

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S4 #19

## I Cannot Agree with Your Japanese Opinion

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# 19

# KANJI

1. 父: お前も、もう大学三年か。早いなあ。  
あと半年もしたら、就職活動を始める時期じゃないか。
2. 将太: あー、まあね。
3. 母: 大学3年の秋から就職活動なんて、早いわよねえ。  
ついこの前、大学入試が終わったと思ったのに。  
大学の勉強や部活も忙しいだろうけど、今は就職難だから、がんばらないと！
4. 将太: はいはい。。
5. 父: なんか、気合が入ってないみたいだな。大丈夫か？  
友達は、もう、企業研究したり、OB訪問したりしてるんじゃないか。
6. 将太: そうだねえ。俺も、一応やってるからさ、心配なくていいよ。。  
じゃ、明日は早いから、俺、もう寝るからさ。お休み。。  
(部屋から出て行く音)
7. 母: まさか・・・あの子「就職しない」・・・なんていうんじゃないでしょうね。  
せっかく大学まで行ったのに、ニートにでもなったら、困るわ。
8. 父: まさか。。  
だけど、今は雇用環境が悪化しているから、うかうかしてると、就職浪人することになりかねないぞ。

CONT'D OVER

9. 母: そうよ。  
新卒でなんとか正社員として就職しないと、そのままフリーターに  
なんてことになりかねないわ！

## KANA

1. ちち: おまえも、もうだいがくさんねんか。はやいなあ。  
あとはんとしもしたら、しゅうしょくかつどうをはじめるじきじゃ  
ないか。
2. しょうた: あー、まあね。
3. はは: だいがく3ねんのあきからしゅうしょくかつどうなんて、はやいわ  
よねえ。  
ついこのまえ、だいがくにゆうしがおわったとおもったのに。  
だいがくのべんきょうやぶかつもいそがしいだろうけど、いまはし  
ゅうしょくなんだから、がんばらないと！
4. しょうた: はいはい。。
5. ちち: なんか、きあいがはいってないみたいだな。だいじょうぶか？  
ともだちは、もう、きぎょうけんきゅうしたり、OBほうもんしたり  
してるんじゃないか。
6. しょうた: そうだねえ。おれも、いちおうやってるからさ、しんぱいしなくて  
いいよ。。  
じゃ、あしたははやいから、おれ、もうねるからさ。おやす  
み。。  
(へやからでていくおと)

CONT'D OVER

7. はは: まさか・・・あのこ「しゅうしょくしない」・・・なんていうんじゃないでしょうね。  
せっかくだいがくまでいったのに、ニートにでもなったら、こまるわ。
8. ちち: まさか。。  
だけど、いまはこようかんきょうがあっかしているから、うかうかしてると、しゅうしょくろうにんすることになりかねないぞ。
9. はは: そうよ。  
しんそつでなんとかせいしゃいんとしてしゅうしょくしないと、そのままフリーターになんてことになりかねないわ！

## ROMANIZATION

1. CHICHI: O-mae mo, mō daigaku san-nen ka. Hayai nā.  
Ato hantoshi mo shitara, shūshoku katsudō o hajimeru jiki ja nai ka.
2. SHŌTA: Ā, māne.
3. HAHA: Daigaku 3-nen no aki kara shūshoku katsudō nante, hayai wa yo nē.  
Tsui kono mae, daigaku nyūshi ga owatta to omotta noni.  
Daigaku no benkyō ya bukatsu mo isogashii darō kedo, ima wa shūshoku-nan da kara, ganbaranai to!
4. SHŌTA: Hai hai..
5. CHICHI: Nanka, kiai ga haitte nai mitai da na. Daijōbu ka?  
Tomo-dachi wa, mō, kigyō kenkyū shitari, OB hōmon shitari shite ru n ja nai ka.

CONT'D OVER

6. SHŌTA: Sō da nē. Ore mo, ichiō yatte ru kara sa, shinpai shinakute ii yo... ja, ashita hayai kara, ore, mō neru kara sa. O-yasumi... (heya kara dete iku oto)
7. HAHA: Masaka... ano ko (shūshoku shinai)... nante iu n ja nai deshō ne. Sekkaku daigaku made itta noni, nīto ni demo nattara, komaru wa.
8. CHICHI: Masaka...  
Dakedo, ima wa koyō kankyō ga akka shite iru kara, ukauka shite ru to, shūshoku rōnin suru koto ni nari kanenai zo.
9. HAHA: Sō yo.  
Shinsotsu de nantoka seishain to shite shūshoku shinaito, sono mama furītā ni nante koto ni nari kanenai wa!

