

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S5 #1

Spare Me the Japanese Negativity!

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13. 優太: 母さん、もういいかな。親知らずが痛くて、これから歯医者に行くんだけど...

14. お母さん: そうなの。じゃ、早く行ってきなさい。じゃあ切るわよ、またね。

KANA

1. ゆうた: もしもし？

2. おかあさん: ユウちゃん？ひさしぶり。だいがくはもうなつやすみにはいったんでしょ？いつかえってくるの？おぼんにはかえってくるんでしょ。

3. ゆうた: ...それがさ、あしたからかいがいにひとりたびにいこうとおもって...

4. おかあさん: あした？まったく、おやのころこしらずよね。ユウちゃんがかえってくるのをおかあさんのしみにまっていたのに...。あ、ほけんにははいっておいてよ。

5. ゆうた: なんだよ、それ。おれがしねばいいとかおもっているわけ？

6. おかあさん: ちがうわよ。とうなんとか、じことか、テロとか、てんさいとかあるかもしれないでしょ。くうこうにほけんのだいてんがあるから、そこでかいがいりょこうしょうがいほけんにはいってからいきなさい。

7. ゆうた: えー。かねのむただよ。

8. おかあさん: そんなこといわずにかにゆうしなさい。ころばぬさきのつえっていうでしょ。いいわね。

CONT'D OVER

9. ゆうた: はいはい。
10. おかあさん: 「はい」は、いっかい。それから、みしらぬひとにこえをかけられてもついていったらダメだからね。
11. ゆうた: はーい。
12. おかあさん: それから...
13. ゆうた: かあさん、もういいかな。おやしらずがいたくて、これからはいしやにいくんだけど...
14. おかあさん: そうなの。じゃ、はやくいってきなさい。じゃあきるわよ、またね。

ROMANIZATION

1. YŪTA: Moshimoshi?
2. O-KĀ-SAN: Yū-chan? Hisashiburi. Daigaku wa mō natsuyasumi ni haitta n desho? Itsu kaette kuru no? O-bon ni wa kaette kuru n desho.
3. YŪTA: ... Sore ga sa, ashita kara kaigai ni hitoritabi ni ikō to motte....
4. O-KĀ-SAN: Ashita? Mattaku, oya no kokoro ko shirazu yo ne. Yū-chan ga kaette kuru no o o-kā-san tanoshimi ni matte ita no ni.... A, hoken ni wa haitte oite yo.
5. YŪTA: Nanda yo, sore. Ore ga shineba ii toka omotte iru wake?

CONT'D OVER

6. O-KĀ-SAN: Chigau wa yo. Tōnan toka, jiko toka, tero toka, tensai toka aru kamoshirenai desho. Kūkō ni hoken no dairiten ga aru kara, soko de kaigairyokō shōgaihoken ni haitte kara ikinasai.
7. YŪTA: Ē. Kane no muda da yo.
8. O-KĀ-SAN: Son'na koto iwazu ni ka'nyū shinasai. Korobanu saki no tsue tte iu desho. Ii wa ne.
9. YŪTA: Hai hai.
10. O-KĀ-SAN: "Hai" wa, ikkai. Sore kara, mishiranu hito ni koe o kakerarete mo tsuite ittara dame dakara ne.
11. YŪTA: Hāi.
12. O-KĀ-SAN: Sorekara...
13. YŪTA: Kā-san, mō ii kana. Oyashirazu ga itakute, kore kara haisha ni iku n da kedo....
14. O-KĀ-SAN: Sō na no. Ja, hayaku itte kinasai. Jā kiru wa yo, mata ne.

ENGLISH

1. YŪTA: Hello?
2. MOTHER: Yū? It's been ages! It's already university summer vacation, right? When are you coming home? You're coming home for Obon, surely.
3. YŪTA: ... About that...starting tomorrow, I was thinking about going on a solitary trip abroad...

CONT'D OVER

4. MOTHER: Tomorrow? Good grief, children really don't know how much their parents love them. I was so looking forward to your coming home too... Make sure and get insurance!
5. YŪTA: What the — ? Are you saying it'd be good if I died? (laughs)
6. MOTHER: No! You might get robbed or have an accident, or there might be terrorism or a natural disaster. There's an insurance agency at the airport, so go AFTER you've registered for overseas travel accident insurance.
7. YŪTA: Huh? It's a waste of money.
8. MOTHER: Just register without saying things like that, please. Better safe than sorry, right? Are we clear?
9. YŪTA: Yeah, yeah.
10. MOTHER: Just say "yes" once. And if a stranger talks to you, you mustn't go with him, all right?
11. YŪTA: Ye-es.
12. MOTHER: And another thing...
13. YŪTA: Mom, that's enough, surely. My wisdom teeth are hurting, so I'm about to go to the dentist.
14. MOTHER: Oh, really? Well, hurry up and go. I'm hanging up. See you later.

