

LESSON NOTES

Japanese Children's Songs #2

Edo no Komori Uta

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KANJI

1. ねんねん ころりよ
2. おころりよ
3. ぼうやは 良い子だ
4. ねんねしな
5. ぼうやの おもりは
6. どこへ行った
7. あの山 越えて
8. 里へ行った
9. 里の 土産に
10. 何もろた
11. でんでん太鼓に
12. 笙の笛

KANA

1. ねんねん ころりよ
2. おころりよ

CONT'D OVER

3. ぼうやは よいこだ
4. ねんねしな
5. ぼうやの おもりは
6. どこへいった
7. あのやま こえて
8. さとへいった
9. さとの みやげに
10. なにもろた
11. でんでんだいこに
12. しょうのふえ

ROMANIZATION

1. Nennen korori yo
2. Okororiyo
3. Bōya wa yoi ko da
4. Nenne shi na
5. Bōya no omori wa

CONT'D OVER

6. Doko e itta
7. Ano yama koete
8. Sato e itta
9. Sato no miyage ni
10. Nani morota
11. Denden daiko ni
12. shō no fue

ENGLISH

1. Sleep my baby, sleep my lovely,
2. Close your eyes, my baby
3. You are such a good baby
4. Sleep my darling, sleep.
5. Where's your nanny?
6. Where's she gone?
7. Over the mountains she has traveled,
8. To her parents' home.

CONT'D OVER

9. As a souvenir from her hometown
10. Tell me what she gave you, darling
11. A small rattle drum and
12. a small bamboo flute

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
ねんね	ねんね	nenne	bed-time
ぼうや	ぼうや	bōya	little boy
おもり	おもり	omori	nanny, baby-sitter
越える	こえる	koeru	to cross, to go over
里	さと	sato	one's hometown
土産	みやげ	miyage	gift, souvenir
でんでん太鼓	でんでんだいこ	denden daiko	rattle drum
笙の笛	しょうのふえ	shō no fue	a reed pipe, bamboo flute

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>ねんねしましょうね。 <i>Nenne shimashō ne.</i></p> <p>Let's go to sleep.</p>	<p>ぼうやは何歳なの？ <i>Bōya wa nansai na no?</i></p> <p>How old are you, little boy?</p>
<p>おばあちゃんにお守を頼んだ。 <i>O-bā-chan ni o-mori o tanonda.</i></p> <p>I asked my grandmother to baby-sit.</p>	<p>1日で、2つの山を越えた。 <i>Ichi-nichi de futatsu no yama o koeta.</i></p> <p>I crossed two mountains in a day.</p>

妻が、里に帰りたがっている。 <i>Tsuma ga sato ni kaeritagatte iru.</i> My wife wants to go back to her hometown.	会社に、土産を買って帰った。 <i>Kaisha ni miyage o katte kaetta.</i> I bought some souvenirs for the office.
でんでん太鼓で、子供と遊んだ。 <i>Denden daiko de kodomo to asonda.</i> The kid and I played with a rattle drum.	笙の笛は、雅楽で使われます。 <i>Shō no fue wa gagaku de tsukawaremasu.</i> Reed pipes are used in the imperial court music of Japan.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is a Japanese Children's Song, *Edo Komori Uta*.

This song is a Japanese traditional lullaby that originated in the Edo period and spread out to various places in Japan. People have said that many Japanese lullaby songs came from this song. There are some variations on the song lyrics depending on the region, but the most popular version is the one we introduce in this lesson.

The first part of the song is especially popular among Japanese people. Even if they don't know the real song name, *Edo komori uta*, most people recognize the first phrase, *nennen korori okororiyo*.

Interpretation in Modern Japanese

Original	Interpretation in Modern Japanese
ねんねん ころりよ おころりよ <i>Nennen korori yo Okororiyo.</i>	ころんと横になってねなさい。 <i>Koron to yoko ni natte nenasai.</i>
ぼうやは 良い子だ ねんねしな <i>Bōya wa yoi ko da nenne shina.</i>	ぼうやは、良い子だから、もうねなさい。 <i>Bōya wa yoi ko da kara, mō nenasai.</i>
ぼうやの おもりはどこへ行った <i>Bōya o-mori wa doko e itta.</i>	ぼうやの 子守はどこへ行ったんだろうね。 <i>Bōya no komori wa doko e itta n darō ne.</i>

あの山 越えて里へ行った
Ano yama koete sato e itta.

あの山を 越えて実家へ行ったんだよ。
Ano yama o koete jikka e itta n da yo.

里の 土産に何もろた
Sato no miyage ni nani morota.

実家の土産に何をもらったの？
Jikka no miyage ni nani o moratta no?

でんでん太鼓に 笙の笛
Denden daiko ni syō no fue.

でんでん太鼓と竹の笛をもらったね。
Denden daiko to take no fue o moratta ne.

ねんねころりよ おころりよ

Nennen (ねんねん) comes from *nenne* (ねんね), which is a phrase in baby talk meaning "to sleep." *Okorori* (おころり) is related to an onomatopoeia, *korori* (ころり), which indicates the action of rolling around or lying down. For example, you can use *korori* as in *neko ga korori to yoko ni naru* (猫がころりと横になる), which means "the cat lies down." In this case, *korori yo* or *o-korori yo* should be *korori to yoko ni natte nenasai*, which means "lie down and sleep," but we omit the latter part of the sentence.

For Example:

1. もう、ねんねの時間よ。(when talking to a baby)
Mō, nenne no jika yo.
"It's time to go to bed."
2. 子犬は、ころりと横になって、すぐに寝てしまった。
Koinu wa, korori to yoko ni natte, sugu ni nete shimatta.
"The puppy went to sleep as soon as it lay down."