

やっぱり / やはり

Lesson 27 • *Yappari* / *Yahari*

Certain words and phrases seem to give Japanese language students fits; no matter how many times they hear or look up the expression, they just can't get a feel for its real nuance. *Yappari* is one of these troublesome utterances, and it is used so often in Japanese speech that not being able to understand it can be very frustrating. The actual word is *yahari* (for kanji-heads, it can be written 矢張り, although the more common choice is hiragana, or occasionally katakana), but the colloquial *yappari* is more commonly used. Other informal variations include *yappashi*, and the minimal *yappa*.

One reason for the difficulty in understanding *yappari* is that it doesn't translate into a single cut-and-dried English phrase, but has a range of subtly different meanings. Perhaps the most basic use of *yappari* is to express confirmation of something you suspected or thought to be likely/true, or reconfirmation of something generally believed to be true.

But the best way to understand *yappari* is, *yappari*, to see it used in the context of some manga stories.

For more examples of *yappari*, check out our 4-frame manga. All the selections in this issue include the word *yappari* or some variation thereof.

Really/After all

Kyū-san wakes up one morning to find that he has turned into a penguin. He heads off to work at the coffee shop, and although his co-worker complains about his turning on the air conditioning in December, no one around him seems to notice that he is a penguin. He wonders if it's just a hallucination caused by something he ate, but when he tries to pour a cup of coffee, he realizes that he really is a penguin.



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Kyū-san: だめ だ!! / やはり ベンギン だ!!
Dame da!! / Yahari penguin da!!
 no good is / really/after all penguin am
 "It's no use. I really am a penguin."
 (PL2)

off panel: あ〜あ
 A~
 (his co-worker's groan of dismay at Kyū's spilling the coffee)

- *da* is the plain/abrupt form of *desu* ("is/am/are").

As I suspected

There seems to be a curse on a certain artist's paintings. The artist himself died long ago in a mysterious fire, and now owners of his paintings are losing everything to strange fires also. Fujita suspects a scheme to get the owners to sell their paintings at low prices, and is trying to determine the cause of the original fire that killed the artist. Going through some old written records, he discovers evidence that the fire was an accident with an easily-explained cause.

Fujita: これだ! こいつを 探していた の さ!
Kore da! Koitsu o sagashite-ita no sa!
 this is this (obj.) was looking for (explan.) (emph.)
 "This is it! This is what I was looking for!" (PL2)

やっぱり な、ふふふ!
Yappari na, fu fu fu!
 as expected (emph.) (laugh)
 "Just as I suspected! Hee hee hee!" (PL2)

そうだろうと思った の さ、ははははは!
Sō darō to omotta no sa, ha ha ha ha ha!
 is like that thought (explan.) (emph.) (laugh)
 "I thought that was probably the case, Ha ha ha!" (PL2)

- *koitsu* is an expression for "this guy." Using it when referring to an object is slang.



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At first these children think their father's card trick is "a miracle," but then they begin to suspect that it's just sleight of hand. Determined to figure out the secret of his trick, Hazuki pretends to sleep while Natsuki has him perform the trick again. Watching from behind, Hazuki catches him palming a card.



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Hazuki: ほら ほら なつきちゃん!
Hora hora Natsuki-chan!
 look look name(dimin.)
 こげな とこに カード、ほら!
koge-na toko ni kado, hora!
 that kind of place at card hey/see
 "Look, look, Natsuki-chan! There's a card hidden here, see!" (PL2)

Natsuki: あーっ、 やっぱり。
Å! Yappari.
 "Aha, just as we thought!" (PL2)

- *hora* is used to get someone's attention, like, "look" or "hey."
- *-chan* is a diminutive equivalent of *-san* ("Mr./Ms.") used mostly with children.
- *koge-na* is dialect for *konna*, literally "this kind of," but used to imply "this (unexpected/strange)..."
- *toko* is short for *tokoro* ("place").
- Hazuki's sentence is left unfinished, implying *koge-na toko ni kado* (ga aru), lit. "(There's a) card in a place like this."



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Speculations confirmed

In this scene, the girl sitting down has been threatening to drop out of school. Kōriyama-san guesses that it's because she hates exams. The girl's reaction when confronted with this question confirms Kōriyama-san's suspicions.

Kōriyama: もしかして 学校 が いや なんじゃないや、
Moshi ka shite gakkō ga iya nan ja nakute,
 perhaps school (subj.) disagreeable (explan.) isn't
 試験 が いや なんじゃないや?
shiken ga iya nan ja nai?
 test(s) (subj.) disagreeable (explan.) aren't
 “Could it be that it's not school that you hate, it's the tests?” (PL2)

Sound FX: んぎくつ
nGiku!
 (effect of being startled at having been found out)

Kōriyama: やっばり。
Yappari.
 “So that is it.” (PL2)

- *moshi ka shite* is often used to begin a sentence that is speculation.
- the standard sound effect for being startled/shocked at something is *giku!* The initial *n* probably implies a cartoon-like, slightly delayed reaction.

After all

Mild-mannered Morris killed Michael and framed him for robbery in an attempt to get his inheritance: an English pub which Morris knows hides valuable Japanese paintings. Michael's father believed that his son was trying to rob the pub until some friends pointed out that Michael's dead body was holding the gun in the wrong hand. He now suspects Morris of foul play.