## ENGLISH

1. FATHER: You're already in your third year of college. Time flies. In half a year, it'll be time to start the job-hunting process.
2. SHOTA: Uhhh, yeah.
3. MOTHER: Starting the job-hunting process in the fall of your third year of college - that's fast! It feels like only recently you've finished your college entrance exams. You must be busy with your college studies and extracurricular activities, but finding employment is difficult right now so you need to be persistent!
4. SHOTA: Yeah, yeah...
5. FATHER: You don't seem to be fired up about it. Are you okay? Aren't your friends doing things like researching companies and listening to alumni company speakers?

CONT'D OVER

6. SHOTA: Yeah...I'm doing stuff too, so you don't have to worry... Okay, I have an early start tomorrow, so I'm off to sleep. Good night.  
(leaves the room)
7. MOTHER: Surely...he's not going to say "I'm not going to get a job," is he? It would be a waste since he went all the way to university if he became a NEET. I'd be troubled.
8. FATHER: Surely not...but, now the employment situation is getting worse, so if you're lazy and not trying hard, then you might end up as a jobless university graduate.
9. MOTHER: That's right! If you don't find a job as a full-time employee as a new graduate, then you could end up being a part-time job hopper!

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
部活動	ぶかつどう	bukatsudō	club activities
就職活動	しゅうしょくかつどう	shūshokukatsudō	job hunting
就職難	しゅうしょくなん	shūshoku-nan	scarcity of employment
気合	きあい	kiai	fighting spirit
OB	おーびー	ōbī	alumni, alumnus
ニート	ニート	nīto	NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training)
就職浪人	しゅうしょくろうにん	shūshoku rōnin	jobless university student
新卒	しんそつ	shinsotsu	new graduate

フリーター

フリーター

furitā

young person who works only part-time jobs

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>弟は部活動が忙しすぎて、塾で居眠りをしてしまった。</p> <p><i>Otōto wa bukatsudō ga isogashisugite, juku de inemuri o shite shimatta.</i></p> <p>My younger brother was really busy with his after-school club activities and ended up falling asleep at cram school.</p>	<p>就職活動は、基本的に大学三年生の時から始める。</p> <p><i>Shūshoku katsudō wa kihonteki ni daigaku 3-nensei no toki kara hajimeru.</i></p> <p>Job hunting basically starts when you are a junior in college.</p>
<p>不景気で、就職難が続いている。</p> <p><i>Fukeiki de, shūshoku-nan ga tsuzuite iru.</i></p> <p>It remains difficult to find employment due to the recession.</p>	<p>もっと気合を入れて練習しないと、うまくならないぞ！</p> <p><i>Motto kiai o irete renshū shinaito, umaku naranai zo.</i></p> <p>If you don't put your spirit into practicing, you won't get any better!</p>
<p>就職活動は、自分の大学のOB訪問からはじめるのが普通だ。</p> <p><i>Shūshoku katsudō wa, jibun no daigaku no ōbi hōmon kara hajimeru no ga futsū da.</i></p> <p>The job hunting process normally starts with a visit to the alumni from your school.</p>	<p>働く意義が見出せず、ニートになる若者も多い。</p> <p><i>Hataraku igi ga midasezu, nīto ni naru wakamono mo ōi.</i></p> <p>There are many young people who don't see the meaning in working and become NEET.</p>
<p>僕は、どうしても新聞社に就職したいから、就職浪人して、来年挑戦するよ。</p> <p><i>Boku wa, dō shite mo shinbunsha ni shūshoku shitai kara, shūshoku rōnin shite, rainen chōsen suru yo.</i></p> <p>I'm dead set on working for a newspaper, so I'll hold off on finding a different job and try again next year.</p>	<p>あの会社は、新卒しか採用しない。</p> <p><i>Ano kaisha wa, shinsotsu shika saiyo shinai.</i></p> <p>That company only employs new graduates.</p>

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私の兄は、フリーターから正社員を目指している。

*Watashi no ani wa, furitā kara seishain o mezashite iru.*

My older brother is aiming to go from working part-time jobs to becoming a full-fledged company employee.

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## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### 就職難 (しゅうしょくなん)

This word is made up of 就職 (しゅうしょく), which means "finding employment," and 難 (なん), which means "difficulty." So, all together they have come to mean "difficulty in finding employment." We use this word to indicate a situation where people have difficulty looking for a full-time position.

