

Free dumplings for motorists stranded in snow

14th January, 2021



When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Record levels of snowfall made the going tough for hundreds of motorists in Japan earlier this week. Blizzards, snowdrifts and frozen roads left 200 cars stranded on a highway

in Fukui Prefecture, along the Sea of Japan. This spurred the manager of a branch of a local Chinese restaurant, Gyoza Ohsho, to get going. Keiichi Iwatani, 39, decided to feed those faced with spending the night in sub-zero temperatures. He delivered hundreds of gyoza dumplings, fried rice and crab omelettes to weary, anxious and snowbound drivers. Seven employees helped him to deliver the provisions on foot throughout the night to 300 hungry and relieved people.

Mr Iwatani talked about his relief efforts to the Mainichi newspaper. He said he saw the snow accumulating and knew there would be problems. He said similar adverse weather hit in 2018 and the snow stopped him from getting to work. He said: "I regretted not being able to help out three years ago. I'm happy that many people appreciated our efforts last night." He added: "I wanted to keep drivers warm, even for just a bit." Many drivers were appreciative of his efforts. Yuki Yamashita, 23, feared the worst when she got stuck in the snow. She said when Ishitani appeared, he restored her faith in humanity. A fellow driver shared some *Habutae mochi* - a traditional Fukui rice confection - with her to reinforce that faith.

Sources: mainichi.jp / kyodonews.net / japantimes.co.jp

Writing

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Discuss. How tough are you?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tough / snowfall / motorists / blizzard / highway / temperatures / dumplings / hungry / relief efforts / adverse weather / happy / faith / humanity / traditional / confection

True / False

- a) Blizzards left 200 cars stranded on a highway in Japan. T / F
- b) The owner of a Japanese restaurant made meals for stranded motorists. T / F
- c) A restaurant owner cooked crab omelettes for stranded motorists. T / F
- d) Volunteers helped 3,000 people trapped in their cars in the blizzard. T / F
- e) The restaurant manager also helped stranded motorists in 2018. T / F
- f) The manager is glad people appreciated his recent relief efforts. T / F
- g) A 23-year-old was very worried when she got stuck in the snow. T / F
- h) The 23-year-old received a traditional sweet from another motorist. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. tough | a. valued |
| 2. stranded | b. confronted by |
| 3. spurred | c. endeavours |
| 4. faced with | d. arduous |
| 5. provisions | e. belief |
| 6. efforts | f. stimulated |
| 7. appreciated | g. strengthen |
| 8. restored | h. helpless |
| 9. faith | i. reestablished |
| 10. reinforce | j. supplies |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How tough are you?
- b) Do the tough get going when the going gets tough?
- c) What do you think of snow?
- d) What would you do if you were stranded in a snowstorm?
- e) What are the dangers of blizzards?
- f) What do you think of Keiichi Iwatani's actions?
- g) What help have you given people in need?
- h) What advice do you have for people stuck in snow?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. When the going gets tough, | a. efforts |
| 2. Record levels | b. snowbound drivers |
| 3. spending the night in | c. provisions on foot |
| 4. anxious and | d. of his efforts |
| 5. employees helped him to deliver the | e. of snowfall |
| 6. relief | f. in humanity |
| 7. similar adverse weather | g. the worst |
| 8. Many drivers were appreciative | h. the tough get going |
| 9. Yuki Yamashita, 23, feared | i. hit in 2018 |
| 10. he restored her faith | j. sub-zero temperatures |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How does falling snow make you feel?
- What's the most adverse weather you've experienced?
- Who have you been appreciative of recently?
- When was the last time you feared the worst?
- When was the last time your faith in humanity was restored?
- What do you know about Japanese confectionery?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Iwatani?

Spelling

- ladszrizb, snowdrifts and frozen roads
- This uepdrrs the manager of a branch
- spending the night in sub-zero mteprreaseu
- axinuso and snowbound drivers
- helped him to deliver the psnsoivior
- 300 hungry and ilrdevee people
- he saw the snow tuncalgaum
- similar dsvreea weather hit in 2018
- many people areeipcatpd our efforts
- he restored her faith in tamyiuhn
- a traditional Fukui rice ntoncoiecf
- ncfereoir that faith

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. f	4. b	5. j
6. c	7. a	8. i	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Blizzard

You think a blizzard is the worst weather event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their weather events aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): torrential rain, heat wave or strong wind.

Role B – Torrential Rain

You think torrential rain is the worst weather event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their weather events aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): blizzard, heat wave or strong wind.

Role C – Heat Wave

You think a heat wave is the worst weather event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their weather events aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): torrential rain, blizzard or strong wind.

Role D – Strong Wind

You think strong wind is the worst weather event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their weather events aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): torrential rain, heat wave or blizzard.

Speaking – Adverse weather

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst weather at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| • Heat waves | • Blizzards |
| • Tornadoes | • Torrential rain |
| • Dust storms | • Strong wind |
| • Drought | • Hail |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.