LESSON NOTES

Particles #13
We Agree…We Have Strong Feelings About Japanese Particles Ne, Yo, Wa, Ze, and Zo!

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KANJI

1. 田中明: そうか。じゃ、空港で 飛行機を 見ていたんだね。
心配したんだぜ。

2. 生徒: はい。すみません。

3. 生徒の親: お母さん、心配したわ。

4. 生徒: もう、勉強したくなかったんだよ。

5. 生徒の親: ・・・お母さん、悪かったわ。
いつも「勉強、勉強」言って。

6. 生徒: 母さんは 悪くないよ。・・・ごめんなさい。

7. 田中明: ま、無事で よかったよ。さ、帰るぞ。

8. 生徒: はい。

KANA

1. たなか あきら: そうか。じゃ、くうこうで ひこうきを みていたんだね。
しんぱいしたんだぜ。

2. せいと: はい。すみません。

3. せいとの おや: おかあさん、しんぱいしたわ。

4. せいと: もう、べんきょうしたくなかったんだよ。

5. せいとの おや:　　　　・・・おかあさん、わるかったわ。
　　　　　　　　　　　　いつも「べんきょう、べんきょう」いって。

6. せいと:　　　　　　　かあさんは わるくないよ。・・・ごめんなさい。

7. たなか あきら:　　　　ま、ぶじで よかったよ。さ、かえるぞ。

8. せいと:　　　　　　　はい。

ROMANIZATION

1. TANAKA AKIRA:　　Sōka. Ja, kūkō de hikōki o miteitanda ne.
　　　　　　　　　　Shinpai shitanda ze.

2. SEITO:　　　　　　Hai. Sumimasen.

3. SEITO NO OYA:　　O-kā-san, shinpai shita wa.

4. SEITO:　　　　　　Mō, benkyō shitakunakattanda yo.

5. SEITO NO OYA:　　... O-kā-san, warukatta wa.
　　　　　　　　　　Itsumo(benkyō, benkyō) itte.

6. SEITO:　　　　　　Kā-san wa warukunai yo.... Gomennasai.

7. TANAKA AKIRA:　　Ma, buji de yokatta yo. Sa, kaeru zo.

8. SEITO:　　　　　　Hai.

ENGLISH

1.	AKIRA TANAKA:	I see. So, you were at the airport watching the planes. We were worried about you.
2.	CHILD:	I'm sorry.
3.	CHILD'S MOTHER:	I was so worried!!
4.	CHILD:	I just didn't want to study anymore.
5.	CHILD'S MOTHER:	It's my fault. I kept telling you to "study, study!"
6.	CHILD:	It's not your fault. I'm sorry.
7.	AKIRA TANAKA:	Well, we're glad you're safe. C'mon, we're going home.
8.	CHILD:	Okay.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
生徒	せいと	seito	student
勉強	べんきょう	benkyō	study
いい	いい	ii	good; Adj(i)
帰る	かえる	kaeru	to return, to go home; V1
ごめんなさい。	ごめんなさい。	Gomen nasai.	I'm sorry. (apology)
悪い	わるい	warui	bad;Adj(i)
無事	ぶじ	buji	safe, safely
お母さん	おかあさん	o-kā-san	mother

心配	しんぱい	shimpai	worry, concern;Adj (na)
飛行機	ひこうき	hikōki	airplane

SAMPLE SENTENCES

先生は生徒の親に電話をした。
Sensei wa seito no oya ni denwa o shita.

The teacher called the student's parents.

勉強が大好きです。
Benkyō ga daisuki desu.

I love studying.

これはすごくいいです。
Kore wa sugoku ii desu.

This is really good.

アメリカに帰りたいです。
Amerika ni kaeritai desu.

I want to go back to the US.

本当にごめんなさい。
Hontō ni gomennasai

I'm really sorry.

悪い夢を見た。
Warui yume o mita.

I had a bad dream.

無事にうちに帰った。
Buji ni uchi ni kaetta.

I got home safely.

お母さんはお元気ですか。
O-kā-san wa o-genki desu ka.

How's your mother?

心配ありません。大丈夫です。
Shipai arimasen. Daijōbu desu.

Don't worry. It's all right.

日本は列島なので、飛行機はとても便利な交通手段です。
nihon wa rettō nanode, hikōki wa totemo benrina kōtsūshudan desu.

Since Japan is a country with many islands, airplanes are a very convenient means of travel.

飛行機が苦手です。
Hikōki ga nigate desu.

I don't like airplanes.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of Sentence-ending Particles.

じゃ、空港で 飛行機を 見ていたんだね。
Ja, kūkō de hikōki o miteitanda ne.
"So, you were at the airport watching the planes."

In this lesson and the following lesson, you'll learn some particles that are attached to the end of a sentence to indicate the speaker's feelings and tone. In this lesson, you'll learn the sentence-ending particles *ne*, *yo*, *wa*, *ze*, and *zo.*

ね (*ne*)

The particle *ne* seeks agreement or confirmation from the listener. It corresponds to a tag question in English, such as "isn't it?"/ "doesn't it?"/"aren't you?"/"don't you?" and so on.

