

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate #11

Postcards

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KANJI

1. 石原: ああ、佐々木さんから葉書が来た。
2. 葉書: 石原さん
3. いよいよ本格的な寒さになってまいりました。お元気でお過ごしでしょうか。
4. 石原さんが出張で日本を出てから2ヶ月が経ちますが、その後お仕事は怎么样了。
5. こちらは埼玉で相変わらずの生活を送っています。お忙しいとは思いますが、お時間がありましたら、お返事ください。
6. お体にはお気をつけて。
7. 佐々木

KANA

1. いしはら: ああ、ささきさんからはがきがきた。
2. はがき: いしはらさん
3. いよいよほんかくてきなさむさになってまいりました。おげんきでお過ごしでしょうか。いしはらさんがしゅっちょうでにっぽんをでてから2かげつがたちますが、そのごおしごとは怎么样了。
4. こちらはさいたまであいかわらずのせいかつをおくっています。おいそがしいとはおもいますが、おじかんがありましたら、おへんじください。おからだにはおきをつけて。
5. ささき

ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. ISHIHARA: Ā Sasaki-san kara hagaki ga kita.

2. HAGAKI: Ishihara-san

3. Iyoiyo honkakuteki na samusa ni natte mairimashita. Ogenki de osugoshi deshō ka. Ishihara-san ga shucchō de Nihon o dete kara 2 ka getsu ga tachimasu ga, sonogo oshigoto wa dō desu ka? Kochira wa saitama de aikawarazu no seikatsu o okutte imasu. Oisogashii to wa omoimasu ga, ojikan ga arimashitara, ohenji kudasai. Okarada niwa oki o tsukete.

4. Sasaki

ENGLISH

1. ISHIHARA: Oh, I got a postcard from Ms. Sasaki.

2. POSTCARD: Mr. Ishihara

3. At long last, the formidable grasp of winter's coldness has fully taken hold of us. I do hope that you are spending your days well. It will have been two months since you departed Japan on business, Mr. Ishihara - how has work been since then? Here in Saitama, I am passing the days as I always have. I am certain you must be busy, but if time allows, please do write back.

4. Please take care of yourself.

5. Sasaki

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
葉書	はがき	hagaki	postcard

本格的	ほんかくてき	honkakuteki	full-blown, genuine, earnest
出張	しゅっちょう	shucchō	service call, business trip
相変わらず	あいかわらず	aikawarazu	as ever, as usual, the same
埼玉	さいたま	Saitama	Saitama (place name)
返事	へんじ	henji	reply, answer

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>ここは、本格的なフレンチレストランだ。 <i>Koko wa, honkaku-teki na furenchi resutoran da.</i></p> <p>This French restaurant is the real deal.</p>	<p>当店は、出張修理もいたします。 <i>Tōten wa, shucchō shūri mo itashimasu.</i></p> <p>Our store does on-site repairs.</p>
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GRAMMAR

Today's lesson focuses on polite language, *teineigo*, and in particular, the respectful prefix *o*. *O* and *go* are the respectful prefixes attached to nouns, adjectives, or adverbs to increase the level of politeness. The following chart illustrates some examples.

Parts of Speech	Word	Rōmaji	English
Noun	お金	<i>o-kane</i>	money
Adjective	ご親切	<i>go-shinsetsu</i>	kind
Adverb	ごゆっくり	<i>go-yukuri</i>	slowly

Knowing which prefix to use is something that is acquired through familiarity with the language, so one should always pay attention to which is used with what word. There is a rule of thumb that states *o* is generally used with native Japanese words and *go* with words of Chinese origin; however, there are exceptions. The Japanese language includes many honorifics, as politeness level is a pivotal part of Japanese. In Japanese, the

category of honorifics *keigo* consists of the following: *sonkeigo* (respectful language, in which the status of the party you are speaking about is raised up), *kensongo* or *kenjōgo* (humble language in which the status of your party is lowered), and *teineigo* (polite language, commonly introduced in textbooks).