

LESSON NOTES

Japanese Children's Songs #8

Mushi no Koe

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KANJI

1. あれ松虫が 鳴いている
2. ちんちろ ちんちろ ちんちろりん
3. あれ鈴虫も 鳴き出した
4. りんりんりんりん りいんりん
5. 秋の夜長を 鳴き通す
6. ああおもしろい 虫のこえ

KANA

1. あれまつむしが ないている
2. ちんちろ ちんちろ ちんちろりん
3. あれすすむしも なきだした
4. りんりんりんりん りいんりん
5. あきのよながを なきとおす
6. ああおもしろい むしのこえ

ROMANIZATION

1. Are matsu mushi ga naite iru

CONT'D OVER

2. Chinchiro chinchiro chinchirorin
3. Are suzumushi mo nakidashita
4. Rinrinrinrin riinrin
5. Aki no yonaga o nakitōsu
6. Ā omoshiroi mushi no koe

ENGLISH

1. Can you hear? The crickets are singing
2. Chinchiro-chinchiro-chinchirorin
3. Hey, the Bell crickets have started singing too
4. Ring-ring-ring-ring riing ring
5. They sing all throughout the long autumn night
6. Ah~ what amusing voices they have

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
松虫	まつむし	matsumushi	pine cricket
鈴虫	すずむし	suzumushi	bell cricket
夜長	よなが	yonaga	long night

こおろぎ	こおろぎ	kōrogi	cricket
鳴く	なく	naku	to sing (bird), to make a sound (animal)
くつわ虫	くつわむし	kutsuwamushi	a noisy cricket
秋	あき	aki	autumn, fall
鳴き出す	なきだす	nakidasu	to start singing (bird) or making a sound (animal)
鳴き通す	なきとおす	nakitōsu	to continue singing (bird) or making a sound (animal)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>子供たちが松虫を捕まえようとしている。 <i>Kodomotachi ga matsumushi o tsukamaeyō to shite iru.</i></p> <p>The kids are trying to catch pine crickets.</p>	<p>友達はたくさんの鈴虫を家で飼っている。 <i>Tomodachi wa takusan no suzumushi o ie de katte iru.</i></p> <p>My friend keeps a lot of bell crickets at home.</p>
<p>秋の夜長に読書を楽しみます。 <i>Aki no yonaga ni dokusho o tanoshimimasu.</i></p> <p>I enjoy reading on long autumn nights.</p>	<p>裏庭でこおろぎを見つけた。 <i>Uraniwa de kōrogi o mitsuketa.</i></p> <p>I found crickets in the backyard.</p>
<p>春になると、うぐいすが鳴くのをよく聞きます。 <i>Haru ni naru to, uguisu ga naku no o yoku kikimasu.</i></p> <p>When spring comes, you often hear warblers singing.</p>	<p>くつわ虫の鳴き声は美しいです。 <i>Kutsuwamushi no nakigoe wa utsukushii desu.</i></p> <p>A noisy cricket has a beautiful chirp.</p>
<p>秋は私の好きな季節です。 <i>Aki wa watashi no suki na kisetsu desu.</i></p> <p>Autumn is my favorite season.</p>	<p>夜になって、虫が鳴き出した。 <i>Yoru ni natte, mushi ga nakidashita.</i></p> <p>When night came, the insects starting chirping.</p>

一晩、すず虫が庭で鳴き通した。

Hitoban, suzumushi ga niwa de nakitōshita.

Bell crickets have been chirping in the garden all night.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Japanese Children's Song 「虫の声」(Mushi no koe).

This song was released in 1922 as a song for elementary school kids to learn. It's said that Japanese people find the sound of insects comfortable and beautiful. Hearing the small sounds of insects in the nights at the end of summer is a sign that autumn has come.

The most symbolic parts of this song are the lines *Chinchiro-chinchiro-chinchirorin* and *Rinrinrinrin riinrin*, which mimic the sounds of insects. The repetition in these parts is said to be appealing to little kids. In the second part of the lyrics, you can hear the sounds of three more insects and enjoy their unique sounds.

あれ松虫が 鳴いている

We can translate this line as "Can you hear? The crickets are singing." The first part, *are* (あれ), is an interjection that we can translate as "Oh?" or "Huh?" which people say when they are surprised. In this case, we translate the writer's surprise as "Can you hear?"

Matsumushi (松虫) means "the crickets."

Naite iru (鳴いている) is the present progressive of *naku* (鳴く), meaning "to sing," so it means "is singing."

ちんちろ ちんちろ ちんちろりん

This is the onomatopoeia of the sound that crickets make.

あれ鈴虫も 鳴き出した

This is the similar sentence structure to the first line, あれ松虫が鳴いている.

Naki dashita (鳴き出した) is a compound verb made up of *naku* (鳴く), meaning "to sing," and *dasu* (出す), meaning "to take out." When the verb *dasu* (出す) is attached to another verb as an auxiliary verb, it indicates that something suddenly starts doing something. Therefore, *nakidashita* (鳴き出した) means "started singing."

When we use *dasu* (出す) as an auxiliary verb, it attaches to the *-masu* stem of another verb.

Formation

Masu stem of a verb (negative stem) + *dasu* (出す)

For Example:

Dictionary Form of a Verb	Masu Stem	Masu Stem + 出す	"English"
<i>hashiru</i> (走る) "to run"	<i>hashiri</i> (<i>masu</i>) (走り(ます))	走り 出す	"start running"
<i>taberu</i> (食べる) "to eat"	<i>tabe</i> (<i>masu</i>) (食べ(ます))	食べ 出す	"start eating"
<i>benkyō suru</i> (勉強する) "to study"	<i>benkyō shi</i> (<i>masu</i>) (勉強し(ます))	勉強し 出す	"start studying"

りんりんりんりん りいんりん

This is the onomatopoeia of the sound that a bell cricket makes.

秋の夜長を 鳴き通す

Aki no yonaga (秋の夜長) means "long autumn night." *Nakitōsu* (鳴き通す) is a compound verb of *naku* (鳴く), meaning "to sing," and *tōsu* (通す), meaning "to keep doing"

something all the way." The particle を in 秋の夜長を indicates the duration of time for someone's action. So, this line literally means "the insects keep singing throughout the long autumn night (until daybreak)."

This usage of を indicates the duration of time for a certain action, as in *ichinen o buji ni ikiru* (1年を無事に生きる), which means "to live safe and sound for a year."

ああおもしろい虫のこえ

ああ is an interjection that people use when they are impressed, excited, or surprised. In this case, we use it to express the excitement or emotion of hearing the various unique sounds of the insects.