see)</p>	<p>日</p> <p>C) the date of birth</p> <p>生年月日 せいねんがっぴ sē nen gap pi (birth)(year)(month)(day)</p>	<p>木</p> <p>I) Money comes and goes. / Easy come, easy go.</p> <p>金は天下の回り物 かね てんか まわ もの kane wa tenka no mawarimono (money) (the world)(round)(things)</p>	<p>月</p> <p>D) rapid progress / constant advancement</p> <p>日進月歩 にっしんげつぽ nis shin gep po (day)(advanced)(month)(step)</p>	<p>水</p> <p>G) to forgive and forget (to wipe the slate)</p> <p>水に流す みず なが mizu ni nagasu (water) (flush)</p>

日月火水木金土

- Please write down your date of birth here.
 ここに the date of birth を書いて下さい。
 koko ni o kaite-kudasai
 here please write
- Computer technology is making rapid progress.
 コンピューターの世界は rapid progress です。ね。
 computer no sekai wa desu ne
 world
- I changed my mind at the last minute.
 last minute で気が変わりました。
 de ki ga kawarimashita
 change one's mind
- It is dangerous if you can't see the forest for the trees.
 unable to see the forest for the trees は危険です。
 wa kiken desu
 dangerous
- I forgive you and forget what you did to me in the past.
 もう過去の事だから to forgive and forget
 mō kako no koto dakara (masu-form)
 already past matter because
- Their quarrel is an everyday occurrence.
 あの人の口喧嘩は everyday occurrence です。
 ano hito-tachi no kuchigenka wa occurrence desu
 that person quarrel
- My husband and I are getting along well, even though our personalities are like oil and water.
 私達夫婦は like oil and water ですが、
 watashi-tachi fūfu wa desu-keedo
 we husband and wife but
 仲が良いです。
 naka ga i desu.
 relationship good
- (talking to a friend who has money problems)
 Don't be so sad! Money comes and goes, you know!
 そんなに大きなため息をつかないで。 Money comes and goes, you know
 sonnani ōkina tameiki o tsukanaide desu!
 like that big sigh don't
- I believe it is true, because there's no smoke without fire.
 there's no smoke without fire と言いますから本当でしょう。
 to imasu kara hontō deshō
 say so true I'm sure
- I knew he couldn't keep it up. He always quits.
 やっぱり続かない... いつも quitter なんだから。
 yappari tsuzukanai ... itsumo nan-dakara
 as I expected not continue always because

Answers

1. C)	2. D)	3. J)	4. H)	5. G)	6. A)	7. F)	8. E)	9. B)	10. I)
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