

Common Japanese Idioms

120 flashcards · 2026-07-08

Yak Yacker · yakyacker.com

How to print these flashcards

1. In your printer dialog, choose Print on both sides / Duplex.
2. Set flip on the LONG edge (portrait / top binding).
3. Print the whole PDF in order – each front page is followed by its matching back page on the next sheet side.
4. Optional: print the cover page single-sided if your printer offers it.
5. Cut along the card borders.

頭が切れる

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頭が上がらない

yakyacker.com

顔が広い

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顔が立つ

yakyacker.com

顔に出る

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口が軽い

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口が堅い

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口がうまい

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口に合う

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well-connected; know many
people

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can't hold one's head up;
feel indebted or inferior

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sharp-minded; very clever

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talkative; unable to keep
secrets

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show on one's face

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save face; one's
reputation is preserved

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suit one's taste

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smooth-talking; good at
flattery

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tight-lipped; keeps
secrets

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耳が痛い

yakyacker.com

耳に入る

yakyacker.com

目が高い

yakyacker.com

目がない

yakyacker.com

目に入る

yakyacker.com

目を通す

yakyacker.com

目を疑う

yakyacker.com

鼻が高い

yakyacker.com

鼻につく

yakyacker.com

have a good eye; good
judgment

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hear about; come to one's
ears

