

Mr. Pole

wide face? light mouth?

I was in a coffee shop the other day and overheard an interesting conversation between two young women at the next table. One of them asked the other, "So what is your boyfriend like?" Her friend replied, "Well, his face is wide and his head is soft, but his mouth is a little light." What is this man really like? Soft head? Is there something wrong with her boyfriend?

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There are many interesting expressions that use words for body parts, and they are frequently used in daily conversation. Can you guess, for example, how many expressions use the word "eye(s)" (目[me])? The answer is as many as 140! In this lesson, let us look at some useful expressions combining i-adjectives and body parts. The good news is, you can create sophisticated expressions by using beginning-level i-adjectives at below left. Mr. Pole, don't think so hard. If you look below, you will understand what this man is like.

i-adjectives

①⑫	nice good	いい ii
②⑮	bad	悪い warui
③	old	古い furui
④⑨	hurtful painful	痛い itai
⑤⑬	hard	堅い katai
⑥	soft	柔らかい yawarakai
⑦	spacious wide	広い hiroi
⑧	early fast	はやい hayai
⑩	tall high	高い takai
⑪	long	長い nagai
⑭	light	軽い karui

head 頭 あたま atama

bright ; smart ; sharp

頭が atama ga ① good

fool ; not smart

頭が atama ga ② bad

old-fashioned

頭が atama ga ③ old

to worry over a problem

頭が atama ga ④ painful

inflexible ; stubborn

頭が atama ga ⑤ hard

flexible ; receptive to new things

頭が atama ga ⑥ soft

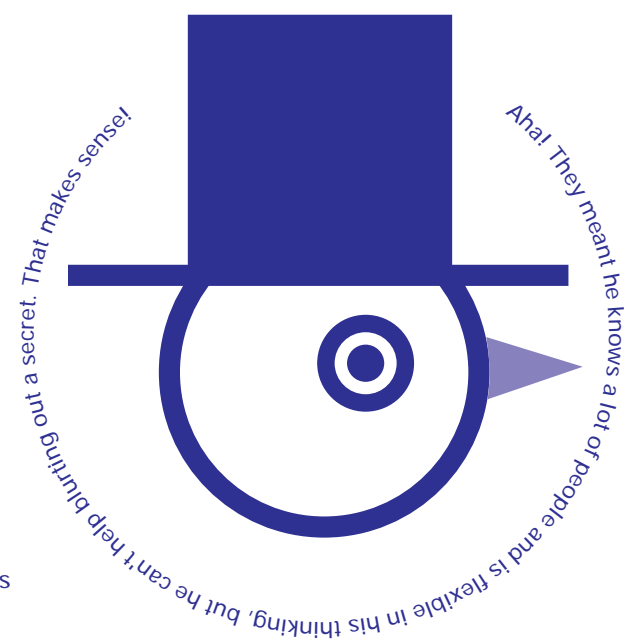
• By adding "desu" to these expressions, you can make a sentence.
e.g., Mr. Pole is smart.
Pole-san wa atama ga ii desu

face 顔 かお kao

have a wide circle of acquaintances

顔が kao ga ⑦ wide

For answers to fill in the boxes, check with i-adjectives on the left that have corresponding numbers.



ear(s) 耳 みみ mimi

quick-eared ; have sharp ears

耳が mimi ga ⑧ fast

be ashamed to hear

耳が mimi ga ⑨ painful

nose 鼻 はな hana

to be proud of

鼻が hana ga ⑩ high

to be flirtatious; to like women

鼻の下が hana no shita ga ⑪ long

• There are many other expressions that have similar meanings, but this one is humorous and less offensive compared to others. It applies to men.

eye(s) 目 め me

have an expert eye for

目が me ga ⑫ good

mouth 口 くち kuchi

can keep a secret ; closed-mouthed

口が kuchi ga ⑬ hard

cannot keep a secret

口が kuchi ga ⑭ light

have a sharp tongue ; have a bad mouth

口が kuchi ga ⑮ bad



atama head, kao face, mimi ear(s), hana nose, me eye(s), kuchi mouth

Did all the expressions on the left make sense to you? Now, let's see if you can apply what you just learned to the phrases below.

頭 Education for children is a nagging problem to parents in any country, isn't it?
子供の教育はどの国の親も to worry over a problem ですね。
kodomo no kyōiku wa dono kuni no oya mo a problem desu ne
education for children any country parents also isn't it?

If you keep saying such things, you will be ridiculed for being old-fashioned.

そんな事を言っていると、old-fashioned と笑われますよ。
sonna-koto o itte-iru to to waraware-masu yo
such things keep saying will be ridiculed I tell you

顔 You know a variety of people. You must have a wide circle of acquaintances.

いろいろな人を知っていますね。have a wide circle of acquaintances ですね。
iro-iro na hito o shitte-imasu ne of acquaintances desu ne
variety of people know

耳 What? You already know about it! You are quick-eared, aren't you?

えっ? もうその話を知っていますか。quick-eared ですね。
e? mō sono hanashi o shitte-imasu ka quick-eared desu ne
already that story know

Being told the same thing over and over, I am quite embarrassed.

いつも 同じ事を言われて be ashamed to hear です。
itsumo onaji-koto o iwarete be ashamed to hear desu
always same matter being told

口 That person keeps secrets, so please don't worry.

あの人は closed-mouthed です から 安心をして下さい。
ano hito wa closed-mouthed desu kara anshin o shite-kudasai
that person ...so please relax

He is a good person, but has a bad mouth.

いい人なんですが、 has a bad mouth です。
ii hito nandesu ga has a bad mouth desu
good person ...but