

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate #12

Postcards II

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KANJI

1. 佐々木: 返事が来た。
2. 手紙: 佐々木さん、ご無沙汰していました。お手紙ありがとうございました。
3. お手紙を読んでいますと、あなたと一緒に過ごした時間を懐かしく思い出します。
4. 実は最近佐々木さんのことをよく思い出していたんです。
5. なぜなら来月私は結婚することになったからです。この年になるとやっぱり一人でいたくはありません。
6. こちらから連絡をしようと思っていたのですが、遅くなってしまってごめんなさい。
7. 詳しくはまた連絡します。
8. 石原

KANA

1. ささき: へんじがきた。
2. てがみ: ささきさん、ごぶさたしていました。おてがみありがとうございました。おてがみをよんでいますと、あなたといっしょにすごしたじかんをなつかしくおもいだします。じつはさいきんささきさんのことをよくおもいだしていたんです。なぜなららいげつわたしはけっこんすることになったからです。このとしになるとやっぱりひとりでいたくはありません。

CONT'D OVER

3. こちらかられんらくをしようとおもっていたのですが、おそくなってしまっておめんなさい。
4. くわしくはまたれんらくします。
5. いしはら

ROMANIZATION

1. SASAKI: Henji ga kita.
2. TEGAMI: Sasaki-san, gobusata shite imashita. Otegami arigatō gozaimashita. Otegami o yonde imasu to, anata to issho ni sugoshita jikan o natsukashiku omoidashimasu. Jitsu wa saikin Sasaki-san no koto o yoku omoidashite ita n desu. Nazenara raigetsu watashi wa kekkon suru koto ni natta kara desu. Kono toshi ni naru to yappari hitori de itaku wa arimasen.
3. Kochira kara renraku o shiyō to omotte ita no desu ga, osoku natte shimatte gomen nasai.
4. Kuwashiku wa mata renraku shimasu.
5. Ishihara

ENGLISH

1. SASAKI: He replied.

CONT'D OVER

2. LETTER: Ms. Sasaki, I must apologize for my long silence. Thank you very much for your letter. When I read your letter, I recalled nostalgically the time that we spent together. Actually, I am often reminded of you recently. That is because I will be getting married next month. When you reach this age, well...I don't want to be alone.
3. I was thinking that I would contact you - apologies for my tardiness.
4. I will send more details later.
5. Ishihara

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
懐かしい	なつかしい	natsukashii	dear, desired, missed
実は	じつは	jitsu wa	as a matter of fact, actually
ご無沙汰	ごぶさた	gobusata	long silence
お手紙	おてがみ	otegami	letter
詳しい	くわしい	kuwashii	knowing very well, detailed, accurate;Adj(i)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>ご無沙汰していますが、お元気ですか。 <i>Go-busata shite imasu ga, o-genki desu ka.</i></p> <p>It's been a long time since I saw you last. How have you been?</p>	<p>詳しい事はわかりません。 <i>Kuwashii koto wa wakarimasen.</i></p> <p>I don't know any details.</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).

Today's lesson also covers the subordinate conjunction *to* which is used to create conditional sentences, and therefore, is sometimes referred to as the *to*-conditional. Formation of sentences with the subordinate conjunction *to* is as follows: sentence 1 *to* sentence 2. If the condition set in the subordinate clause is fulfilled, sentence 2 will take place. The *to* conditional implies that sentence 2 is a natural and/or expected consequence of sentence 1. Sentence 1 should be in the plain present tense, as the tense of the sentence is determined by the tense of sentence 2.

Formation:

verb/ i-adjective/ na-adjective + *to*
 noun + copula + *to*

Examples:

- 彼と会うといつも勉強になる。
Kare to au to itsumo benkyō ni naru.
 "When I meet him, I always learn something."
- おいしくないと二度と来ない。
Oishikunai to nido to konai.
 "If it's not delicious, we won't come again."
- 早く家を出ないと電車に間に合わないよ!
Hayaku ie o denai to densha ni maniawanai yo!
 "If you don't leave quickly, you won't catch the train!"

※When using this structure, the second sentence cannot be one of the following: a command, request, suggestion, an invitation, or a volitional sentence.