

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

『〜ほど〜』の使い方

## MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

October 13 ~	Operation Fortune: Ruse De Guerre	Sub
October 20 ~	The Point Men	Sub
October 20 ~	Killers of the Flower Moon	Sub
October 27 ~	Hypnotic	Sub

Due to the new coronavirus infection, movies might be changed without notice. So please check the homepage for information.

Information Service  
 Internet: [niihama-aeonmall.com](http://niihama-aeonmall.com)  
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This newsletter is published by SGG, a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in Niihama. If you need any advice, information, or support, please contact SGG.

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions, or ideas for monthly articles.

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\* [The editors for this month](#) are Y.Tsuzuki & K.Kumata

A: Cさんは、また <sup>おんせんりょこう</sup> 温泉旅行ですか。

C-san wa, mata onsen ryokō desu ka?

(Is C-san going on a trip to a hot spring again?)

B: <sup>こんかい</sup> 今度は <sup>きゅうしゅう</sup> 九州の <sup>ゆふいん</sup> 湯布院だそうですね。

Konkai wa Kyūshū no Yufuin da sō desu yo.

(I heard she was going to Yufuin in Kyushu this time.)

<sup>りょかん</sup> 旅館のお風呂に <sup>いちにち</sup> 1日 <sup>さんかい</sup> 3回 <sup>はい</sup> 入るほど、<sup>おんせん</sup> 温泉が <sup>す</sup> 好きらしいです。

Ryokan no ofuro ni ichinichi sankai hairu hodo, onsen ga sukirashī desu.

(She seems to be so fond of hot springs that she takes a bath three times a day at Japanese inns.)

A: <sup>さんかい</sup> 3回! <sup>それ</sup> それは <sup>すごい</sup> すごい。Sankai! Sore wa sugoi.

(Three times! That's amazing.)

A: <sup>あたら</sup> 新しい <sup>や</sup> ラーメン屋は、<sup>どう</sup> どうでしたか。

Atarashī rāmen ya wa, dō deshita ka.

(How was the new ramen shop?)

B: <sup>うん</sup> うーん、<sup>まあ</sup> まあまあ。Ūn, māmā. (Well...so so.)

<sup>みせ</sup> 店も <sup>おし</sup> おしゃれだし <sup>おい</sup> おいしいけど、<sup>1,500</sup> 1,500円 <sup>はら</sup> 払って <sup>食</sup> 食べるほど <sup>では</sup> ではないかな。

Mise mo oshare dashi oishī kedo, sengohyakuen haratte taberu hodo dewa naikana.

(The shop was fashionable and the ramen was good, but I don't think it's worth 1,500 yen.)

A: <sup>しけん</sup> 試験、<sup>ごうかく</sup> 合格しましたね。おめでとう <sup>ござ</sup> ございます。

Shiken, gōkaku shimashita ne. Omedetō gozaimasu.

(You passed the examination! Congratulations!)

B: <sup>ありが</sup> ありがとう <sup>ござ</sup> ございます。Arigatō gozaimasu. (Thank you very much.)

<sup>さん</sup> 3か月間 <sup>し</sup> 死ぬほど <sup>べん</sup> 勉強したから、<sup>な</sup> 涙が <sup>で</sup> 出るほど <sup>うれ</sup> うれしいです。

Sankagetsukan shinu hodo benkyō shita kara, namida ga deru hodo ureshī desu.

(I studied myself to death for three months, so I'm so happy I could cry.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at:

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# What's New?

Niihama City

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11  
November



## New in Niihama

Fabienne Darling-Wolf

It had been five years since I had been in Japan — the longest time I stayed away since I landed at Kansai airport on January 5, 1995, and rushed to the Orange Ferry Terminal for the first time. Five years during which the country, and the quiet rhythm of life in Ehime, seemed to grow increasingly distant and inaccessible, caught as they were behind the closed borders of the Corona Virus pandemic. It is no surprise that arriving at Niihama station from Matsuyama (on the Anpanman train!) felt like a dream. What is perhaps more surprising is how much it felt like coming home. The sounds, the smells, the humidity of the air, the texture of the pavement under my feet as I walked toward the Super Hotel Niihama with my daughter that late evening all had the familiar quality of belonging. We had made it back!