Seeking confirmation and agreement

Examples:

1. 今日は寒いね。
   Kyō wa samui ne.
   "It's cold today, isn't it?"

2. ロナウジーニョさんはブラジル人ですね。
   Ronaujīnyo-san wa Burajiru-jin desu ne.
   "Ronaldinho is Brazilian, isn't he?"/"Ronaldinho, you're Brazilian, aren't you?"

Softening a request
We also use *ne* to soften a sentence.

Example:

1. メールをくださいね。
   Mēru o kudasai ne.
   "Please e-mail me, would you?"

Please note that we can use *ne* after both informal and formal sentences. However, we cannot attach it to a non-polite imperative sentence.

Examples:

1. "Please read the lesson notes."

   ⇒ ✕ レッスンノートを読めね。
   Ressun nōto o yome ne.
   ⇒ ○ レッスンノートを読んでね。
   Ressun nōto o yonde ne.
   ⇒ ○ レッスンノートを読んでくださいね。
   Ressun nōto o yonde kudasai ne.

Prolonged *ne*, *nē*

When we prolong *ne*, it often expresses the speaker's feeling or excitement. In other words, *nē* creates an exclamatory sentence.

Example:

1. うわ～。これ、おいしいねぇ。
   Uwā. Kore oishii nē.
   "Wow. This is really delicious!!"

よ (yo)

The particle *yo* expresses the speaker's strong conviction or assertion about something that it is assumed that the listener doesn't know. It is equivalent to the expressions "I tell you" or "you know" in English.

Strong conviction or assertion

Examples:

1. 今日は月曜日ですね。
   Kyō wa getsu-yōbi desu ne.
   "Today's Monday, isn't it?"

2. 違いますよ。火曜日ですよ。
   Chigaimasu yo. Ka-yōbi desu yo.
   "No, it's Tuesday (you know)."

Used with requests

The particle *ne* can come before either formal or informal requests. However, requests that end in *yo* are stronger than requests that end in *ne*.

Example:

1. メールをくださいよ。

   Mēru o kudasai yo.
   "Please be sure to e-mail me, okay?"

Followed by the particle *ne*

As we use *ne* to seek confirmation and *yo* to indicate assertion, "sentence + *yo ne*" means "I assert that…, but don't you agree?" or "I assert that…, but am I right?" This *ne* has rising intonation.

Example:

1. 会議は3時からですよね。

   Kaigi wa san-ji kara desu yo ne.
   "The meeting is at three o'clock, am I right?"

わ (*wa*)

_____

The particle *wa* expresses a weak assertion, desire, intent, emotion, and so on. It's often used to soften what the speaker is saying, and is usually used by older female speakers in this way.

Indicates the speaker's feeling

Example:

1. うわ~。これ、おいしいわ。

   Uwā. Kore oishii wa.
   "Wow. How delicious it is!"

Please note that we spell this sentence-ending particle *wa* using わ in hiragana.

ぜ (*ze*)

_____

Male speakers use the particle *ze* in informal speech to add force and emphasis to a sentence.

Making a declaration

Examples:

1. 頑張るぜ。
    Ganbaru ze.
    "I'm going to give it my best shot."

2. 行こうぜ。
    Ikō ze.
    "Let's go!"

ぞ (*zo*)

Male speakers use the particle *zo* in informal speech to add force to a sentence. It corresponds to "I tell you" or "you know" in English. Native Japanese speakers claim *zo* has a somewhat stronger connotation than *ze,* and also that whereas *zo* is rather self-oriented, *ze* is usually used to tell someone something emphatically. Please note that both *zo* and *ze* are informal expressions so you cannot use them with formal speech.

Indicating a command

Example:

1. 帰るぞ。
    Kaeru zo.
    "Let's go home."

Also used for self-directed speech

Example:

1. 頑張るぞ！
    Ganbaru zo.
    "I can do it!"

Reference

で (*de*) marks the place for action ⇒ Lesson 7
を (*o*) as an object marker ⇒ Lesson 2
は (*wa*) as a topic marker ⇒ Lesson 1

Practice

Fill in the blanks with the particle *ne*, *yo*, *wa*, *ze*, or *zo*.

1. 暑いです（　　　）。
    Atsui desu ( ).
    "It's hot, isn't it?"

2. A: パーティーは水曜日です（　　　）。
    Pātī wa Sui-yōbi desu ( ).
    A: "The party is on Wednesday, right?"
    B: 違います（　　　）。木曜日です（　　　）。
    Chigai masu ( ). *Moku-yōbi desu* ( ).
    B: "No, it's not. It's Thursday, you know."

3. 頑張る（　　　）。
    Ganbaru ( ).
    "I'll do my best." (in masculine speech)

4. レッスンは4時からですよ（　　　）。
    Ressun wa yo-ji kara desu yo ( ).
    "The lesson is at four o'clock, am I right?"

Answer:

1) ne, 2) ne, yo, yo, 3)zo, 4)ne