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ばか? baka? (crazy?)

馬鹿? baka?

バカ? baka?

Pera Pera Penguin's 5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama Vol. 68

While I was at my office, Mr. Tsunoda called me on the phone, and said, "Please come here for a minute." So, I went to see him right away. Mr. Tsunoda, who was holding the door of the conference room, said, "**dōmo baka ni natchatta mitai de** (I guess it's been so stupid)." I was shocked, and asked him, "**e? baka ni natta?** (Huh? [You] have gone crazy?)" He said, "**sō senjitsu kara abunai to omottetara yappari baka ni natchatte** (Yes, I noticed it the other day, and I knew that it would happen someday.)" I couldn't think of what I should say to him, so I just told him, "**daijōbu desu yo, baka ni natte imasen yo!** ([You] will be OK, [you are] not crazy!)." Then, he got upset and said, "Why do you think this is OK?," and he started banging the door. Why did he get upset?

In this lesson, let's study some frequently used terms derived from "**baka.**"

If a certain condition/situation is more than usual or if the degree is more than you expected, you may feel confusion or doubt. The word "**baka**" is used to express such thought. It is often added to adjectives.

Extremely
ばかに + adjective
baka ni

Practice

1. This house rent is extremely cheap, I wonder why...

家賃は ばかに けど、何か訳があるのかな・・・。
yachin wa baka ni kedo nani ka wake ga aru no kana...

2. My husband is always late, but he came back home extremely early. Why was that?

いつも帰りが遅い主人が ばかに 帰って来たがどうして?
itsumo kaeri ga osoi shujin ga baka ni kaettekita ga dōshite?

3. This winter has been abnormally warm, probably because of global warming.

冬だというのに ばかに のはたぶん温暖化の影響ですね。
fuyu dato yū noni baka ni nowa tabun ondanka no ēkyō desu ne

4. Recently, my wife has been extremely kind to me; I wonder what she has in mind.

最近の妻は ばかに が、何か下心があるのでは。
saikin no tsuma wa baka ni ga nani ka shitagokoro ga aru no dewa

5. No wonder his song was so much better than average, I was told that he used to be a singer.

歌が ばかに だと思ったら、元歌手なんだってさ。
uta ga baka ni dato omottara moto kashu nandatte sa

6. It is far noisier than usual outside, so I'll go out and check it out.

外が ばかに ので、ちょっと見て来ます。
soto ga baka ni node chotto mite kimasu

7. Mr. Tsunoda looks extremely happy, doesn't he? What happened to him?

角田さん ばかに ね。何かいいことあったのかな?
Tsunoda-san baka ni ne nani ka iikoto atta no kana?

8. Yukiko is extremely industrious, today. It's not like her usual self.

ばかに だね。いつもの由紀子ちゃんじゃないみたいだね。
baka ni da ne itsumo no Yukiko-chan ja nai mitai da ne

9. No wonder it is extremely busy, today. It's the end of the month.

きょうは ばかに と思ったら月末ですね。
kyō wa baka ni to omottara getsumatsu desu ne

10. This meat is extremely tough. What kind of meat is this?

この肉 ばかに ね、何の肉?
kono niku baka ni ne nan no niku?

Answers

1. yasui 2. hayaku 3. atatakai 4. yasashi 5. jōzu 6. sawagashi
7. ureshisō 8. majime 9. isogashi 10. katai

◆ The following phrases are used as idioms.

A No small matter ばかにならない
baka ni naranai It seems very insignificant, but it cannot be ignored or downplayed.

B Become loose ばかになる
baka ni naru Its original function is lost, and it becomes useless. (e.g., screws, hinges, buckles, zippers, etc.)

C That's ridiculous! そんなばかな
sonna baka na When unbelievable or shocking things happen, this phrase is used to say, such as "It can't be! / No way! / No kidding!"

D Nonsense ばかばかしい
bakabakashī unreasonable, absurd

E Don't be ridiculous! ばかなことを言うな
baka na koto o iu na To deny strongly what the other person says.

F How stupid I was! ばかなことをした
baka na koto o shita When the speaker has done some stupid or thoughtless thing.

G Geek or someone ばか
baka A person who is single-minded or accomplished in particular pursuits, but is felt to be socially inept.

Study geek: 学者ばか **gakusha baka**
Specific-field geek: 専門ばか **senmon baka**
Blind parental love: 親ばか **oya baka**



Practice:

Enter the appropriate word (A through G in the center column; some modification may be necessary) in the rectangular.

1. (In a drama on TV)

Man: I'm going to divorce my wife, so marry me!
妻と離婚するから結婚してくれ!
tsuma to rikon suru kara kekkon shite kure!

Woman: Don't be ridiculous!

2. It is nonsense to wait for five hours to buy a ticket for a concert.

コンサートのチケットを買うのに5時間も並ぶのは です。
concert no ticket o kau no ni go-jikan mo narabuno wa desu

3. One pack of cigarettes costs only ¥200, but if I count the cost for a year, it's no small matter.

タバコは1箱200円だが、1年で見ると です。
tobacco wa hitohako nihyaku-en da ga ichinen de miru to desu

4. The buckle of my bag got loose, so I had it repaired.

バッグの留め金が ので、直した。
bag no tomegane ga node naoshita

5. I think it is too late to regret what I have done, how stupid I was!

今さら後悔しても遅いですが 。
imasara kōkai shitemo osoi desu ga

6. That's ridiculous! I won the lottery, but I lost the ticket!

! 当たった宝くじの券を落とした!
 ! atatta takarakuji no ken o otoshita!

7. Spending that sort of money for children must be motivated by blind parental love.

子供にあんなにお金をかけるなんて ですね。
kodomo ni annani okane o kakeru nante desu ne

Answers

- 1 - E (baka na koto o iwanai de) 2 - D 3 - A 4 - B (baka ni natta)
5 - F (baka na koto o shiteshimatta) 6 - C or F 7 - G (oya baka)