

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S5 #13 It Might be Hard to Pass This Japanese Exam

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KANJI

1. 健二: よう。研究室訪問どうだった。
2. 学: 先輩のアドバイス通り、スーツで行って手土産を持って行きました。
3. 健二: 肝心な研究内容や入試についても聞いてきたんだろう。
4. 学: はい。自分がやりたいEラーニングのシステムの研究ができそうです。
入試に関しては、天下大以外の大学からでも合格しにくいということはない...って言ってました。
5. 健二: へー。
6. 学: 研究室の院生を何人か紹介してくれて、院生からも色々聞く事ができました。
7. 健二: そりゃ良かった。
先生には直接聞きづらいことでも、院生には聞きやすいしな。
8. 学: はい。院生に天下大の大学院に合格するのはかなり難しいから、天下大以外の大学院も受験しておいた方が良いって言われました。
優秀な学生ばかりで選びがたい...って毎年教授も悩むそうです。
9. 健二: そっか。
10. 学: なので、帝国大学の大学院にも願書を出そうと思います。
11. 健二: 天下大と帝国大は甲乙つけがたい名門だな。
書類の準備と入試対策も頑張れよ。
あ、何か相談あったら、連絡してこいよ。

CONT'D OVER

9. けんじ: そっか。
10. まなぶ: なので、ていこくだいがくのだいがくいんにもがんしょをだそうとおもいます。
11. けんじ: てんかだいとていこくだいはこうおつつけがたいめいもんだな。しよるいのじゅんびとにゆうしたいさくもがんばれよ。あ、なにかそうだんあったら、れんらくしてこいよ。
12. まなぶ: ありがとうございます。

ROMANIZATION

1. KENJI: Yō. Kenkyūshitsu hōmon dō datta.
2. MANABU: Senpai no adobaisu dōri, sūtsu de itte temiyage o motte ikimashita.
3. KENJI: Kanjin na kenkyū naiyō ya nyūshi ni tsuite mo kiite kita n darō.
4. MANABU: Hai. Jibun ga yaritai E-rāningu no shisutemu no kenkyū ga dekisō desu.
Nyūshi ni kanshite wa, tenkadai igai no daigaku kara de mo gōkaku shinikui to iu koto wa nai... tte itte mashita.
5. KENJI: Hē.
6. MANABU: Kenkyūshitsu no insei o nan-nin ka shōkai shite kurete, insei kara mo iroiro kiku koto ga dekimashita.
7. KENJI: Sorya yokatta.
Sensei ni wa chokusetsu kikizurai koto de mo, insei ni wa kiki yasui shi na.

CONT'D OVER

8. MANABU: Hai. Insei ni tenkadai no daigakuin ni gōkaku suru no wa kanari muzukashii kara, tenkadai igai no daigakuin mo juken shite oita hō ga ii tte iwaremashita.
Yūshū na gakusei bakari de erabi gatai... tte maitoshi kyōju mo nayamu sō desu.
9. KENJI: Sokka.
10. MANABU: Nanode, teikoku daigaku no daigakuin ni mo gansho o dasō to omoimasu.
11. KENJI: Tenkadai to teikokudai wa kōotsu tsukegatai meimon da na.
Shorui no junbi to nyūshi taisaku mo ganbare yo.
A, nani ka sōdan attara, renraku shite koi yo.
12. MANABU: Arigatō gozaimasu.

ENGLISH

1. KENJI: Hey. How was your visit to the laboratory?
2. MANABU: Just as you advised, I went wearing a suit and took a gift with me.
3. KENJI: You asked about the fundamentals of the research, the entrance exam, and stuff too while you were there, right?
4. MANABU: Yes. It seems like I'll be able to do the research I want to about e-learning systems.
About the entrance exam, he said that it's not especially difficult to pass for those students from universities other than Tenka University.
5. KENJI: Really...

CONT'D OVER

6. MANABU: He introduced me to several of the graduate students from the lab, and I was able to ask them lots of things too.
7. KENJI: That's good.
Things that are hard to ask the professor directly you can ask the graduate students more easily, right.
8. MANABU: Yes.
The graduate students told me that because it's pretty difficult to get into Tenka University's graduate school, it would be better to take the entrance exams for other graduate schools too, just in case.
Every year it's nothing but gifted students who apply, so the professor apparently has a tough time choosing.
9. KENJI: I see.
10. MANABU: So I think I'm going to submit an application to Teikoku University too.
11. KENJI: Tenka University and Teikoku University are both prestigious. It's difficult to say which is better.
Good luck with preparing the documents and your strategy for the entrance exams.
Oh, if there's anything you want to ask me, drop me a line.
12. MANABU: Thank you very much.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
受験	じゅけん	juken	taking an examination
願書	がんしょ	gansho	application form, written application

関して	かんして	kanshite	in relation to, regarding
対策	たいさく	taisaku	countermeasure, action, measure
名門	めいもん	meimon	prestigious, prestige, distinguished
訪問	ほうもん	hōmon	visit
肝心	かんじん	kanjin	essential, fundamental, crucial, vital, main; Adj(na)
院生	いんせい	insei	graduate student
書類	しょるい	shorui	documents
入試	にゅうし	nyūshi	entrance examination

