

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #54

The Grass Next Door

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KANJI

1. 妻: また庭の雑草がボーボーになってきて困ったわ。取っても取っても、次から次へと生えてくるし。
2. 夫: いっそのこと、芝を張り替えようか。
3. 妻: 張り替えても、また雑草が生えるだけよ。誰が雑草取りするのよ。
4. 夫: 俺は仕事で忙しいし。。。
5. 妻: お隣なんて、いつもご主人が芝刈りしてるでしょ。だから、青々として素敵な芝生じゃない。
6. 夫: だから、「隣の芝生は青い」というじゃないか!?
7. 妻: それって、ことわざでしょ。本当に隣の芝生は青いのよ。

KANA

1. つま: またにわのざっそうがボーボーになってきてこまったわ。とってもとっても、つぎからつぎへとはえてくるし。
2. おっと: いっそのこと、しばをはりかえようか。
3. つま: はりかえても、またざっそうがはえるだけよ。だれがざっそうとりするのよ。
4. おっと: おれはしごとでいそがしいし。。。
5. つま: おとなりなんて、いつもごしゅじんがしばかりしてるでしょ。だから、あおあおとしてすてきなしばふじゃない。

CONT'D OVER

6. おっと: だから、「となりのしばふはあおい」っていうじゃないか!?
7. つま: それって、ことわざでしょ。ほんとうにとなりのしばふはあおいのよ。

ROMANIZATION

1. TSUMA: Mata niwa no zassō ga bōbō ni natte kite komatta wa. Totte mo totte mo, tsugi kara tsugi e to haete kuru shi.
2. OTTO: Issō no koto, shiba o hari kaeyō ka.
3. TSUMA: Hari kaete mo, mata zassō ga haeru dake yo. Dare ga zassō tori suru no yo.
4. OTTO: Ore wa shigoto de isogashii shi...
5. TSUMA: O-tonari nante, itsumo go-shujin ga shibakari shiteru desho. Dakara, aoao to shite suteki na shibafu ja nai.
6. OTTO: Dakara, "tonari no shibafu wa aoi" tte iu ja nai ka!?
7. TSUMA: Sore tte, kotowaza desho. Hontō ni tonari no shibafu wa aoi no yo.

ENGLISH

1. WIFE: The weeds in our garden are growing out of control again. What a drag. They keep popping up no matter how often we pull them out.
2. HUSBAND: Should we just re-do the entire lawn?

CONT'D OVER

3. WIFE: But even if we do, weeds will grow back again. Who's going to do the weeding?
4. HUSBAND: I'm busy with work...
5. WIFE: The neighbor's husband is always mowing the lawn. That's why their lawn is always green and fantastic looking.
6. HUSBAND: That's why we have the saying, "The grass is always greener on the other side."
7. WIFE: That's a proverb. But in our case, the neighbor's lawn really IS greener.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
雑草	ざっそう	zassō	weed
芝刈り	しばかり	shibakari	lawn mowing
ことわざ	ことわざ	kotowaza	proverb
いっそ	いっそ	isso	rather, sooner
素敵	すてき	suteki	lovely, dreamy, beautiful
青々	あおあお	aoao	fresh and green
生える	はえる	haeru	to grow, to spring up
張り替える	はりかえる	harikaeru	to re-cover
困る	こまる	komaru	to be worried, to be bothered
次から次へと	つぎからつぎへと	tsugi kara tsugi e to	one after another

SAMPLE SENTENCES

隣の部屋がうるさくて困る。

Tonari no heya ga urusakute komaru.

I'm really annoyed by the noisy room next door.

GRAMMAR

(i) 一ても一ても (--te mo --te mo) in 取っても取っても (*totte mo totte mo*)

一ても (--te mo) is approximately the same as "even if" in English. So, this phrase is used in a sentence like "---te mo, [main clause]," and what is expressed in the main clause is not what is expected from the content of the *te mo* clause. In this case, the phrase of --te mo is repeated for emphasis. Like 取っても取っても (*totte mo totte mo*), the exact same phrase can be repeated and also different phrases which are related can be added.

Formation:

* Te-form of verb/adjectives + *mo*

食べても食べても; *tabete mo tabete mo*

暑くても寒くても; *atsukute mo samukute mo*

Examples:

その本は何百ページもあって、読んでも読んでも終わらない。

Sono hon wa nan byaku pēji mo atte, yonde mo yonde mo owaranai.

That book has a gazillion pages; no matter how much I read and read, it never ends!

雨が降っても雪が降っても、新聞配達を休むことはできない。

Ame ga futte mo yuki ga futte mo, shinbun haitatsu wa yasumu koto ga dekinai.

Even if it rains or snows, you can't stop delivery newspapers!

足が速くても遅くても、一生懸命走ることが大切だ。

Ashi ga hayakute mo osokute mo, isshōkenmei hashiru koto ga taisetsu da.

Even if you're fast or slow, it's important to run as best you can!

(ii)--し(--shi)

When *shi* is placed at the end of a sentence, after a verb, i-adjective or one of the forms of the copula, it acts as a conjunction, and can mean among other things, what's more, not only A but also B. Also, *shi* can indicate the reason for the following sentence.

This conjunction is usually followed by a sentence, but in spoken Japanese ending a statement with *shi* to allow conjecture is quite common. (There is also a slang use of *shi*

used to indicate discontent, but that didn't occur in this dialog.)

In today's dialog, we have two examples of using *shi*:

次から次へと生えてくるし。

Tsugi kara tsugi e to haete kuru shi.

It's growing very quickly.

→In this case, *shi* is used to explain the reason why she is annoyed.

俺は仕事忙しいし。。。。

Ore wa isogashii shi...

I'm busy with my work.

→In this case, *shi* is used to explain the reason for the sentence, which is not said but can be inferred from the context (scil., that he can't do the weeding).

Formation:

* Verb.plain + し(*shi*)

たくさん食べるし ; *takusan taberu shi*

たくさん食べたし ; *takusan tabeta shi*

* i-Adjective.inf + し(*shi*)

重いし ; *omoi shi*

重かったし ; *omokatta shi*

* na-Adjective.stem + だ/だったし (*da shi/datta shi*)

熱心だし ; *nesshin da shi*

熱心だったし ; *nesshin datta shi*

* Noun + だ/だったし (*da shi/datta shi*)

子どもだし ; *kodomo da shi*

子どもだったし ; *kodomo datta shi*

Examples:

毎日暑くていやだわ。その上、じめじめするし。

Mainichi atsukute iya da wa. Sono ue, jimejime suru shi.

It's hot everyday, I hate it. What's more, it's humid as well.

「今日の飲み会、行く？」「うーん、ちょっと風邪を引いてるし。。。。」

"Kyo no nomikai iku?" "Ūn, chotto kaze o hiite iru shi..."

"Are you going out drinking with us tonight?" "Well, I caught a bit of a cold, so..."

* *Shi* is used to explain the reason for the implicit "...so I'm not going." Furthermore, by

using *shi*, it implies there may be other reasons as well ("I promised my wife I'd read to the kids, I have to work late, I'm going to a better party with cooler people," etc...).

彼は、熱心に練習するし、才能があるし、その上、運もいい。

Kare wa, nesshin ni renshū suru shi, sainō ga aru shi, sono ue, un mo ii.

He is earnest about exercise and has talent, and what's more, he has good luck.