### 新卒 (しんそつ)

This means "new graduate." 新 means "new" and 卒 comes from the word 卒業, which means "graduation." There is a similar word, 第二新卒, which refers to people who graduated from a college or university one or two years ago, as 第二 means "second."

### 就職浪人 (しゅうしょくろうにん)

浪人 originally indicated "a wandering samurai without a master to serve" in the ancient samurai period. Now it means "a student who failed to get accepted at a university he/she applied for and is waiting for the chance to try again next year." When we use this word together with 就職, it refers to a student who fails to become employed by a company and is waiting for another chance to try again next year.

### ニート

This word is the pronunciation of the abbreviation of "Not in Education, Employment or Training" (NEET), which refers to young people who aren't going to school, aren't working, aren't doing anything to get a job, and don't have any intention of finding work. This was a word originally created in the United Kingdom, but people don't use it much there. Instead, it came to be known in the world as a word to symbolize the employment situation in Japan, where the population of NEET has been steadily increasing.

### フリーター

This word comes from the Japanglish term フリーランス・アルバイト. フリーランス means "freelance" and アルバイト means "part-timer." It refers to "people who make a living through working part-time jobs."

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is the Auxiliary Verb **かねない**.

うかうかしてると、就職浪人することになりかねないぞ。

"If you're lazy and not trying hard, then you might end up as a jobless university graduate."

*Kanenai* (かねない) attaches to the *masu* stem of a verb and means "might do something" or "might be possible to do something." We usually use it in a context where something undesirable might occur. A similar expression is *kamoshirenai* (かもしれない).

This is the negative form of the auxiliary verb *kaneru* (かねる), which also attaches to the *masu* stem of a verb and means "cannot do something." *Kaneru* has a negative meaning, and therefore, *kanenai*, the negative form of *kaneru*, is a double negative and instead has a positive meaning.

### Formation

*Kanenai* (かねない) attaches to the *masu* stem of a verb.

Formation: [*masu* stem of a verb] + *kanenai*

Verb	Masu Stem of the Verb	+ <i>kanenai</i>	"English"
言う	いい (ます)	いい かねない	"might say"
怒る	おこり (ます)	おこり かねない	"might get angry"
する	し (ます)	し かねない	"might do"

### Usage

**かねない** is the negative form of the auxiliary verb *kaneru* (かねる), which means "cannot do something," and therefore *kanenai* literally means "can do something." We actually use it to mean "might do something" or "might be possible to do something." Also, please note that you can use this expression when you say that someone might do something or something might happen. So, usually you don't use this expression for your own action. The sentence 私はうそをつきかねない, meaning "I might tell a lie," is awkward; on the other hand, 彼はうそをつきかねない, meaning "he might tell a lie," is fine.

We usually use this form for something undesirable. As in the examples below, quitting a school and increasing traffic accidents are not desirable. So, it sounds natural to use *kanenai* in these sentences.

### For Example:

1. 彼女は、学校をやめると言いかねない。  
かのじょは、がっこうをやめるといいかねない。  
"She might say that she's going to drop out of school."
2. このままだと、今年の交通事故数は、去年の2倍になりかねない。  
このままだと、ことしのこうつうじこすうは、きょねんのにばいになりかねない。  
"At this rate, the number of traffic accidents this year might end up doubling the number from last year."

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. うかうかしてると、就職浪人することになりかねないぞ。  
うかうかしてると、しゅうしょくろうにんすることになりかねないぞ。  
"If you're lazy and not trying hard, then you might end up as a jobless university graduate."
2. 新卒でなんとか正社員として就職しないと、そのままフリーターになんてことになりかねないわ！  
しんそつでなんとかせいしゃいんとしてしゅうしょくしないと、そのままフリーターになんてことになりかねないわ！  
"If you don't find a job as a full-time employee as a new graduate, then you could end up being a part-time job hopper!"

### Sample Sentences

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1. あいつは、怒って、君をなぐりかねない。  
あいつは、おこって、きみをなぐりかねない。  
"He might just get angry and punch you out."

2. 地球温暖化で、この島は、海に沈みかねない。  
ちきゅうおんだんかで、このしまは、うみにしずみかねない。  
"This island might just sink into the ocean due to global warming."

## Language Expansion

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We use *kaneru* in the structure of *masu* form of a verb + *kaneru*, and it means "cannot do something." We use this expression to politely say that you can't do something in a formal situation such as a business setting. So, in many cases, the subject of a sentence of *kaneru* is "I."

### For Example:

1. 残念ながら、そのご意見には同意しかねます。  
ざんねんながら、そのごいけんには、どういしかねます。  
"Unfortunately, I can't agree with your opinion."