

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S4 #10 What Do You Think about My Japanese Proposal?

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KANJI

1. 課長: 中田くん、例のILLトラベルの件、どうした？
2. 中田: はい。それが、エンジニアと相談したんですが、400万以下なんて、絶対できないと言われてしまったんですよ。
3. 課長: あー。やっぱり。
ま、あの内容で400万円以下にしようというのは土台無理な話よね。
それで、どうするの。
4. 中田: 考えたんですが、旅行プラン作成システムの地域を限定するというのはどうでしょうか。
5. 課長: なるほどね。
とりあえず、地域限定で始めて、色々な問題をクリアしてから、地域を広げていくということ、先方に提案するってことね。
いいじゃない。その線でぶつけてみたら。
6. 中田: はい、ありがとうございます！
ところで、地域はどの辺りにしたらいいですかね。
7. 課長: それは、先方の意見を聞いたほうがいいわね。
でも、とりあえず、ILLトラベルが力を入れているハワイを提案してみたらどう？
8. 中田: そうですね。
ハワイは、リピーターが多くて、お仕着せのツアーに満足しないお客さんが多いっていいですからね。

CONT'D OVER

7. kachō: それは、せんぼうのいけんをきいたほうがいいわね。
でも、とりあえず、ILLトラベルがちからをいれているハワイをてい
あんしてみたらどう？
8. nakata: そうですね。
ハワイは、リピーターがおおくて、おしきせのツアーにまんぞくし
ないおきゃくさんがおおいていいますからね。
9. kachō: これがうまくいけば、つづいていろいろなちいきむけのシステムか
いはつをじゅちゅうすることもできるし、おおきなあんけんになる
かのうせいがみえてきたわね。
がんばりなさいよ！
10. nakata: はい！ありがとうございます。

ROMANIZATION

1. KACHŌ: Nakata-kun, rei no ILL toraberu no ken, dō shita?
2. NAKATA: Hai. Sore ga, enjinia to sōdan shita n desu ga, yon-hyaku-man ika
nante, zettai dekinai to iwarete shimatta n desu yo.
3. KACHŌ: Ā. Yappari.
Ma, ano naiyō de yon-hyaku-man-en ika ni shiyō to iu no wa dodai
muri na hanashi yo ne.
Sore de, dō suru no.
4. NAKATA: Kangaeta n desu ga, ryokō puran sakusei shisutemu no chiiki o
gentei suru to iu no wa dō deshō ka.

CONT'D OVER

5. KACHŌ: Naruhodo ne.
Torიაეზუ, ჩიიკი გენთეი დე ჰაჯიმეტე, იროირო ნა მონდაი ო კურია შიტე კარა, ჩიიკი ო ჰიროგეტე იკუ ტო იუ კოტო ო, სენპო ნი ტეიან სურუ ტტე კოტო ნე.
ლი ჯანაი. Sono sen de butasukete mitara.
6. NAKATA: Hai, arigatōgozaimasu!
Tokorode, chiiki wa dono atari ni shitara ii desu ka ne.
7. KACHŌ: Sore wa, senpō no iken o kiita hō ga ii wa ne.
Demo, torიაეზუ, ILL toraberu ga chikara o irete iru Hawaii o teian shite mitara dō?
8. NAKATA: Sō desu ne.
Hawaii wa, ripītā ga ōkute, oshikise no tsuā ni manzoku shinai o-kyaku-san ga ōi tte iimasu kara ne.
9. KACHŌ: Kore ga umaku ikeba, tsuduite iroiro na chiiki muke no shisutemu kaihatsu o juchū suru koto mo dekiru shi, ōkina anken ni naru kanōsei ga miete kita wa ne.
Ganbarinasai yo!
10. NAKATA: Hai! Arigatōgozaimasu.

ENGLISH

1. MANAGER: Mr. Nakata, whatever happened with the ILL Travel situation?
2. NAKATA: Yes, well, I discussed it with the engineer, and I was told that keeping it under four million yen is definitely not possible.
3. MANAGER: Mmm, as was expected.
Well, with that content, keeping it under four million yen was impossible from the beginning.
So what are you going to do?

CONT'D OVER

4. NAKATA: I thought about it, and...how about limiting the regions of the create-your-own-travel-plan system?
5. MANAGER: I see.
For the time being, start with limited regions, and once all kinds of problems are cleared, then expand the regions...is what you are going to propose to them, right?
That's great. Let's shoot for something along those lines.
6. NAKATA: Yes, thank you very much!
By the way, whereabouts should the regions be?
7. MANAGER: For that, you should ask their opinion.
But, for now, why not suggest the place ILL Travel is focused on, Hawaii.
8. NAKATA: Yes, that's true.
Hawaii has a lot of repeat customers, and they say that there are many customers who are dissatisfied with the imposed tours.
9. MANAGER: If this goes well, you may continue getting orders for creating systems for different regions, and I see that it could possibly be a big project!
Good luck!
10. NAKATA: Yes, thank you very much.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
限定	げんてい	gentei	limit, restriction
クリアする	クリアする	kuria suru	to clear, to overcome
案件	あんけん	anken	matter in question, project

お仕着せ	おしきせ	o-shikise	imposed
辺り	あたり	atari	vicinity, nearby
とりあえず	とりあえず	toriaezu	first of all, for now, for the time being
土台	どだい	dodai	base, from the very beginning