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>受験勉強しているときは、母親が夜食を作ってくれた。 <i>Juken benkyō shite iru toki wa hahaoya ga yashoku o tsukutte kureta.</i></p> <p>When I was studying for entrance exams, my mother used to make late-night snacks for me.</p>	<p>願書の締め切りは1月20日だ。 <i>Gansho no shimekiri wa ichi-gatsu hatsuka da.</i></p> <p>The deadline for the application form is January the 20th.</p>
<p>私はその事故に関して何も知りません。 <i>Watashi wa sono jiko ni kanshite nani mo shirimasen.</i></p> <p>I know nothing regarding that accident.</p>	<p>日本では、少子化対策が急務だ。 <i>Nihon de wa, shōshika taisaku ga kyūmu da.</i></p> <p>Countermeasures to the falling birthrate are urgently required in Japan.</p>
<p>ヨーロッパの名門サッカークラブでプレーができるようなサッカー選手になりたい。 <i>Yōroppa no meimon sakkā kurabu de purē ga dekiru yō na sakkā senshu ni naritai.</i></p> <p>I want to become the kind of soccer player who can play for a prestigious soccer club in Europe.</p>	<p>日曜日に、先生のお宅を訪問した。 <i>Nichiyōbi ni sensei no otaku o hōmon shita.</i></p> <p>I visited my teacher's house on Sunday.</p>

<p>私は、緊張して、肝心なことを言い忘れてしまった。 <i>Watashi wa, kinchō shite, kanjin na koto o ii wasurete shimatta.</i></p> <p>I was so nervous that I forgot to say something important.</p>	<p>彼は院生のとき、小説を書き始めた。 <i>Kare wa insei no toki, shōsetsu o kaki hajimeta.</i></p> <p>He started writing novels when he was a graduate student.</p>
<p>書類をよく読んで、署名をしてください。 <i>Shorui o yoku yonde, shomei o shite kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please read these documents and sign them.</p>	<p>入試のために勉強をした。 <i>Nyūshi no tame ni benkyō o shita.</i></p> <p>I studied for the entrance examination.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

肝心 (かんじん)

The first *kanji*, 肝, means "liver," and the second *kanji*, 心, means "heart." The liver and heart are obviously indispensable to the human body, so by extension this word *kanjin* means "most important."

関して (かんして)

We use *kanshite* meaning "regarding," often used in the phrase ～(に)関しては, in rather formal conversation or in written Japanese.

甲乙つけがたい (こうおつ つけがたい)

This expression means "it's hard to say which of the two is better." We use it in situations in which two things or people are both good or excellent, and it is impossible to decide which is superior.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of *-Nikui*, *-Zuraj*, and *-Gatai*.

先生には直接聞きづらいことでも、院生には聞きやすいしな。

せんせいには ちよくせつ ききづらい こと でも、いんせい には ききやすい し な。

"Things that are hard to ask the professor directly you can ask the graduate students more easily, right."

In this lesson, you'll learn the difference in usage between the auxiliary verbs *-nikui*, *-zuraj*, and *-gatai*, all meaning "difficult to."

-にくい

-*Nikui* is a helping verb meaning "difficult to" and is attached to the *-masu* stem of a verb. It carries the implication that it's difficult to do something comfortably or it's more difficult to do something than usual due to external circumstances.

Sample Sentences

1. **あの人の名前は長くて覚えにくい。**
あのひとのなまえはながくておぼえにくい。
"That person's name is long and hard to remember."
2. **この靴はかかとが高いので、歩きにくい。**
このくつはかかとがたかいのであるきにくい。
"These shoes have high heels, so they're hard to walk in."
3. **この製品は改良されて、ずいぶん壊れにくくなった。**
このせいひんはかいりょうされて、ずいぶんこわれにくくなった。
"This product has been improved and is now much harder to break."

-づらい

-*Zurai* expresses a similar idea to *-nikui*. However, *-zurai* has a somewhat higher degree of difficulty than *-nikui* and is usually associated with physical or psychological pain. Thus, *-zurai* always describes an undesirable situation.

Sample Sentences

1. **え？田中さんもパーティに来るの？行きづらいな。**
え？たなかさんもパーティーにくるの？いきづらいな。
"What? Ms. Tanaka is also coming to the party? That makes it hard (i.e., "psychologically difficult") for me to go."
2. **足をケガしているので、歩きづらい。**
あしをケガしているので、あるきづらい。
"I've injured my leg, so it's hard (i.e., "physically painful") for me to walk."

-がたい

-*Gatai* expresses that something is extremely difficult or virtually impossible to do. We often use it to refer to mental activity or intangible things rather than physical actions.

Sample Sentences

1. **最近の彼の行動は理解しがたい。**
さいきんのかれの こうどう は りかいしがたい。
"His behavior these days is difficult to understand."
2. **それは許しがたい犯罪だ。**
それは ゆるしがたいはんざいだ。
"That's a virtually unforgivable crime."
3. **それは忘れがたい、いい思い出です。**
それは わすれがたいいい おもいで です。
"That's an unforgettable memory."

Examples from This Dialogue

1. **入試に関しては、天下大以外の大学からでも合格しにくいということはない...って言ってました。**
"About the entrance exam, he said that it's not especially difficult to pass for those students from universities other than Tenka University."
2. **先生には直接聞きづらいことでも、院生には聞きやすいしな。**
"Things that are hard to ask the professor directly you can ask the graduate students more easily, right."
3. **優秀な学生ばかりで選びがたい...って毎年教授も悩むそうです。**
"Every year it's nothing but gifted students who apply, so the professor apparently has a tough time choosing."
4. **天下大と帝国大は甲乙つけがたい名門だな。**
"Tenka University and Teikoku University are both prestigious. It's difficult to say which is better."