

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S6 #22

Tips for Improving your Formal Written Japanese

CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 2 Kana
- 3 Romanization
- 4 English
- 5 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar

22

KANJI

1. 桃屋先生: ここに「常用漢字」についての記事があります。
野沢さん、読んでくれますか。
2. 野沢菜味: はい。「文章を書く時に、常用漢字を意識するかどうか、質問をした。
意識すると答えた人は38%。意識しないと答えた人は約60%であった。」
3. 桃屋先生: ありがとう。つまり、「この漢字は常用漢字かな」と考えながら、漢字を使っている人は少ないんだね。
じゃ、次を大葉さん、お願いします。
4. 大葉桜子: はい。
「憂鬱(ゆう・うつ)の鬱、語彙(ご・い)の彙、処方箋(しょ・ほう・せん)の箋は、2010年に常用漢字になった。
しかし、3つの漢字が全て書けると答えた人は4%、書けないと答えた人は58%であった。
これが現実なのであろう。」
5. 那須実: よかった。
書けない人は俺だけじゃないんだ！

KANA

1. ももやせんせい: ここに「じょうようかんじ」についてのきじがあります。
のざわさん、よんでくれますか。

2. のぞわなみ: はい。「ぶんしょうをかくときに、じょうようかんじをいしきするかどうか、しつもんをした。
いしきするところたえたひとはさんじゅうはちぱーせんと。いしきしないところたえたひとはやくろくじゅっぱーせんとであった。」
3. ももやせんせい: ありがとう。つまり、「このかんじはじょうようかんじかな」とかんがえながら、かんじをつかっているひとはすくないんだね。
じゃ、つぎをおおばさん、おねがいします。
4. おおばさくらこ: はい。
「ゆううつ(ゆう・うつ)のうつ、ごい(ご・い)のい、しょほうせん(しょ・ほう・せん)のせんは、2010ねんにじょうようかんじになった。
しかし、3つのかんじがすべてかけるとこたえたひとはよんぱーせんと、かけないとこたえたひとはごじゅうはちぱーせんとであった。
これがげんじつなのであろう。」
5. なすみのる: よかった。
かけないひとはおれだけじゃないんだ！

ROMANIZATION

1. MOMOYA SENSEI: Koko ni (jōyōkanji) ni tsuite no kiji ga arimasu.
Nozawa-san, yonde kuremasu ka.
2. NOZAWA NAMI: Hai.(Bunshō o kaku toki ni, jōyōkanji o ishiki suru ka dō ka, shitsumon o shita.
Ishiki suru to kotaeta hito wa sanjūhachi%. ishiki shinai to kotaeta hito wa yaku rokujū% de atta.)

3. MOMOYA SENSEI: Arigatō. Tsumari,(kono kanji wa jōyōkanji kana) to kangae nagara, kanji o tsukatte iru hito wa sukunai n da ne.
Ja, tsugi Ōba-san, o-negai shimasu.
4. ŌBA SAKURAKO: Hai.
(Yūutsu (yū.utsu) no utsu, goi(go.i) no i, shohōsen(sho.hō.sen) no sen wa, nisenjūnen ni jōyōkanji ni natta.
Shikashi, mittsu no kanji ga subete kakeru to kotaeta hito wa yon%, kakenai to kotaeta hito wa gojūhachi% de atta.
Kore ga genjitsu na no de arō.)
5. NASU MINORU: Yokatta.
Kakenai hito wa ore dake ja nai n da!

ENGLISH

1. Formal English
2. MR. MOMOYA: I have here an article about the "standard-use kanji."
Miss Nozawa, would you read it for us?
3. NAMI NOZAWA: Yes. "We asked the question, when you write something, are you conscious of the standard-use kanji?
Thirty-eight percent of respondents answered that they were conscious of the standard-use kanji, while sixty percent answered that they were not."
4. MR. MOMOYA: Thanks. Basically, there's not many people who use kanji while thinking "Hmm, is this character one of the standard-use kanji?"
All right, next is Miss Ōba, please.