I would spend the next three weeks or so reconnecting with places and people. I was quickly reassured that the Ehime I knew was still there. Friends and I picked up where we had left as if we had only been separated for a few weeks. Only the kids seemed to have aged. Buildings were still standing. The cardboard cutout of Tomoharu that had stood in front of the Mikoshi near the Shinkansen Hall next to Saijo station was

gone, but the real Tomoharu was his usual lovely self. As always, his family welcomed us with open arms. It is hard to believe that we have known each other for 28 years.

The smallest details brought the most pleasure: the little flags my girls used to love to play with when crossing the street, the old cash register at Cook's Café, the sound of the big slide in Takinomiya park, the sight of the boy with the blue-green hat and the traffic safety (交通安全) banner on Route 11 — the one who used to have roller skates. I almost cried when I heard the Fuji Grand song. I had told my daughter to listen for it as we picked up our first Pino and Boss coffee (why don't we have those in the US?) She immediately recognized the tune: "living for today, living for tomorrow..." It's good to know that some things never change. Those are the details that weave one's relationship to a place. The things that make Niihama not a place I visit, but I place I return to.

I also made new friends and built new memories, though. Making ricochets on the river in the mountains on a misty day. Getting to know the faculty and students at the National Institute of Technology (Kosen) and getting a glimpse of their daily lives. Running into some of them in the streets of Niihama, sharing a barbecue at the beach. The kind woman who kept on telling my daughter she should be a model. Riding the bus in torrential rain back from the Aeon mall. Spending time discussing digital technology with a group of charming grandmothers whose wisdom and optimism is inspiring. Toshi's beautiful sumi-e.

With each visit, the relationship gets a bit deeper, the mental map more finely tuned. Sometimes people ask why I keep on coming back. But why would I go to a place I don't know? Fuji Grand, I can't wait to see you again. In the meantime, your song sticks in my head, and warms my heart.

 Fabienne Darling-Wolf, Ph.D.  
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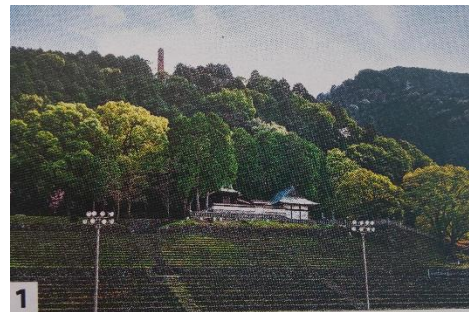
## The Stands of Yamane Ground (Monthly City News: October, 2023)

Yamane Ground, which is well known as the site of a major taiko float carrying competition during the annual Niihama Taiko Festival, was built for the health and welfare of workers at Besshi Copper Mine and related companies. On the grounds there are terraced masonry stands with as many as twenty steps along the northern slope on "Entotsu-yama" hill.

Under the direction of Washio Kageji, who became a chief executive of Besshi Copper Mine, the stands were built by Sumitomo Company workers providing "samu" or volunteer labor on their days off, and completed in 1928. Stones for the masonry were collected in the Kokuryo River and carried to Yamane Ground where they were piled up one by one.

The masonry stands are a precious structure as masonry culture in Besshi Copper Mine with a history of 300 years was handed down from Besshi mountain to the city of Niihama. It was registered as a national cultural tangible asset in 2009.

Besshi Copper Mine Cultural Heritage Division  
Tel 65-1236



Photo(1) Terraced masonry stands



Photo (2) Stands filled with people enjoying Niihama Taiko Festival

## November Events

☆Niihama Technical College School Festival  
Date: Nov.4<sup>th</sup> (Sat.), Nov.5<sup>th</sup> (Sun.)  
Place: Niihama Technical College

☆Japanese Speech Contest  
Date: Nov.12<sup>th</sup> (Sun.)  
Time: 1:00 p.m.~ 4:00 p.m.  
Place: Akagane Museum



☆Toyo Manufacturing Festival  
Date: Nov.11<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) ~ Nov.19<sup>th</sup> (Sun.)  
Time: 10:00 a.m.~ 5:00 p.m.  
Place: AEON Mall Niihama



☆Niihama Marche  
Date: Nov.18<sup>th</sup> (Sat.), Nov.19<sup>th</sup> (Sun.)  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.  
Place: AEON Mall parking lot

## Online Information in English from Niihama City

☆ A Guide for Living in Niihama



☆ The Niihama Medical Institution Map



☆ How to Sort Your Trash and Garbage



☆ What's New? in English



☆ Niihama Tourist Information

<https://niihama.info/>



☆ Help with legal matters, discrimination, insurance, etc  
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(Nationwide service) multilingual



☆ Yoriso Helpline for foreigners

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