

Japanese Sayings

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.

猿も木から落ちる

yakyacker.com

二兎を追う者は一兎をも得ず

yakyacker.com

花より団子

yakyacker.com

石の上にも三年

yakyacker.com

猫に小判

yakyacker.com

口は災いの元

yakyacker.com

案ずるより産むが易し

yakyacker.com

塵も積もれば山となる

yakyacker.com

馬の耳に念仏

yakyacker.com

Dumplings over flowers;
practicality over
aesthetics.

yakyacker.com

He who chases two rabbits
catches neither; trying
to do two things at once
may lead to failure in
both.

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Even monkeys fall from
trees; even experts make
mistakes.

yakyacker.com

The mouth is the source
of disaster; careless
words can cause trouble.

yakyacker.com

Gold coins to a cat;
giving something valuable
to someone who doesn't
appreciate it (like
pearls before swine).

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Three years on a rock;
perseverance pays off.

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Buddhist prayers to a
horse's ear; speaking to
someone who doesn't
understand or listen (in
one ear and out the
other).

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Even dust, if piled up,
becomes a mountain; small
efforts add up to great
results.

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Giving birth is easier
than worrying about it;
doing something is often
easier than dreading it.

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犬も歩けば棒に当たる

yakyacker.com

豚に真珠

yakyacker.com

頭隠して尻隠さず

yakyacker.com

Like father, like son



蛙の子は蛙

yakyacker.com

井の中の蛙大海を知らず

yakyacker.com



虎穴に入らずんば虎子を得ず

yakyacker.com



急がば回れ

yakyacker.com

七転び八起き

yakyacker.com

郷に入っては郷に従え

yakyacker.com

Hiding the head but not
the butt; a half-hearted
cover-up that leaves
obvious evidence.

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Pearls before swine;
giving valuable things to
those who don't
appreciate them.

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When a dog walks, it hits
a stick; if you venture
out, you might encounter
trouble or good luck
(dual meaning).

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Nothing ventured, nothing
gained.

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A person with a narrow
view doesn't know the
wider world.

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Like father, like son; a
child follows in their
parent's footsteps.

yakyacker.com

When in Rome, do as the
Romans do.

yakyacker.com

Perseverance; never
giving up despite
repeated failures.

yakyacker.com

More haste, less speed;
take the long way around
to save time.

yakyacker.com

泣きっ面に蜂

yakyacker.com



出る杭は打たれる

yakyacker.com

仏の顔も三度

yakyacker.com



一石二鳥

yakyacker.com

棚からぼたもち

yakyacker.com

渡りに船

yakyacker.com

お疲れ様です

yakyacker.com

よろしくお願いします

yakyacker.com

いただきます

yakyacker.com

Even Buddha's patience
runs out if you push too
far.

yakyacker.com

The nail that sticks out
gets hammered down;
standing out invites
criticism.

yakyacker.com

Adding insult to injury;
misfortunes never come
singly.

yakyacker.com

A timely help; a godsend;
exactly what you needed.

yakyacker.com

Unexpected luck; a
windfall.

yakyacker.com

Kill two birds with one
stone; achieve two things
at once.

yakyacker.com

Thanks for the food
(before eating)

yakyacker.com

Please treat me well

yakyacker.com

Good work / thanks for
your effort

yakyacker.com

ごちそうさまでした

yakyacker.com

お先に失礼します

yakyacker.com

お邪魔します

yakyacker.com

いきます

yakyacker.com



いってらっしゃい

yakyacker.com

ただいま

yakyacker.com

おかえりなさい

yakyacker.com

しょうがない

yakyacker.com

仕方ない

yakyacker.com

Sorry to intrude

yakyacker.com

Leaving before others
(work)

yakyacker.com

Thanks for the meal
(after)

