

JAPANESE IDIOM

あいづちを打つ

AIZUCHI O UTSU

SOUNDS GIVEN DURING A CONVERSATION
TO INDICATE COMPREHENSION



ABOUT: When talking with someone, to show you are engaged in the conversation, you may nod or say things like “That's right” or “You don't
Examples of あいづち aizuchi in Japanese are 「はい」 hai, 「うん」 un, 「なるほど」 naruhodo.

say!”
「へえ」 hee, and

ETYMOLOGY: This idiom comes from the rhythm the blacksmith and his apprentice have when trading k
hammering hot metal. The “ai” means “together” and “tsuchi” is a hammer. “utsu” means to hit. Two pe
hammering hot metal require careful coordination as do people in conversation.



EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

あの人ひとの話はなしは面白おもしろくなかったけれど、
一応いちおうあいづちうを打ちきながら聞いていた。

That person's story was not interesting, but I listened while throwing in the occasional “uh huh” and “yes.”

あの人 *ano hito*—that person
話 *hanashi*—story; talk
面白くなかった *omoshiroku nakatta*—wasn't interest
けれど *keredo*—but; however
一応 *ichi ou*—for the time being
～ながら *~nagara*—while