CONT'D OVER

5. ŌBA SAKURAKO: Yes.
 "In 2010, the character 鬱 ('utsu') of 憂鬱 ('yūtsu,' 'depression'), the character 彙 ('i') of 語彙 ('goi,' 'vocabulary') and the character 箋 ('sen') of 処方箋 ('shohōsen,' 'prescription') became standard-use kanji.
 However, the percentage of people who answered that they could write all three of these kanji was four percent, while the percentage of those who could not was fifty-eight percent.
 This is the likely reality."
6. MINORU NASU: I'm glad. It's not just me who can't write them!

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
答える	こたえる	kotaeru	to answer, to reply ;V2
しかし	しかし	shikashi	however, but, though
考える	かんがえる	kangaeru	to think about; V2
少ない	すくない	sukunai	few, a little, scarce, insufficient
つまり	つまり	tsumari	in short, in other words, that is to say, I mean
約	やく	yaku	approximately, about
記事	きじ	kiji	article, report, news story
文章	ぶんしょう	bunshō	sentence, article, text, writing
意識する	いしきする	ishiki suru	to be aware (of), to be conscious (of);V3
現実	げんじつ	genjitsu	reality, fact

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>次の質問に答えてください。 <i>Tsugi no shitsumon ni kotaete kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please answer the following questions.</p>	<p>言っていることはわかります。しかし、私の考えはちがいます。 <i>Itteiru koto wa wakarimasu. Shikashi, watashi no kangae wa chigaimasu.</i></p> <p>I understand what you're saying. However, I think differently about it.</p>
<p>ゆっくり考えてください。 <i>Yukkuri kangaete kudasai.</i></p> <p>Take your time and think about it.</p>	<p>髪の毛が少なくなった。 <i>Kami no ke ga sukunaku natta.</i></p> <p>My hair got thinner.</p>
<p>つまり、何を言いたいんですか。 <i>Tsumari, nani o itai n desu ka.</i></p> <p>So basically what are you trying to say?</p>	<p>ホテルから空港まで電車で約30分かかります。 <i>Hoteru kara kūkō made densha de yaku sanjuppun kakarimasu.</i></p> <p>It takes approximately 30 minutes by train from the hotel to the airport.</p>
<p>この記事を書いた人が信じられない。 <i>Kono kiji o kaita hito ga shinjirarenai.</i></p> <p>I can't believe the person who wrote this article.</p>	<p>村上春樹の文章は美しい。 <i>Murakami Haruki no bunshō wa utsukushii.</i></p> <p>Haruki Murakami's writing is beautiful.</p>
<p>健康を意識していますか。 <i>Kenkō o ishiki shite imasu ka.</i></p> <p>Are you conscious of your health?</p>	<p>現実を見ろ！ <i>Genjitsu o miro.</i></p> <p>Face up to reality!</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

yūutsu (憂鬱); goi (語彙); shohōsen (処方箋)

It's not necessary to be able to write these words. However, since they have been added to the *jōyō kanji* list, or the official list of kanji for common use, it would be better to know their readings and meanings.

- *yūutsu* (憂鬱) "depression," "gloom," "melancholy"
- *goi* (語彙) "vocabulary"

- *shohōsen* (処方箋) "medical prescription"

***bunshō* (文章) "text," "article," "sentence"**

Bun (文) also means "sentence"; we often use *bunshō* and *bun* interchangeably. Generally speaking, *bunshō* usually indicates a bigger unit than *bun*, such as writing or text that contains paragraphs.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Expressions Used in Formal Writing.

Kore ga genjitsu na no de arō.

これが現実なのであろう。

"This is the likely reality."

In this lesson, you'll learn the conjugation of *de aru* and other useful expressions for formal writing.

Expository Copula *De Aru*

In the last lesson, you learned that expository *de aru* sentences appear in formal writing such as essays, theses, newspaper articles, and so on. In this lesson, we'll focus on the conjugation of *de aru*. The conjugation of the copula *de aru* is as follows.