yakyacker.com

I'm home

yakyacker.com

Take care / see you

yakyacker.com

I'm leaving

yakyacker.com

Nothing can be done

yakyacker.com

It can't be helped

yakyacker.com

Welcome back

yakyacker.com



まあまあ

yakyacker.com



なるほど

yakyacker.com



そうですね

yakyacker.com



どういたしまして

yakyacker.com



お大事に

yakyacker.com



気をつけて

yakyacker.com



頑張って

yakyacker.com



おめでとうございます

yakyacker.com

継続は力なり

yakyacker.com

That's right; let me see

yakyacker.com

I see; indeed

yakyacker.com

so-so; not bad

yakyacker.com

Take care

yakyacker.com

Get well soon

yakyacker.com

You're welcome

yakyacker.com

Continuity is strength

yakyacker.com

Congratulations

yakyacker.com

Do your best / good luck

yakyacker.com



知らぬが仏

yakyacker.com

井の中の蛙

yakyacker.com

笑う門には福来る

yakyacker.com

花鳥風月

yakyacker.com

一期一会

yakyacker.com

以心伝心

yakyacker.com

自業自得

yakyacker.com

十人十色

yakyacker.com



三人寄れば文殊の知恵

yakyacker.com

Fortune comes to a merry
door

yakyacker.com

Limited perspective

yakyacker.com

Ignorance is bliss

yakyacker.com

Tacit understanding

yakyacker.com

Treasure each encounter

yakyacker.com

Beauty of nature

yakyacker.com

Two heads are better than
one

yakyacker.com

Everyone is different

yakyacker.com

You reap what you sow

yakyacker.com

能ある鷹は爪を隠す

yakyacker.com



頭がいい

yakyacker.com

頭が切れる

yakyacker.com

頭が上がらない

yakyacker.com

顔が広い

yakyacker.com

顔が立つ

yakyacker.com

顔に出る

yakyacker.com

口が軽い

yakyacker.com

口が堅い

yakyacker.com

Sharp-minded;
quick-thinking

yakyacker.com

Smart; intelligent

yakyacker.com

Talented people stay
humble

yakyacker.com

To save face; maintain
honor

yakyacker.com

Well-connected; knows
many people

yakyacker.com

Unable to stand up to
someone; indebted to
someone

yakyacker.com

Trustworthy with secrets

yakyacker.com

Loose-lipped; cannot keep
secrets

yakyacker.com

To show on one' s face

yakyacker.com

口がうまい

yakyacker.com

口に合う

yakyacker.com

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

Hard to hear because it
is true

yakyacker.com

To suit one' s taste

yakyacker.com

Good with words;
persuasive

yakyacker.com

Crazy about; weak for

yakyacker.com

Have a good eye; good
judgment

yakyacker.com

To hear about; to come to
one' s attention

yakyacker.com

Cannot believe one' s
eyes

yakyacker.com

To look through; to read
over

yakyacker.com

To catch one' s eye

yakyacker.com



鼻が高い

yakyacker.com

鼻につく

yakyacker.com

胸がいっぱい

yakyacker.com

胸を張る

yakyacker.com

腹が立つ

yakyacker.com

腹を割る

yakyacker.com

腹が黒い

yakyacker.com

気がつく

yakyacker.com

気が合う

yakyacker.com

Filled with emotion

yakyacker.com

Annoying; get on one' s
nerves

yakyacker.com

Proud

yakyacker.com

Speak frankly; open up
honestly

yakyacker.com

To get angry

yakyacker.com

To be proud; hold one' s
head high

yakyacker.com

To get along well

yakyacker.com

To notice

yakyacker.com

Scheming; malicious

yakyacker.com

気が強い

yakyacker.com

気が弱い

yakyacker.com

気が重い

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

Feel reluctant; feel
heavy-hearted

yakyacker.com

Timid; weak-nerved

yakyacker.com

Strong-willed

yakyacker.com

Cannot afford; cannot
manage

yakyacker.com

Not enough help;
short-handed

yakyacker.com

Thoughtful; attentive

yakyacker.com

Hold someone back

yakyacker.com

To cut corners; do less
than one should

yakyacker.com

To lend a hand

yakyacker.com

足が出る

yakyacker.com

足が遠のく

yakyacker.com

首になる

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

To get fired

yakyacker.com

Stop going somewhere

yakyacker.com

Go over budget

yakyacker.com

A burden is lifted

yakyacker.com

To side with; support
someone

yakyacker.com

Wait eagerly

yakyacker.com

Like cats and dogs;
bitter relationship

yakyacker.com

Pretend to be sweet or
innocent

yakyacker.com

Extremely busy

yakyacker.com

馬が合う

yakyacker.com

狐につままれる

yakyacker.com

手が焼ける

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



しなければならない

yakyacker.com

Hard to handle

yakyacker.com

Feel puzzled as if
tricked

yakyacker.com

Click naturally with
someone

yakyacker.com

Slow to act

yakyacker.com

Humble; modest

yakyacker.com

Takes a lot of effort

yakyacker.com

must

yakyacker.com

Out of control;
impossible to handle

yakyacker.com

Be astonished by skill

yakyacker.com



行ってきました

yakyacker.com



エレクトリック

yakyacker.com



このようにして

yakyacker.com



ソリューション

yakyacker.com



お久しぶりです

yakyacker.com

ご苦労様

yakyacker.com

Excuse me.



失礼します

yakyacker.com

申し訳ありません

yakyacker.com

恐れ入ります

yakyacker.com

thus

yakyacker.com

electric

yakyacker.com

went

yakyacker.com

Thanks for your hard work
(casual)

yakyacker.com

Long time no see

yakyacker.com

solution

yakyacker.com

Sorry to trouble you

yakyacker.com

I am very sorry (formal)

yakyacker.com

Excuse me
(entering/leaving)

yakyacker.com



かしこまりました

yakyacker.com

承知しました

yakyacker.com

よろしくお願いいたします

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

Please treat me well
(formal)

yakyacker.com

Understood

yakyacker.com

Certainly / understood

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com

yakyacker.com