

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S3 #4

The Meet Up 1

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KANJI

1. タロウ: うわ、もう6時50分？まずい。また遅刻だ。
2. (携帯)
3. クミ: 今、どこ？開演まであと、3分しかないよ。
4. タロウ: ごめん、ごめん、もうすぐ着く。今着く。
5. クミ: 遅い！いつも、タローは自分のことしか考えていない！（プチッ）
6. タロウ: おー、怖い怖い。まったく。クミコは文句しか言わないね。
7. 係員: お客様、開演まで、あと1分しかありませんよ。
8. クミ: あ、はい。でももう少し、ここで待ちます。

KANA

1. タロウ: うわ、もうろくじごじゅっぷん？まずい。またちこくだ。
2. (けいたい)
3. クミ: いま、どこ？かいえんまであと、さんぷんしかないよ。
4. タロウ: ごめん、ごめん、もうすぐつく。いまつく。
5. クミ: おそい！いつも、タロウはじぶんのことしかかんがえていない！
(プチッ)
6. タロウ: おー、こわいこわい。まったく、クミコはもんくしかいわないね。

CONT'D OVER

7. かかりいん: おきゃくさま、かいえんまで、あといっぽんしかありませんよ。
8. クミ: あ、はい。でももうすこし、ここでまちます。

ROMANIZATION

1. TARŌ: Uwa, mō roku-ji goju-ppun? Mazui. Mata chikoku da.
2. (keitai)
3. KUMI: Ima, doko? Kaien made ato, san-pun shika nai yo.
4. TARŌ: Gomen, gomen, mō sugu tsuku. Ima tsuku.
5. KUMI: Osoi! itsumo, Tarō wa jibun no koto shika kangaete inai! (puchittu)
6. TARŌ: Ō, kowai kowai. Fū. Kumiko wa monku shika iwanai ne.
7. KAKARIIN: O-kyaku-sama, kaien made, ato ippun shika arimasen yo.
8. KUMI: A, hai. Demo mō sukoshi, koko de machimasu.

ENGLISH

1. TARŌ: Wow, it's already six-fifty? This is bad. I'm going to be late again.
2. (cell phone rings)
3. KUMI: Where are you now? The concert will begin in just three minutes.

CONT'D OVER

4. TARŌ: I'm so sorry, I'll get there soon, I'm almost there.
5. KUMI: You're late! Tarō, you don't care about anything but yourself.(She hangs up.)
6. TARŌ: She is so mad at me. Kumiko doesn't say anything but complaints.
7. CLERK: Excuse me Miss, there is only one minute left before the concert begins.
8. KUMI: Yeah...but I'll wait here a little longer.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
まずい	まずい	mazui	Oh no!, uh-oh
遅刻	ちこく	chikoku	lateness, late coming
開演	かいえん	kaien	curtain raising, starting (e.g., play, concert)
もうすぐ	もうすぐ	mō sugu	soon, almost, very soon
着く	つく	tsuku	to arrive at, to reach; V1
怖い	こわい	kowai	scary, frightening
文句	もんく	monku	complaint
待つ	まつ	matsu	to wait

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>遅刻をしないでください。 <i>Chikoku o shinaide kudasai.</i></p> <p>Don't be late.</p>	<p>開演は何時ですか。 <i>Kaien wa nan-ji desu ka.</i></p> <p>What time does the performance begin?</p>
<p>もうすぐ春ですね。 <i>Mōsugu haru desu ne.</i></p> <p>It'll be spring soon.</p>	<p>東京に何時に着きますか。 <i>Tōkyō ni nan-ji ni tsukimasu ka.</i></p> <p>What time are we arriving in Tokyo?</p>

GRAMMAR

Today's grammar point is **しか --ない** (*shika --nai*). **しか** is a particle used to emphasize the element preceding **しか** (*shika*), and it always comes with a negative predicate and means "only" or "nothing but --."

(1) Noun + **しか** (*shika*) + **ない**

When **しか** (*shika*) is used after a noun, it means "nothing/nobody but [noun]" or "only [noun]." In the case of today's examples, you can use **ばかり** (*bakari*) or **だけ** (*dake*) in place of **しか** (*shika*). But there is some difference in the nuance. **しか** emphasizes that there is "nothing but [noun]", and **ばかり** emphasizes that there is only [noun], and **だけ** is the neutral phrase to mean "only." **しか --ない** or **ばかり** can often imply the speaker's criticism or dissatisfaction. Please note that **しか** (*shika*) comes with a negative predicate, as opposed to **ばかり** or **だけ** which comes with a positive predicate.

Today's Example (i):

タローは自分のことしか考えていない。
Tarō wa jibun no koto shika kangaete inai!
Taro, you don't care about anything but yourself.

タローは自分のことばかり考えている。
Tarō wa jibun no koto bakari kangaete iru.
Taro, you always care only about yourself.

タローは自分のことだけ考えている。
Tarō wa jibun no koto dake kangaete iru.
Taro, you care only about yourself.

In the case of the example (ii), it's not natural to say **クミコは文句だけ言うね** because

this sentence itself has a criticism, so it would be natural to say クミコは文句しか言わないね or クミコは文句ばかり言うね.

Today's Example (ii):

クミコは文句しか言わないね。

Kumiko wa monku shika iwanai ne.

Kumiko doesn't say anything but complaints.

クミコは文句ばかり言うね。

Kumiko wa monku bakari iu ne.

Kumiko is always complaining.

△クミコは文句だけ言うね。

Kumiko wa monku dake iu ne.

When *しか(shika)* is used after a noun which is a subject of a sentence or a direct object, the subject marking particle, *が(ga)*, or the object marking particle, *を(o)*, is omitted. In the case of today's examples above, *自分のこと* or *文句* is a direct object of *考える* or *言う* which is a predicate of each sentence. So, if you say it in a normal way, it can be "*自分のことを考えている*" or "*文句を言う*." But, the object marking particle *を(o)* is omitted when you say *自分のことしか* or *文句しか*.

The following is an example where the subject is emphasized by *しか(shika)* and the subject marking particle *が(ga)* is deleted. The fact is that *次郎が会社に来た(Jiro ga kaisha ni kita; Jiro came to the office.)*. So, *次郎* is the subject of this sentence *来る(kuru)*, but when you say *次郎しか会社に来なかった*, the subject marking particle is omitted.

昨日は、次郎しか会社に来なかった。

Kinō wa, Jirō shika kaisha ni konakatta.

It was only Jiro who came to the office yesterday.

(2) Quantifier + *しか(shika)* + *ない(nai)*

When *しか(shika)* is used before quantifier, it emphasizes the small amount of the quantifier and means "only." In the case of today's examples below, the fact is that there is 3 minutes until the opening of the show. So you can say "*開演まであと3分です。(Kaien made ato san-pun desu.)*," which is just to tell the fact in a neutral way. But, you can emphasize that only 3 minutes are left by saying "*3分しかない(san-pun shika nai)*" and imply that there is not so much time left.

Today's Examples:

開演まであと、3分しかないよ。

Kaien made ato, san-pun shika nai yo.

There is only 3 minutes left until the opening of the show.

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Other Examples:

タカオは好きなものしか食べない。

Takao wa suki na mono shika tabenai.

Takao doesn't eat anything but what he likes.

テストまで、あと1週間しかない。

Tesuto made, ato 1-shūkan shika nai.

There is only 1 week left until the examination.

久美子しかパーティにこなかった。

Kumiko shika pātei ni konakatta.

Nobody but Kumiko came to the party.