

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner #23

A Japanese Plumbing Emergency

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23

KANJI

1. (Sound of flushing)
2. (telephone)
3. EMILY: もしもし、401ごうしつのエミリー・マーティンですが、トイレがこわれました。
4. CARETAKER: 水がながれませんか？
5. EMILY: いいえ、水が止まりません。
6. CARETAKER: ええ！？すぐ、行きます！
7. (fixing sound)
8. CARETAKER: 水が止まりました。でも、しゅうりがひつようですね。あした、しゅうりやにでんわしますね。
9. EMILY: おねがいします。

KANA

1. (Sound of flushing)
2. (telephone)
3. EMILY: もしもし、よんまるいちごうしつのエミリー・マーティンですが、トイレがこわれました。
4. CARETAKER: みずがながれませんか？

CONT'D OVER

5. EMILY: いいえ、みずがとまりません。
6. CARETAKER: ええ！？すぐ、いきます！
7. (fixing sound)
8. CARETAKER: みずがとまりました。でも、しゅうりがひつようですね。
あした、しゅうりやにでんわしますね。
9. EMILY: おねがいします。

ROMANIZATION

1. (Sound of flushing)
2. (telephone)
3. EMILY: Moshi-moshi, yon maru ichi-gōshitsu no Emirī Mātein desu ga, toire
ga koware mashita.
4. CARETAKER: Mizu ga nagaremasen ka?
5. EMILY: Iie, mizu ga tomarimasen.
6. CARETAKER: Ee!? Sugu, ikimasu!
7. (fixing sound)
8. CARETAKER: Mizu ga tomarimashita. Demo, shūri ga hitsuyō desu ne.
Ashita, shūriya ni denwa shimasu ne.
9. EMILY: Onegai shimasu.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (sound of flushing)
2. (telephone)
3. EMILY: Hello, this is Emily Martin from Apartment 401. The toilet's broken.
4. CARETAKER: Is the water not flowing?
5. EMILY: No, the water won't stop.
6. CARETAKER: What? I'll be there immediately!
7. (fixing sound)
8. CARETAKER: The water's stopped. But it needs repairing.
9. Tomorrow I'll call the repair shop.
10. EMILY: Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
しゅうり	しゅうり	shūri	repairing, mending
ひつよう	ひつよう	hitsuyō	necessary, needed;Adj(na)
もしもし	もしもし	Moshimoshi	Hello (on the telephone)
ながれます	ながれます	nagaremasu	to flow, stream;V2
トイレ	といれ	toire	bathroom, restroom, loo

止まります	とまります	tomarimasu	to stop;V1
こわれます	こわれます	kowaremasu	to break, (a thing breaks):V2
すぐ	すぐ	sugu	immediately, soon; Adv

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>トイレをしゅうりした。 <i>Toire no shūri o shita.</i></p> <p>The toilet has been fixed.</p>	<p>しゅうりがひつようです。 <i>Shūri ga hitsuyō desu.</i></p> <p>It needs to be repaired.</p>
<p>もしもし、かおりさん? <i>Moshimoshi, Kaori-san?</i></p> <p>Hello, Kaori?</p>	<p>トイレがながれません。 <i>Toire ga nagaremasen.</i></p> <p>The toilet won't flush.</p>
<p>トイレはどこですか。 <i>Toire wa doko desu ka.</i></p> <p>Where is the restroom?</p>	<p>水が止まりません。 <i>Mizu ga tomarimasen.</i></p> <p>The water won't stop.</p>
<p>トイレがこわれました。 <i>Toire ga kowaremashita.</i></p> <p>The toilet is broken.</p>	<p>すぐ行きます。 <i>Sugu, ikimasu.</i></p> <p>I'm going soon.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

す ぐ (*sugu*)

This means "right away" and "soon," which means the action happens shortly after the previous action.

For Example:

- A: すみません。ちゅうもん、おねがいします。
Sumimasen. Chūmon, onegai shimasu.
 "Excuse me. Order, please."
 B: はい、すぐ行きます。
Hai, sugu ikimasu.
 "Sure, I'm coming right away."
- ジョンはせが高いです。だから、すぐわかります。
Jon wa se ga takai desu. Dakara, sugu wakarimasu.
 "John is tall. So you'll find him easily."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Useful Survival Expressions When You Have Troubles in Your Apartment.

もしもし、401ごうしつのエミリー・マーティンですが、トイレがこわれました。

Moshi-moshi, yon-maru-ichi goushitsu no Emiiri Mātein desu ga, toire ga koware mashita.

"Hello, this is Emily Martin from Apartment 401. The toilet's broken."

This lesson's grammar point is the useful expressions for trouble you would encounter when you have problems with your toilet and anywhere else you use water. When you find any trouble in your apartment, it's better to report it to your apartment caretaker and ask what to do about it.

Let's take a look at each pattern and learn how to tell someone about your troubles.

Pattern 1: When You Report That Something Is Broken

When you report a problem to the caretaker, simply say what is broken. The item you would like to report is simply followed by this pattern. Any item can appear in the bracket.