VOCABULARY

| Kanji | Kana | Romaji | English |
|-------|------|--------|---------|
|-------|------|--------|---------|

| | | | |
|------|----------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 無駄 | むだ | muda | waste, uselessness; Adj(na) |
| テロ | テロ | tero | terror, terrorism |
| 盗難 | とうなん | tōnan | theft, robbery |
| 一人旅 | ひとりたび | hitoritabi | travelling alone |
| 親知らず | おやしらず | oyashirazu | wisdom tooth/teeth |
| 天災 | てんさい | tensai | natural calamity |
| 加入 | かにゅう | kanyū | sign up for, join |
| 傷害保険 | しょうがいほけん | shōgai hoken | accident insurance |
| 代理店 | だいいてん | dairiten | agency |
| 保険 | ほけん | hoken | insurance |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>無駄にお金を使わないようにしている。 <i>Muda ni o-kane o tsukawanai yō ni shite iru.</i></p> <p>I'm trying not to waste money.</p> | <p>テロのない世界を作らねばならない。 <i>Tero no nai sekai o tsukuraneba naranai.</i></p> <p>We have to make a terror-free world.</p> |
| <p>盗難事件の数が増えている。 <i>Tōnan jiken no kazu ga fuete iru.</i></p> <p>The number of incidents of theft is increasing.</p> | <p>一人旅をしたことがありますか。 <i>Hitoritabi o shita koto ga arimasu ka.</i></p> <p>Have you ever travelled alone?</p> |
| <p>親知らずが痛い。 <i>Oyashirazu ga itai.</i></p> <p>My wisdom teeth hurt.</p> | <p>天災は忘れた頃にやってくる。 <i>Tensai wa wasureta koro ni yatte kuru.</i></p> <p>A natural disaster strikes just when people forget the previous one.</p> |
| <p>海外に行く時はいつも旅行保険に加入します。 <i>Kaigai ni iku toki wa itsumo ryokō hoken ni kanyū shimasu.</i></p> <p>When I go abroad, I always sign up for travel insurance.</p> | <p>この傷害保険はスポーツによる怪我は補償しません。 <i>Kono shōgai hoken wa supōtsu ni yoru kega wa hoshō shimasen.</i></p> <p>This accident insurance doesn't pay compensation for injuries suffered doing sport.</p> |

私は旅行代理店で働いています。
Watashi wa ryokō dairiten de hataraitte imasu.

I work at a travel agency.

保険に入っていますか。
Hoken ni haitte imasu ka.

Do you have insurance?

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

親の心子知らず (おやのこころこしらず)

Zu at the end indicates negation. The literal translation would be: "Children don't know their parents' mind." It means "Children don't know how much their parents care about them." The closest translation in English would be "There's no love like a parent's."

転ばぬ先の杖 (ころばぬさきのつえ)

Nu in *korobanu* marks negation. *Saki* corresponds to *mae*, meaning "before." *Tsue* is "cane" or "walking stick." This sentence means "You should use a walking stick before you fall" and is meant to highlight the importance of being prepared before something bad happens. The closest expression in English would be "A stitch in time saves nine" or "Better safe than sorry."

親知らず (おやしらず)

This means "wisdom teeth." It's said that since wisdom teeth usually come in after children become independent (i.e., in one's early twenties), they are called *oyashirazu* "parents don't know" or "unknown to the parents."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Negative Markers -*Zu* and -*Nu*.

そんなこと言わずに加入しなさい。

そんなこといわずに かにゅうしなさい。

Son'na koto iwazu ni ka'nyū shinasai.

"Just register without saying things like that, please."

In this lesson you'll learn the usage of *-zu* and *-nu*, which negate verbs.

Zu (ず)

We attach *-zu* to a verb, and it marks negation, meaning "not [-], and - ." We often use it in the phrase *-zu ni*, meaning "don't do something and" or "without doing something."

For Example:

1. **連絡ができず、申し訳ございませんでした。**
れんらくができず、もうしわけございませんでした。
 Literal meaning: "I couldn't contact you, and I'm deeply sorry."
 "I'm deeply sorry that I couldn't contact you."
2. **辞書を使わずに小説を読みなさい。**
じしょをつかわずにしょうせつをよみなさい。
 "Please read novels without using a dictionary."

We can rephrase *-zu* and *-zu ni* as *-nakute* and *-nai de*, respectively. However, we use *-zu* in formal speech and written Japanese.

Nu (ぬ)

-Nu is a classical negative marker that negates verbs. It corresponds to *-nai* in modern Japanese. We use *-nu* in very stiff or formal written Japanese or set expressions.

For Example:

1. **知らぬ場所**
しらぬばしょ
 "a place I don't know"
2. **見知らぬ人**
みしらぬひと
 "a person I've never seen"
3. **予期せぬ出来事**
よきせぬできごと
 "unexpected incident"

Formation

Both *zu* and *nu* follow the negative forms of verbs.

| "English" | Dictionary | Nai Form | + Zu/Nu |
|-----------|------------|----------|---------|
| "to buy" | かう | かわない | かわず |
| "to buy" | かう | かわない | かわぬ |

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-----|-----|
| "to see" | みる | みない | みず |
| "to see" | みる | みない | みぬ |
| "to come" | くる | こない | こず |
| "to come" | くる | こない | こぬ |
| "to do" | する | しない | *せず |
| "to do" | する | しない | *せぬ |

*Please note that *sezu* and *senu* are exceptions to the rule; it's not *shizu* or *shinu*.

Although both *-zu* and *-nu* indicate negation, their usage is different. Generally speaking, *-zu* appears in a middle of a sentence or before *-ni*, whereas *-nu* appears at the end of sentences or before nouns or conjunctions.

Practice

- 寝 (ず・ぬ) に、勉強した。
ね (ず・ぬ) に、べんきょうした。
"I studied without sleeping."
- 見知ら (ず・ぬ) 人に電話番号を聞かれた。
みしら (ず・ぬ) ひとにでんわばんごうをきかれた。
"A stranger asked me for my telephone number."

Answers:

- ず
- ぬ