Conjugation of *De Aru* Form

Tense	Affirmative	Negative
Past	<i>de atta</i> (であった)	<i>de wa nakatta</i> (ではなかった)
Non-past	<i>de aru</i> (である)	<i>de wa nai</i> (ではない)
Conjecture	<i>de arō</i> (であらう)	<i>de wa nakarō</i> (ではなからう)

Sample Sentences

1. **(past)** "What he said was all lies."/"All he said was a lie."
*Kare ga itta koto wa subete uso **datta**.*
 彼が言ったことはすべてうそ**だった**。
 ⇒ *Kare ga itta koto wa subete uso **de atta**.*
 彼が言ったことはすべてうそ**であった**。
2. **(Non-Past)** "Haruki Murakami is famous."
*Murakami Haruki wa yūmei **da**.*
 村上春樹は有名**だ**。
 ⇒ *Murakami Haruki wa yūmei **de aru**.*
 村上春樹は有名**である**。
3. **(Conjecture)** "The most popular sport in Japan is probably baseball."
*Nihon de ichiban ninki no aru supōtsu wa yakyū **darō**.*
 日本で一番人気のあるスポーツは野球**だろう**。
 ⇒ *Nihon de ichiban ninki no aru supōtsu wa yakyū **de arō**.*
 日本で一番人気のあるスポーツは野球**であろう**。

Useful Expressions for Formal Writing

ni tsuite (について) "concerning," "about," "relating to"

Please note that this *ni tsuite* follows the noun the speaker is talking about.

For Example:

1. *Watashi wa nihon no sakka **ni tsuite** repōto o kakimashita.*
 私は、日本の作家**について**レポートを書きました。
 "I wrote an essay about Japanese novelists."

tsumari (つまり)

We use *tsumari* to wrap up an explanation or to give a summary. We can translate it as "that is to say," "to sum it up," "in short," "put simply," "basically," and so forth.

For Example:

1. *Sore wa non arukōru bīru, **tsumari**, o-sake ga haitte inai bīru da.*
 それはノンアルコールビール、**つまり**、お酒がはいっていないビールだ。
 "That's non-alcoholic beer: in other words, it's beer with no alcohol in it."

2. A: *Kare wa hansamu ja nai n da kedo, omoshiroi shi, yasashii shi, majime da shi...*
彼はハンサムじゃないんだけど、面白いし、やさしいし、まじめだし…。
"He's not handsome, but he's funny, he's kind, he's serious..."
B: **Tsumari**, *kare no koto ga suki na no ne.*
つまり、彼のことがすきなのね。
"So basically you like him, right?"

shikashi (しかし) "however," "but"

Demo also means "but." However, in a formal situation or in formal writing, *shikashi* is more preferable.

yaku (約) "approximately," "about"

The adverb *yaku* precedes an amount of something and adds the meaning of "roughly," "approximately," or "about."

Practice

Please rewrite the sentences using *de aru* forms.

- "It will rain in summer."
Natsu ni ame ga furu darō.
夏に雨が降るだろう。
⇒ _____
- "Mr./Ms. Ohara is Japanese."
Ohara-san wa nihon-jin da.
オハラさんは日本人だ。
⇒ _____
- "That was true."
Sore wa hontō datta.
それは本当だった。
⇒ _____

Answer:

- Ame ga furu de arō.*
- Ohara-san wa nihon-jin de aru.*
- Sore wa hontō de atta.*

Reference

- *te kuremasu ka* → Beginner Season 5 Lesson 20
- *toki* → Beginner Season 5 Lesson 12, Lower Intermediate Season 6 Lesson 2
- *ka dō ka* → Lower Intermediate Season 6 Lesson 2
- *nagara* → Beginner Season 6 Lesson 12
- *ka na* → Beginner Season 6 Lesson 23
- *dake* → Beginner Season 6 Lesson 21