

Pattern #8: Have you heard about / Did you hear about / I have been hearing about / I heard about (...のこと聞いた？ ...について聞いた？ ...のことを耳にしている ...について聞いた)

Have you heard about that new medication that ABC Company developed? Apparently, they finally found a cure for baldness! Hooray!
ABC社が開発した新薬のことを聞いた？ ついにハゲの治療法が見つかったそうぞ！ やったー！

Did you hear about that big earthquake in Afghanistan? **I heard about** it on the news yesterday. I heard that it was a really big one.
アフガニスタンで大きな地震があったって聞いた？ 昨日ニュースで知ったよ。本当に大きな地震だったと聞いた。

These days, **I have been hearing about** free-schools as an alternative to traditional public schools. **I heard about** it on television, and I read about it in the newspapers. Everyone is talking about it. **I've been hearing about** how free-schools can help shut-in kids return to society.
最近、従来型の公立学校に代わる選択肢として、フリースクールのお話を耳にするようになった。テレビでも見たし、新聞でも読んだ。誰もが話題にしているみたい。フリースクールが、引きこもりの子どもたちの社会復帰をいかに支援できるか、という話を耳にしている。

Have you heard anything about Trump's new tariff on imports from Japan? Recently, **I haven't heard** any new updates about it, so I'm getting a little nervous. **Have you heard** anything about it? If you hear anything about that new tariff, could you let me know? Thanks.
トランプ大統領の日本からの輸入品への新たな関税について何かの情報を聞いた？ 最近、それに関する最新情報がないので、少し不安だな。何か知っている？ もし何か情報を聞いたら、教えてくれる？ よろしくね。

Did you hear about Tiffany's divorce? **I heard about** it from Robert last night on the phone. Neither of us could believe it! God, this is so depressing. And it's really strange, too. **I've been hearing about** divorce so often lately! It seems like everyone is getting divorced these days.
ティファニーの離婚のこと、聞いた？ 昨夜ロバートから電話で聞いたの。二人とも信じられなかった！ ああ、本当に悲しいわね。それに、すごく変と思うけど、最近、離婚の話ばかり聞くわ！ 最近はみんな離婚してるみたいだし。

Hey, **have you heard about** the surprise-quiz that we are going to have next class? **I heard about** it from Mike this morning. Nobody is supposed to know about it, so how did Mike find out? ^^;;

ねえ、次の授業でサプライズクイズがあるって聞いた？ 今朝マイクから聞いたんだけど、誰も知らないはずなのに、マイクはどうやって知ったんだろう？

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Kenji: Hey, **have you heard about** the restructuring? Management says that they will start laying off employees next month.

健二：ねえ、リストラについて聞いた？経営陣は来月から従業員の解雇を始めると言ってるよ。

Miho: What? Oh no! So, **have you heard about** who is going to get fired? **I haven't heard** anything **about** this! I can't believe this.

美保：えっ！？まさか！それで、誰がクビになるか聞いた？私は何も聞いてない！信じられない！

Kenji: **I had been hearing** rumours **about** the restructuring for the past couple of months. Apparently, management made its final decision last week, and they announced it this morning. **I heard about** this from Steve a moment ago. **I still haven't heard about** who will lose their jobs.

健二：ここ数ヶ月、リストラの噂は聞いていた。どうやら経営陣は先週最終決定を下し、今朝発表したようだ。少し前にスティーブ君から聞いたよ。まだ誰が解雇されるのかは聞いていない。

Miho: **Did you hear about** Janet? Oh my God, I'm so excited for her! ^^

美保：ジャネットのこと、聞いた？わー、すごく楽しみ！^^

Kenji: What, what? What happened? What did you hear? ^^

健二：えっ、何、何？何が起こったの？何を聞いたの？^^

Miho: I heard that she's pregnant! You know Janet's husband Dennis, right? I ran into him yesterday, and **I heard about** it from him.