Michael's

Father: そ...それじゃあ、マイケルは強盗じゃなく...
So... sore ja, maikeru wa gōtō ja naku
 well then Michael as-for robber wasn't
 “So then, Michael wasn't committing a robbery...”
 (PL2)

やっばりすべてお前が仕組んだのか...
yappari subete omae ga shikunda no ka...
 after all all you (subj.) contrived/planned (explan.) (?)
 “You set up the whole thing after all.” (PL2)

Morris:

やっばり? やっばりとはどういふことだ?
Yappari? Yappari to wa dō iu koto da?
 after all after all as-for what say thing is
 まさか、あんた最初から俺を疑って...
Masaka, anta saisho kara ore o utagatte...
 surely not you beginning from l/me (obj.) doubt
 “After all? What do you mean, ‘after all?’ You can't mean that you suspected me from the beginning!”
 (PL2)

- *gōtō* can mean “robber” or “robbery.”
- *masaka* is used to indicate that an idea or belief seems impossible or unbelievable.
- *anta* is a colloquial contraction of *anata* (“you”).
- *ore* is a rough/informal masculine word for “me.”



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I tried it, but . . .

This rookie salesman has not sold a single car in his first two months, and he is starting to doubt if he has what it takes to do sales. (Car salesmen in Japan go around to call on individual as well as corporate customers.)



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Salesman: やっぱりむいてない の かもしれないなあ...
 Yappari muite-nai no kamo shirenai naa...
 after all not suited to (explan.) maybe (emph.)
 "Maybe I'm just not suited (to this job) after all." (PL2)

- *muite-nai* is a contraction of *muite-inai*, from *muku* ("face/point toward").
Muku refers to orientation, and by extension, to suitability.

I knew it

The *seijinshiki* is an annual coming-of-age ceremony for all the young people who turn 20 that year. Rokurō was not planning to attend, but the "president" of the small garage where he works gave him a suit and shoes, and he decided to go after all. On the way, he stopped to help fix a stalled ambulance and got his new outfit dirty. Now he is at the ceremony having second thoughts about coming at all.



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Rokurō: やっぱり来るんじゃないや...
 Yappari kuru n ja nakatta...
 after all come shouldn't have
 "I knew I shouldn't have come." (PL2)

友達 も 知り合い も いない し...
 Tomodachi mo shiriai mo inai shi...
 friend and acquaintance also not exist/aren't here and
 寂しい 思い を する だけ なんだ から。
 Sabishii omoi o suru dake nan da kara.
 sad/lonely thought/feeling (obj.) do only (explan.) is because
 "I don't have any friends or acquaintances here...
 I'll just feel lonely." (PL2)

Expressing a preference

Faced with a decision between two different types of photo albums, this girl states her choice. She is worried that if the pictures aren't permanently attached, her father will take them out and forget to put them back. Bearing this in mind, she decides to get an album that the pictures are glued into.



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Chie-chan: やつぱり ノリ で はる やつ が ええ な。
Yappari nori de haru yatsu ga ē na.
 really paste/glue with attach one/type (subj.) good (emph.)
 "Really, one that you attach (pictures) to with glue is good."
 → "I guess I'd really better get one that you glue (the pictures) into," (PL2)

- *yatsu* is usually used to refer (not very politely) to a person and translated as "guy," but can also refer to a thing, carrying the meaning of "type."
- *ē* is a dialect version of *ii*, "good/preferable."
- *na* is a masculine expression of emphasis, but women and girls often use it when they are talking to themselves or to children.

Msking a choice

The baseball team's manager is having trouble deciding who to put at second base and right field, as all of his remaining players seem to have some flaws. He has just watched one of them make some nice defensive plays in practice, and that helps him make up his mind.

Manager: んー... / やつぱ セカンドには...
N- / Yappa sekando ni wa...
 Hmm / in the end/after all second at as-for
 "Hmm, so I guess at second..." (PL2)



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Truisms

General truths and obvious facts can be stated with *yappari*. This is an example of re-confirmation of something believed or expected to be true. The man in this scene from *Haguregumo* is lamenting the fact that the women they were supposed to meet went off with some more wealthy customers.

- Man:** やっぱり 金 だ よ 金。
Yappari kane da yo kane.
 after all/really money is (emph.) money
"Of course it's money, you know, money." (PL2)
- 男前 だけ じゃあ もてねえ よ。
Otokomae dake ja mote-nē yo.
 handsome only with won't be popular (emph.)
"You won't be popular if all you are is handsome." (PL2)
- *otokomae* is an old word for "handsome," still used in some dialects. Today one more often hears the katakana word ハンサム (*hansamu*), rendered from the English.
 - *mote-nē* is a corruption of *motenai*, the plain negative of *moteru* "be popular."



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The expression *Shokuyoku no aki* could be rendered as "Autumn, the season when appetites are good." The idea is that in summer, when the weather is hot, most people don't have much of an appetite, but in autumn the weather begins to cool off, stimulating appetites, and there are plenty of appetizing foods available. Of all the delicious foods associated with autumn, *matsutake* mushrooms are perhaps the pinnacle. In this manga, one small basket goes for ¥50,000.

- Man:** 食欲 の 秋 といえば
Shokuyoku no aki to ieba
 appetite ('s) autumn if you say
 やっぱり 松茸 だ な。
yappari matsutake da na.
 after all (mushroom type) is (emph.)
- "When you say appetite's autumn, it just has to be *matsutake* mushrooms."
→ "Yep, it's *matsutake* mushrooms for autumn, all right." (PL2)



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