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>これは、夏限定のビールです。 <i>Kore wa, natsu gentei no bīru desu.</i></p> <p>This beer is only for sale in summer.</p>	<p>私たちは、いろいろな問題をクリアして、結婚した。 <i>Watashi-tachi wa, iroiro na mondai o kuria shite, kekkon shita.</i></p> <p>We overcame many difficulties and managed to get married.</p>
<p>この案件は、この課で対応することになった。 <i>Kono anken wa, kono ka de taiō suru koto ni natta.</i></p> <p>Our department is going to deal with this project.</p>	<p>僕は、お仕着せの考え方には納得できない。 <i>Boku wa, oshikise no kangae-kata ni wa nattoku dekinai.</i></p> <p>I can't fully understand the imposed way of thinking.</p>
<p>この辺りに、銀行はありますか。 <i>Kono atari ni, ginkō wa arimasu ka.</i></p> <p>Are there any banks nearby?</p>	<p>行けるか分らないけど、とりあえず、予約だけしておこう。 <i>Ikeru ka wakaranai kedo, toriaezu, yoyaku dake shite okou.</i></p> <p>I'm not sure whether we can go, but let's make a reservation for the time being.</p>
<p>ねこに芸を覚えさせるなんて、土台無理な話だ。 <i>Neko ni gei o oboesaseru nante, dodai muri na hanashi da.</i></p> <p>The very idea of teaching a cat tricks is impossible.</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

土台無理な～

This phrase is a compound of the words 土台 (どだい) , which means "base," and 無理 (むり), which means "impossible." In this phrase, we use the word 土台 to mean "from the base" or "from the beginning." All together, this phrase means "impossible from the beginning," and we use it to emphasize the impossibility of something.

その線でぶつける

線 basically means "line," but when we use it in an abstract meaning, it also means "the general way of dealing with things." ぶつける is a verb that generally means "to strike" but we can also use it to mean "to explicitly express one's idea or feelings" as in 考えをぶつける, meaning "to propose one's idea" or 怒りをぶつける, meaning "release one's anger." The expression その線でぶつける means "to go along those lines."

力を入れる

This expression literally means "to put one's strength in [something]." The general meaning of 力 is "strength," but in this case it means "one's efforts." We use it to mean "to focus on a certain task."

お仕着せ

This word comes from the old custom that employers gave clothes to their employees twice a year many years ago, and the government gave the official workers their clothes in the Edo period. So 仕着(しきせ) originally means "servants' clothes provided by employers." Now this word has come to be used to mean "something forced on someone whether they like it or not."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Make a Proposal in a Business Setting.

考えたんですが、旅行プラン作成システムの地域を限定するというのはどうでしょうか。

"I thought about it, and...how about limiting the regions of the create-your-own-travel-plan system?"

The sentence structure of -というのはどうでしょうか is a formal way of making a proposal. Subordinates often use it in a business setting when making a proposal and asking their bosses what they think.

Formally Making a Business Proposal

When formally making a proposal, we often use the sentence structure -**というのはどうでしょうか**. You can say it without **という**, but adding it makes this phrase come off as more polite.

There are some more variations such as **たらどうでしょうか** and **てはどうでしょうか**. When you want to say these phrases more politely, you can use **いかがでしょうか** instead of **どうでしょうか**. The sentence structure **てはいかがでしょうか** would be the most polite way.

Formation

[Clause explaining your proposal] + というのはどうでしょうか

For Example:

1. 行き先を変更する**というのはどうでしょうか**。
いきさをへんこうする**というのはどうでしょうか**。
"Why don't we change our destination?"
2. この色を変えたら**どうでしょうか**。
このいろをかえたら**どうでしょうか**。
"What do you think of changing the color?"
3. 会議を1週間早めて**はいかがでしょうか**。
かいぎをいっしゅうかんはやめて**はいかがでしょうか**。
"Why don't we hold the meeting a week earlier than planned?"

Informal Way of Making a Proposal

The expressions such as *-tara dō* or *-tara*, when we say them with rising intonation, can work as an informal way of making a proposal.

For Example:

1. 電話してみたら**どう**。(with rising intonation)
でんわしてみたら**どう**。
"Why don't you call (him)?"

2. 明日から始めてみたら。(with rising intonation)
あしたからはじめてみたら。
"Why don't we start tomorrow?"

Examples from This Dialogue

1. 旅行プラン作成システムの地域を限定するというのはいかがでしょうか。
ryokō puran sakusei shisutemu no chiiki o gentei suru to iu no wa dō deshō ka.
"How about limiting the regions of the create-your-own-travel-plan system?"
2. その線でぶつけてみたら。
Sono sen de butsukete mitara.
"Let's shoot for along those lines."
3. ILLトラベルが力を入れているハワイを提案してみたらどう？
Demo, toriaezu, ILL toraberu ga chikara o irete iru Hawaii o teian shite mitara dō?
"But, for now, why not suggest the place ILL Travel is focused on, Hawaii?"

Language Tip

When making a proposal, people often start with introductory words such as **考えたんですが**, meaning "I thought about it."

Other Examples

1. 思いついたんですが…
おもいついたんですが…
"I just thought of something..."
2. 提案なんですが…
ていあんなんですが…
"This is just an idea..."