美保：妊娠したんだって！ジャネットの旦那さんのデニス知ってるでしょう？昨日偶然会って、彼から聞いたんだ。

Kenji: Oh, man! That's great! I'm so happy for her! ^^ She must be ecstatic! Do you have any other details? When is the baby due?

健二：おお、すごい！よかったね！本当に嬉しいよ！^^ 本人もきっと大喜びしてるよ！他に何か情報ある？出産予定日はいつ？

Kenji: The other day, **I heard about** this guy who can do sign language with his toes! I saw it on the news. **Have you heard about** this guy?

健二：この間、足の指で手話ができる人がいるって聞いたんだ。ニュースで見たんだけど、この人のこと聞いたことある？

Miho: No, **I haven't**. Wait... but why.... I don't get it. Why would anyone want to do sign language with their toes? He has no hands?

美保：いや、まだ。待ってよ...でも、どうして...ちょっとわからない。一体どうして足の指で手話をするの？彼には手がないってこと？

Kenji: He has hands, and he can sign with them as well. Apparently, he wanted to be able to talk with two different people at the same time!

健二：手はあるし、手でも手話ができる。どうやら二人の相手と同時に別々の会話がしたかったらしいよ！

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Miho: Have you heard about the 8050 phenomenon? I've been hearing a lot about it these days on the news.

美保：8050現象って聞いたことあるの？最近ニュースでよく聞くようになったな。

Kenji: 8050? What is that? I haven't heard anything about that. Is it some kind of food? Can you eat it?

健二：8050？それって何？聞いたことないな。何か食べ物？食べられるの？

Miho: No, you silly boy! ^^;; It's not some kind of new snack. You're always thinking with your stomach. 8050 is a new social problem.

美保：違うよ、このバカ！別に新しいお菓子とかじゃないの。君いつも食べ物の事ばかり考えてるんだから。8050って新しい社会問題なの。

Kenji: Well, if you can't eat it, I'm not interested.

健二：まあ、食べられないなら興味ないぜ。

Miho: Haha... Would you just listen? ^^ This is serious! Have you heard about the "hikikomori" problem around the world?

美保：ははは...ちょっと聞いてくれよ！真面目な話だから！世界の「ひきこもり」問題って知ってる？

Kenji: Of course I've heard about it. Hikikomoris are social shut-ins who neither work nor go to school, and they never leave their houses.

健二：もちろん聞いたことあるよ。ひきこもりって、仕事にも学校にも行かず、家から一步も出ない人たちのことだね。

Miho: This social problem has entered a new phase. As shut-ins remain that way for many years, they get older and older, as do their parents.

So, as a result, there is an increasing number of middle-aged shut-ins in their 50s who are still being supported by their parents in their 80s.

美保：この社会問題は新たな局面を迎えているの。引きこもりが長期化してしまって、本人も親もどんどん高齢化していくよね。その結果、50代の中高年の引きこもりが80代の親に支えられているというケースが増えてきているの。

Kenji: Well, can't their parents or someone just force the shut-ins to go outside and get a job?

健二：じゃあ、親か誰かが無理やりに引きこもりの子たちに外へ出て働かせることってできないの？

Miho: Actually, that has become another big social problem. Lately, I've been hearing about 引き出し屋 companies who specialize in "reforming" long-term shut-ins. I heard that many of these 引き出し屋 companies use violence, torture and extortion to force the shut-ins to leave their homes. I heard about the parents of shut-ins being coerced into paying these companies huge sums of money. And nowadays, I've been hearing about many 引き出し屋 companies being sued for unethical business-practices. You've never heard about this problem?

美保：実はこれも大きな社会問題になっている。最近、引きこもりの人を治療することを専門とする引き出し屋の話を耳にするようになった。こうした引き出し屋の多くは暴力や拷問、恐喝などを用いて、引きこもりの人たちを家から追い出そうとしているそう。親御さんが多額の金銭を強要されているという話も聞いたの。最近では、引き出し屋が悪徳商法で訴えられるケースも増えているらしい。この問題、聞いたことがないの？