

Lesson 79: Politics

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, practice each role.

Tomoaki: (Reading the newspaper) Have you read the news? Senator Murakami is going to jail for tax evasion.

David: The prime minister wasn't kidding when he said that he was going to **crack down on** tax evasion.

Tomoaki: It's a good move but it's just one of the many problems in this country.

David: I agree. The officials should bring in new environmental laws.

Tomoaki: My thoughts exactly. Damaged nuclear plants should be shut down once and for all.

David: On the good side, a committee has put together proposals for alternative energy sources.

Tomoaki: I hope I live long enough to see those proposals materialize. It will surely take a long time before something actually happens.

David: It's so true. There are a lot of ideas but the bureaucracy slows everything down.

Tomoaki: Politics is never a good topic. Old men like me should stop reading newspapers.

David: I only read the entertainment section. Did you know that Ken Watanabe will be in the Hollywood movie, Transformers 4?

2. Today's Phrase

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, make a few sentences using Today's phrase.

1. The police recently **cracked down on** street gangs.
2. The university is doing its best to **crack down on** drug use among students.
3. The new president vowed to **crack down on** graft and corruption.

* crack down on ... /...を厳しく取り締まる

3. Your Task

You are a senator. You are lobbying for a change in the Japanese educational system to ensure that English will be taught in schools starting at the nursery level. Give the politicians (=your tutor) reasons on why they should support this bill.

4. Let's Talk

Do you follow what goes on in Japanese politics?
Explain your answer. What changes would you like to see in the Japanese government?

5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.



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