Japanese	[item] が	こわれました。
Romanization	[item] ga	koware mashita.
"English"	"[item] is broken."	

Pattern 2: When You Describe What Is Happening

There are two typical but serious troubles with the toilet system: the water is not flowing or the water won't stop.

In Japanese, "to flow" is *nagaremasu*, and "to stop" is *tomarimasu*. These phrases use their negative forms.

For Example:

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
水がながれません	<i>Mizu ga nagaremasen.</i>	"The water is not flowing."
水が止まりません。	<i>Mizu ga tomarimasen.</i>	"The water won't stop."

For Example:

1. おふろがこわれました。水がながれません。
O-furo ga koware mashita. Mizu ga nagaremasen.
"The bathtub is broken. The water is not flowing."
2. じゃぐちがこわれました。水が止まりません。
Jaguchi ga koware mashita. Mizu ga tomarimasen.
"The tap is broken. The water won't stop."

Pattern 3: When an Action Is Needed

When the item needs repairing, the caretaker would use this pattern.

Japanese	[action/item] が	ひつようです。
Romanization	[action/item] ga	<i>hitsuyō desu.</i>
"English"	"It needs [action/item]."	

For Example:

1. (おふろは) 水がながれました。でも、しゅうりがひつようです。
(O-furo wa) Mizu ga nagare mashita. Demo, shūri ga hitsuyō desu.
"The water's flowing. But it needs repairing."

2. このパソコンはメンテナンスがひつようです。
Kono pasokon wa mentenansu ga hitsuyō desu.
 "This computer needs maintenance."
 *As for the extended usage, you can use it when something needs an action or an item.

3. あたらしいじゃぐちがひつようですね。
Atarashii jaguchi ga hitsuyō desu ne.
 "It needs a new tap."

Language Tip: Making a Phone Call

When you call a caretaker, it would be a polite to tell your apartment number and your name first. When you call a real estate agency, your apartment name would also be helpful. Also, agencies usually have a person who is in charge of your apartment. You would need to ask to talk with her/him.

For Example:

1. (directly to your caretaker)
 もしもし、301ごうしつのダウニングですが、シンクがこわれました。
Moshi moshi, san maru ichi-gōshitsu no Dauningu desu ga, shinku ga kowaremashita.
 "Hello, this is Downing from Apartment 301. The sink is broken."

2. (call your real estate agency and ask for Mr. Sato)
 もしもし、イノベティブマンション402ごうしつの林ですが、さとうさんいますか。
Moshi moshi, Inobētibu manshon yon maru ni-gōshitsu no hayashi desu ga, Satou-san imasu ka.
 "Hello, this is Hayashi from Apartment 402, Innovative Mansion. Is Mr. Sato there?"

Language Tips: Negative Question

Do you remember that you studied *-masen ka*, the expression to invite someone to do something in Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 21? In this dialogue, the caretaker used *-masen ka*? Did you notice that the usage is different from the previous *-masen ka*? The speaker used this *-masen ka* with Emily to confirm what she says. It is equivalent to the English negative tag question "It doesn't..., does it?" For now, please note that we can use *-masen ka* as an invitation phrase but also as a question sentence.

Examples From This Dialogue

1. もしもし、401ごうしつのエミリー・マーティンですが、トイレがこわれました。
Moshi-moshi, yon maru ichi-gōshitsu no Emirī Mātein desu ga, toire ga kowaremashita.
"Hello, this is Emily Martin from Apartment 401. The toilet's broken. "
2. 水がながれませんか？
Mizu ga nagaremasen ka?
"Is the water not flowing?"
3. いいえ、水が止まりません。
ie, mizu ga tomarimasen.
"No, the water won't stop."
4. 水が止まりました。でも、しゅうりがひつようですね。
Mizu ga tomarimashita. Demo, shūri ga hitsuyō desu ne.
"The water's stopped. But it needs repairing. "

Reference

Please also review the following Grammar Points.

- *-gōshitsu* →Lower Beginner Season 1 Lesson 6
- Past tense of a verb →Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 19
- Sentence ending particle *-ne* →Lower Beginner Season 1 Lesson 9

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Various Changes in a Bathroom/a Toilet

Just as you have many expressions for a bathroom in your language, the Japanese language also has lots of words to say "toilet" or "bathroom." In ancient and old days, we called it as *kawaya*, *habakari*, *chōzu*, or *go-fujō*, but in modern times, we commonly use the words below

in speech and also on signs. The signs usually have pictograms of "ladies" and "gents."

(お) トイレ

(お) といれ

(O-) *toire* is the most common word, which comes from the English word "a toilet." Some people add *o-* at the beginning to use this word politely.

お手洗い

おてあらい

O-tearai is a more polite way to say a bathroom than *toire*. This literally means "a place to wash hands."

化粧室

けしょうしつ

Keshōshitsu is a word that you'll mostly see on a sign in department stores. This literally means "a place to do makeup."

(お) べんじょ

(O-) *benjo* is one of the direct expressions. You'll hear this in very casual conversation.