

Answer to Question # 40.

Answers 1, 2, 3 and 4 are correct, but Answer 3 is somewhat awkward.

もちろん (mochiron) means “of course.” In this context, it would mean “of course, you can have another piece of candy.”

Therefore, ANSWER # 1 is CORRECT.

そうですね (sou desu yo ne) means “that’s so, for sure, huh!” This is an encouraging remark, and it would be appropriate in this situation.

By contrast, if you just said そうですね (sou desu ne), meaning “that’s so, huh,” it could still be appropriate, depending on how you said it. If you said そうですね (sou desu ne) briskly, it would mean “I agree with you.” However, if you said it rather hesitantly, dragging out the ね (ne) at the end, it could come across as a somewhat skeptical remark, along the lines of “let me see...”

In any case, ANSWER # 2 is also CORRECT.

正しいです (tadashii desu) means “it’s correct” or “you’re right,” but this response hits the wrong emotional note in this situation. 正しいです (tadashii desu) would be more appropriate if your friend had just said something like エベレストは世界で一番高い山です (eberesuto wa sekai de ichiban takai yama desu) = “as for Everest, it’s the world’s tallest mountain.”

With this in mind, ANSWER # 3 is CORRECT, but it sounds awkward in this context.

どうぞ (douzo) means “go ahead.” In this case, this would mean “go ahead and have another piece of candy.” This remark would be very appropriate in this situation.

Therefore, ANSWER # 4 is also CORRECT.

やっぱり (yappari) was discussed in the Answer to Question 37. It can be translated as “when you think about it,” “I guess,” “you know,” “after all,” “as expected” or “as I thought.” None of these meanings would provide any encouragement to your friend, and やっぱり (yappari) could actually be interpreted as a kind of criticism, i.e., “I THOUGHT you were going to take another piece.”

Therefore, ANSWER # 5 is INCORRECT.

そうなんですけど (sou nan desu kedo) means “that’s so, but ...” なん (nan) is a SOFTENING word here, intended to make the sentence less direct and assertive. However, the hanging “but” at the end implies that you don’t really agree with your friend’s decision to have another piece of candy, regardless of Mother’s Day.

Therefore, ANSWER # 6 is also INCORRECT.

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It’s Mother’s Day. Your friend, who happens to be a mother, reaches for another piece of candy and, to justify this action, says 母の日だから (haha no hi dakara) = “since it’s Mother’s Day.”

In response, you want to say something encouraging, like “You’re right.” Which of the following possible responses would be appropriate?

1. もちろん (mochiron)
2. そうですね (sou desu yo ne)
3. 正しいです (tadashii desu)
4. どうぞ (douzo)
5. やっぱり (yappari)
6. そうなんですけど (sou nan desu kedo)