

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #157

A Farming Family

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KANJI

1. お父さん: ね、宏、パパに手を貸して。
2. 子供: パパは何してる？
3. お父さん: かかしを立ててる。
4. 子供: やだ！そのかかしが怖い～。
5. お父さん: それが目的だよ。怖くないとカラスにとうもろこしを食べられるよ。
6. 子供: カラスがとうもろこしを食べる？
7. お父さん: そうだよ。全部！だから、このかかしがある。
8. 子供: ね、パパ、カラスにとうもろこしを食べられるとカラスがとうもろこしを食べる。。。同じことを言ってるね。
9. お父さん: そうだ。
10. 子供: 何が違う？
11. お父さん: 文法。
12. 子供: 文法って何？
13. お父さん: 文法ってパパが高校卒業できないように、作られたものさ。

KANA

CONT'D OVER

1. おとうさん: ね、ひろし、パパにてをかして。
2. こども: パパはなにしてる？
3. おとうさん: かかしをたててる。
4. こども: やだ！そのかかしがこわい～。
5. おとうさん: それがもくてきだよ。こわくないとカラスにとうもろこしをたべられるよ。
6. こども: カラスがとうもろこしをたべる？
7. おとうさん: そうだよ。ぜんぶ！だから、このかかしがある。
8. こども: ね、パパ、カラスにとうもろこしをたべられるとカラスがとうもろこしをたべる。。。おなじことをいってるね。
9. おとうさん: そうだ。
10. こども: なにかちがう？
11. おとうさん: ぶんぼう。
12. こども: ぶんぼうってなに？
13. おとうさん: ぶんぼうってパパがこうこうそつぎょうできないように、つくられたものさ。

ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. OTŌSAN: Ne, Hiroshi, papa ni te o kashite.
2. KODOMO: Papa wa nani shiteru?
3. OTŌSAN: Kakashi o tateteru.
4. KODOMO: Yada! Sono kakashi ga kowai~.
5. OTŌSAN: Sore ga mokuteki da yo. Kowakunai to karasu ni tōmorokoshi o taberareru yo.
6. KODOMO: Karasu ga tōmorokoshi o taberu?
7. OTŌSAN: Sō da yo. Zenbu! Dakara, kono kakashi ga aru.
8. KODOMO: Ne, papa, karasu ni tōmorokoshi o taberareru to karasu ga tōmorokoshi o taberu... Onaji koto o itteru ne.
9. OTŌSAN: Sō da.
10. KODOMO: Nani ga chigau?
11. OTŌSAN: Bunpō.
12. KODOMO: Bunpō tte nani?
13. OTŌSAN: Bunpō tte papa ga kōkō sotsugyō dekinai yō ni, tsukurareta mono sa.

ENGLISH

1. FATHER: Hey, Hiroshi, can you help me?

CONT'D OVER

2. CHILD: What are you doing ?
3. FATHER: I'm standing a scarecrow.
4. CHILD: Oh, no, I can't! It's scary.
5. FATHER: That's the point. If it's not scary, it could not stop crows from eating sweet corn.
6. CHILD: Do crows eat sweet corn?
7. FATHER: Yes, they do. They would eat everything! That's why we need this scarecrow.
8. CHILD: Hmm, Dad, you said sweet corn is eaten by crows and crows eat sweet corn. These are the same, right?
9. FATHER: That's right.
10. CHILD: What's the difference?
11. FATHER: The grammar.
12. CHILD: What's grammar ?
13. FATHER: Grammar was something made to prevent me from graduating from high school.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
貸す	かす	kasu	to lend
卒業	そつぎょう	sotsugyō	graduation

高校	こうこう	kōkō	senior high school
文法	ぶんぽう	bunpō	grammar
違う	ちがう	chigau	to differ (from)
同じ	おなじ	onaji	same, identical, equal
玉蜀黍	とうもろこし	tōmorokoshi	sweet corn
カラス	カラス	karasu	crow
目的	もくてき	mokuteki	purpose, goal, aim
怖い	こわい	kowai	scary, frightening
かかし	かかし	kakashi	scarecrow
立てる	たてる	tateru	to stand (something) up
全部	ぜんぶ	zenbu	all, entire, whole

