The most important Japanese word

Otsukare!

• The literal meaning: “Tired”

• What we actually mean by saying this is: “I know you are tired. I know you worked so hard already. You have done such a great job. I congratulate you. God bless you”

• Example usage:

  • After lunch, you meet your colleagues in the corridor. Say “Otsukare!”

  • When you leave your office after work, say to your colleagues “Otsukare!”

  • You might have heard that Japanese say “Kanpai!” for cheers. Wrong. No one says that. We say “Otsukare!”