yakyacker.com

painfully true; hard to
hear

yakyacker.com

glance through; read over

yakyacker.com

come into view; catch
one's eye

yakyacker.com

have no resistance to; be
crazy about

yakyacker.com

be irritating; get on
one's nerves

yakyacker.com

be proud of; feel honored

yakyacker.com

doubt one's eyes; be hard
to believe

yakyacker.com

胸がいっぱい

yakyacker.com

胸を張る

yakyacker.com



腹が立つ

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腹を割る

yakyacker.com

腹が黒い

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気が合う

yakyacker.com

気が強い

yakyacker.com

気が弱い

yakyacker.com

気が重い

yakyacker.com

get angry

yakyacker.com

stand tall; be proud

yakyacker.com

filled with emotion

yakyacker.com

get along well; be
compatible

yakyacker.com

sly; having a black heart

yakyacker.com

speak frankly; open up

yakyacker.com

feel heavy-hearted;
reluctant

yakyacker.com

timid; weak-willed

yakyacker.com

strong-willed; assertive

yakyacker.com

気が利く

yakyacker.com

手が足りない

yakyacker.com

手が出ない

yakyacker.com

手を貸す

yakyacker.com



手を抜く

yakyacker.com

足を引っ張る

yakyacker.com

足が出る

yakyacker.com

足が遠のく

yakyacker.com

首になる

yakyacker.com

can't afford; can't bring
oneself to act

yakyacker.com

be short-handed; not have
enough hands

yakyacker.com

be considerate; attentive

yakyacker.com

hold someone back; hinder

yakyacker.com

cut corners; slack off

yakyacker.com

lend a hand; help out

yakyacker.com

be fired; lose one's job

yakyacker.com

stop going; drift away
from visiting

yakyacker.com

go over budget; run a
deficit

yakyacker.com

首を長くする

yakyacker.com

肩を持つ

yakyacker.com

肩の荷が下りる

yakyacker.com

猫の手も借りたい

yakyacker.com

猫をかぶる

yakyacker.com

犬猿の仲

yakyacker.com

馬が合う

yakyacker.com

狐につままれる

yakyacker.com

手が焼ける

yakyacker.com

feel relieved after a
burden is lifted

yakyacker.com

take someone's side;
support

yakyacker.com

wait eagerly

yakyacker.com

bitter enemies; like cats
and dogs

yakyacker.com

act innocent; hide one's
true nature

yakyacker.com

be so busy that any help
would be welcome

yakyacker.com

be hard to handle;
troublesome

yakyacker.com

be baffled by something
strange or uncanny

yakyacker.com

get along well; click
with someone

yakyacker.com

骨が折れる

yakyacker.com



腰が低い

yakyacker.com

腰が重い

yakyacker.com

舌を巻く

yakyacker.com

手に負えない

yakyacker.com

息が合う

yakyacker.com

顔を出す

yakyacker.com

足を運ぶ

yakyacker.com

頭に来る

yakyacker.com

slow to get started;
reluctant to act

yakyacker.com

humble; polite and
respectful

yakyacker.com

be hard work; be tiring

yakyacker.com

to be in sync; to work
well together

yakyacker.com

beyond one's control;
impossible to handle

yakyacker.com

to be astonished; to be
impressed

yakyacker.com

to get angry; to be
irritated

yakyacker.com

to go out of one's way to
visit

yakyacker.com

to show up briefly; to
drop by

yakyacker.com

耳を傾ける

yakyacker.com

口を出す

yakyacker.com

手を打つ

yakyacker.com

腹を決める

yakyacker.com

目を離す

yakyacker.com

鼻を折る

yakyacker.com

肩を落とす

yakyacker.com

頭を抱える

yakyacker.com

顔から火が出る

yakyacker.com

to take measures; to
reach an agreement

yakyacker.com

to interfere; to butt in

yakyacker.com

to listen carefully; to
pay attention

yakyacker.com

to humble someone; to cut
someone down to size

yakyacker.com

to take one's eyes off

yakyacker.com

to make up one's mind; to
resolve

yakyacker.com

to be extremely
embarrassed

yakyacker.com

to be at a loss; to be
worried

yakyacker.com

to be crestfallen; to be
disappointed

yakyacker.com

口が滑る

yakyacker.com

耳が遠い

yakyacker.com

目が回る

yakyacker.com

鼻であしらう

yakyacker.com

胸をなでおろす

yakyacker.com

腹が据わる

yakyacker.com

気が散る

yakyacker.com

手が込む

yakyacker.com

足を洗う

yakyacker.com

to be extremely busy; to
feel dizzy

yakyacker.com

hard of hearing

yakyacker.com

to let something slip

yakyacker.com

to be calm and resolute;
to have guts

yakyacker.com

to feel relieved

yakyacker.com

to treat with contempt;
to dismiss coldly

yakyacker.com

to quit a bad habit or
shady business

yakyacker.com

to be elaborate; to be
intricately made

yakyacker.com

to get distracted

yakyacker.com

首を突っ込む

yakyacker.com

油を売る

yakyacker.com

鯖を読む

yakyacker.com

猫に小判

yakyacker.com

鬼の居ぬ間に洗濯

yakyacker.com

棚に上げる

yakyacker.com

二階から目薬

yakyacker.com

釘を刺す

yakyacker.com

口を酸っぱくする

yakyacker.com

to fudge numbers; to lie
about age or figures

yakyacker.com

to waste time; to loaf
around

yakyacker.com

to poke one's nose into
something

yakyacker.com

to ignore one's own
faults while criticizing
others

yakyacker.com

to relax and enjoy
oneself while the boss is
away

yakyacker.com

something wasted on
someone who can't
appreciate it

yakyacker.com

to say something over and
over

yakyacker.com

to warn firmly; to put
someone on notice

yakyacker.com

something ineffective or
pointless

yakyacker.com

喉から手が出る

yakyacker.com

足元を見る

yakyacker.com

火の車

yakyacker.com

兜を脱ぐ

yakyacker.com

以心伝心

yakyacker.com

一期一会

yakyacker.com

起死回生

yakyacker.com

十人十色

yakyacker.com

自業自得

yakyacker.com

in severe financial
trouble

yakyacker.com

to take advantage of
someone's weakness

yakyacker.com

to want something
desperately

yakyacker.com

a once-in-a-lifetime
encounter

yakyacker.com

mutual understanding
without words

yakyacker.com

to admit defeat; to give
in

yakyacker.com

you brought it on
yourself

yakyacker.com

different people have
different tastes

yakyacker.com

a dramatic comeback from
a desperate situation

yakyacker.com

七転八起

yakyacker.com

三日坊主

yakyacker.com

四面楚歌

yakyacker.com

異口同音

yakyacker.com

温故知新

yakyacker.com

一石二鳥

yakyacker.com

足が棒になる

yakyacker.com

口が裂けても言えない

yakyacker.com

目が点になる

yakyacker.com

being surrounded by
enemies; in a hopeless
situation

yakyacker.com

someone who quits after a
few days

yakyacker.com

fall down seven times,
get up eight; never give
up

yakyacker.com

killing two birds with
one stone

yakyacker.com

learning new things by
studying the old

yakyacker.com

with one voice; unanimous

yakyacker.com

to be stunned or
dumbfounded

yakyacker.com

to be unable to say
something no matter what

yakyacker.com

to be exhausted from
walking

yakyacker.com

耳にたこができる

yakyacker.com

頭を冷やす

yakyacker.com

肩身が狭い

yakyacker.com

腹の虫が治まらない

yakyacker.com

首をかしげる

yakyacker.com

息をのむ

yakyacker.com

口車に乗る

yakyacker.com

骨を休める

yakyacker.com

手を広げる

yakyacker.com

to feel awkward, ashamed,
or uncomfortable

yakyacker.com

to calm down and think
clearly

yakyacker.com

to be sick of hearing
something repeated over
and over

yakyacker.com

to be breathless with
surprise or admiration

yakyacker.com

to tilt one's head in
puzzlement; to wonder
about something

yakyacker.com

to be unable to calm
one's anger

yakyacker.com

to expand one's
activities; to branch out

yakyacker.com

to take a rest from hard
work

yakyacker.com

to be taken in by smooth
talk

yakyacker.com

手を出す

yakyacker.com

目を覚ます

yakyacker.com

耳を疑う

yakyacker.com

口を挟む

yakyacker.com

顔を合わせる

yakyacker.com

足を止める

yakyacker.com

首を縦に振る

yakyacker.com

腹を括る

yakyacker.com

胸を借りる

yakyacker.com

to not believe one's ears

yakyacker.com

to wake up; to become
aware

yakyacker.com

to get involved; to
meddle; to start doing
something

yakyacker.com

to stop walking; to pause

yakyacker.com

to meet face to face

yakyacker.com

to interrupt; to butt in

yakyacker.com

to train with someone
stronger; to seek a
challenge

yakyacker.com

to brace oneself; to make
up one's mind

yakyacker.com

to nod yes; to agree

yakyacker.com

気を遣う

yakyacker.com

頭を下げる

yakyacker.com

目を丸くする

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yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

to widen one's eyes in
surprise

yakyacker.com

to bow; to apologize
humbly

yakyacker.com

to be considerate; to
mind others' feelings

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yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com