SAMPLE SENTENCES

高校までスクールバスで行きます。 <i>Kōkō made sukūru-basu de ikimasu.</i> I go to high school by school bus.	真っ黒なカラスが食べ物を探している。 <i>Makkuro na karasu ga tabemono o sagashite iru.</i> "The black crow is looking for something to eat."
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GRAMMAR

Today's lesson covers the passive tense of Class 2 verbs. Passive voice refers to a sentence structure wherein the recipient of some action becomes the grammatical subject of the sentence. In Japanese, the passive voice is indicated by verbs ending in "reru."

Technically speaking, there are two kinds of passive voice in Japanese. The first, called "direct passive voice" (*chokusetsu ukemi*) roughly corresponds to the normal English passive form. The second, called "indirect passive voice" (*kansetsu ukemi*) has no easy equivalent in English.

Direct passive voice takes either the direct or indirect object of the equivalent active sentence, and uses it as the grammatical subject. The particle "ni" is normally used to

indicate the agent (the doer of the action), however, when one wishes to place additional stress on the agent, "*ni yotte*" may be used. "*Kara*" may also be used to indicate the agent in cases where a physical object has been given from the agent.

先生に叱られた。

Sensei ni shikarareta.

I was scolded by my teacher.

Indirect passive voice has no easy English equivalent, however, it is similar in meaning to the colloquial form "to up and do something to me". (See example below.) It is used to indicate that an (often negative) influence has had some effect on the (usually human) subject. Because this passive is often used when the speaker is showing empathy for something that happens to the subject that is outside of his/her realm of control, this passive form is often called "the troubled passive" (*meiwaku no ukemi*). As an example of its usage and translation, consider the following sentence.

妻に逃げられた。

Tsuma ni nigerareta.

My wife up and left me.

To form the passive, simply change the final syllable from the "u" column to the a column and add "*reru*." In the case of Class 1 verbs ending in *u*, the *u* becomes *wa*. The irregular verbs "*suru*" and "*kuru*" have irregular passive conjugations that must be independently memorized, and can be seen in the table below.

Class	Dictionary Form	Passive
1	ひく <i>hiku</i>	ひかれる <i>hikareru</i>
1	話す <i>hanasu</i>	話される <i>hanasareru</i>
1	飲む <i>nomu</i>	飲まれる <i>nomareru</i>
1	言う <i>iu</i>	言われる <i>iwareru</i>
2	食べる <i>taberu</i>	食べられる <i>taberareru</i>
2	着る <i>kiru</i>	着られる <i>kirareru</i>
3	する <i>suru</i>	される <i>sareru</i>
3	くる <i>kuru</i>	こられる <i>korareru</i>

Note: further explanations below:

If there's just an object and someone doing an action:

母はケーキを食べた。 My mom ate the cake. ケーキが母に食べられた。 The cake was eaten by my mom.

If there are two people involved.

母が私のケーキを食べた。 My mom ate my cake. 私は母にケーキを食べられた。 I had my cake eaten by my mom.

In Japanese, the passive tense is sometimes used to convey negative emotions. Thus, the emotion “and I was angry” is conveyed in the second example above.

This isn't always necessarily the case (i.e. you can use the passive tense and not imply negative emotion), but if you want to be sure that you're not misinterpreted, instead of このケーキは母に作られた (this cake was made by my mom), you could say:

このケーキは母が作った。
これは母が作ったケーキだ。
母がこのケーキを作った。

And one last thing on the use of the passive tense to imply negativity-sometimes you see sentences in Japanese like, 「昨日雨に降られた」 meaning, “yesterday I was rained on (and it was inconvenient).” But notice that although there's no subject nor object in the Japanese version of the sentence, it's still grammatically correct.