

Answer to Question # 38.
Answers 2 and 3 are correct.

難しい (MUZUKASHII) is an i adjective meaning “difficult.” However, 難しい (muzukashii) is only used to describe tasks that are MENTALLY difficult, NOT to describe physically demanding work. Activities such as learning a language and doing professional or office work can be 難しい (muzukashii). Digging ditches CANNOT be 難しい (muzukashii).

Therefore, ANSWER # 1 is INCORRECT.

大変 (taihen) is a na adjective commonly used by Japanese people. It has a variety of meanings, including “serious,” “terrible,” “enormous,” “disastrous” and “difficult.” It would be appropriate to use 大変 (taihen) in this situation.

Therefore, ANSWER # 2 is CORRECT.

きつい (kitsui) is an i adjective with several meanings, including “stern,” “strict,” “tight” (as in “tight shoes”), and “hard” (as in “hard or heavy work”). きつい (kitsui) would also be an appropriate word to use in this situation. However, きついでしょう (kitsui deshō) sounds awkward. It’s best to use the form きつそうです (kitsusou desu), meaning “it appears difficult,” as in Answer 3.

Therefore, ANSWER # 3 is CORRECT.

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Question 38. “Difficult”

A man is digging a ditch, and you stop to talk to him.

You want to say, “That work is probably difficult, huh.” In this situation, which of the following three sentences is correct?

1. その仕事は難しいでしょうね (sono shigoto wa muzukashii deshō ne).
2. その仕事は大変でしょうね (sono shigoto wa taihen deshō ne).
3. その仕事はきつそうですね (sono shigoto wa kitsusou desu ne).

