

花鳥風月

花鳥風月・かちょうふうげつ
〜Enjoying the beauties of nature.
(origin: poetry)

花・はな
〜flower
鳥・とり
〜bird
風・かぜ
〜wind
月・つき
〜moon

一日千秋

一日千秋・いちじつせんしゅう

ゝWaiting impatiently, a moment that feels like an eternity.

一・いち

ゝone

日・にち

ゝday

千・せん

ゝthousand

秋・あき

ゝAutumn/ Fall

三日坊主

三日坊主・みっかぼうず

ゝliteral: a monk for three days. A person who can't stick to anything.

三・さん

ゝthree

日・にち

ゝday

坊主・ぼうず

ゝmonk

一石二鳥

一石二鳥・いっせきにちょう
ゝKilling two birds with one stone.

一・いち
ゝone
石・せき
ゝstone
二・に
ゝtwo
鳥・と/
ゝbirds

一期一会

一期一会・いちごいちえ

〜The only chance in a lifetime.

One meeting, one opportunity—the concept of regarding every encounter as a unique opportunity of a lifetime, or in general, of treasuring each passing moment in order to live meaningfully.

(origin: Way of Tea/ Zen)

一期・いちご

〜one lifetime

一会・いちえ

〜one encounter, one meeting

飛花落葉

飛花落葉・ひからくよう

ゝ (literal) The scattering of the blossoms and falling of the leaves. The impermanence of worldly things.

飛ぶ・とぶ

ゝ (verb) to scatter, to fly, to jump

花・はな

ゝ flower(s)

落ちる・おちる

ゝ (verb) to fall

葉・は

ゝ leaf/ leaves

一日一歩

一日一歩・いちにちいっぽ
〜One step each day. Slowly but surely.

一日・いちにち
〜one day
一歩・いっぽ
〜one step

七転八起

七転八起・しちてんはっき
ゝNot giving up.
Also: 七転び八起き・ななころびやおき

七・しち／なな(つ)
ゝseven
転ぶ・ころぶ
ゝ(verb) to fall down, to fall over
八・はち／や(つつ)
ゝeight
起きる・おきる
ゝ(verb) to get up (also: to wake up)

十人十色

十人十色・じゅうにんといろ

〜To each his own, different strokes for different folks.

十・じゅう／とお

〜ten

人・ひと

〜person

色・いろ

〜color(s)

無我夢中

無我夢中・むがむちゃう
〜To be totally absorbed in doing something.

無い・ない
〜not, no
我・われ
〜oneself
夢・ゆめ
〜dream
中・なか
〜middle

以心伝心

以心伝心・いしんてんしん

〜To be totally absorbed in doing something.

(Buddhism: non-verbal Zen Buddhist transmission to a disciple of the central tenets of Buddhism)

以て・もって

〜with, by..., by means of...

心・こころ

〜heart

伝・でん／伝える・つたえる

〜tradition / (verb) to convey, to transmit

異口同音

異口同音・いくどうおん
〜In chorus, in unison, unanimously.

異・い
〜different
口・くち
〜mouth
同じ・おなじ
〜same
音・おと
〜sound

半信半疑

半信半疑・はんしんはんぎ
∪Half in doubt, half believe, dubiously.

半・はん
∪half
信・しん
∪trust
疑う・うたがう
∪(verb) be doubtful (about), be suspicious (of)

自問自答

自問自答・じもんじとう

ゝAnswer one's own question, wonder to oneself, think to oneself.

自・じ

ゝoneself

問・い

ゝa question

答・こたえ

ゝan answer

不言実行

不言実行・ふげんじつこう

∪ Deeds are better than words. Actions speak louder than words.

不・ふ

∪ un-, non-, negative prefix

言・いう

∪ (verb) to talk

実・じつ

∪ truth, reality, sincerity, (good) results

行・こう

∪ going, act, action