

LESSON NOTES

Particles #18

What's Your Excuse?! And it Had Better Begin with Japanese Particles De, Kara, and Node!

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18

KANJI

1. (キーンコーンカーンコン)
2. 生徒 1: 昨日のクイズみた？面白かったね。
3. 生徒 2: 塾で、みられなかった。
4. 生徒 3: 俺も、勉強していたからみられなかった。
5. 生徒 1: ええ？みんな、勉強していたの？
6. (ガラガラガラ)
7. 佐藤けい子: はーい。テストを始めますので、座ってください。

KANA

1. (キーンコーンカーンコン)
2. せいと 1: きのうのクイズみた？おもしろかったね。
3. せいと 2: じゅくで、みられなかった。
4. せいと 3: おれも、べんきょうしていたからみられなかった。
5. せいと 1: ええ？みんな、べんきょうしていたの？
6. (ガラガラガラ)
7. さとうけいこ: はーい。テストをはじめますので、すわってください。

ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. (Kīnkōn kānkon)
2. SEITO 1: Kinō no kuizu mita? Omoshirokatta ne.
3. SEITO 2: Juku de, mirarenakatta.
4. SEITO 3: Ore mo, benkyō shiteita kara mirarenakatta.
5. SEITO 1: Ee? Minna, benkyō shiteita no?
6. (garagaragara)
7. SATŌ KEIKO: Hāi. Tesuto o hajime masu node, suwatte kudasai.

ENGLISH

1. (bell rings)
2. STUDENT 1: Did you see the quiz show on TV yesterday? It was interesting, huh?
3. STUDENT 2: I couldn't watch it because of cram school.
4. STUDENT 3: I couldn't see it either because I was studying.
5. STUDENT 1: Huh?? You were all studying??
6. (classroom door opens)
7. KEIKO SATO: Okay, everyone. We're about to start the test, so please sit down.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
クイズ	クイズ	kuizu	quiz
座る	すわる	suwaru	to sit;V1
始める	はじめる	hajimeru	to start, to begin; V2
テスト	てすと	tesuto	test, quiz
みんな	みんな	min'na	everyone
勉強する	べんきょうする	benkyō-suru	to study;V3
塾	じゅく	juku	cram school, juku
面白い	おもしろい	omoshiroi	fun, interesting; Adj(i)
見る	みる	miru	to watch, to look, to see ; V2
俺	おれ	ore	I (used by males)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>クイズ番組をよくみます。 <i>Kuizu bangumi o yoku mimasu.</i></p> <p>I often watch quiz shows.</p>	<p>どうぞ、座ってください。 <i>Dōzo, suwatte kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please have a seat.</p>
<p>去年、日本語の勉強を始めました。 <i>Kyonen, nihongo no benkyō o hajimemashita.</i></p> <p>I started studying Japanese last year.</p>	<p>明日、テストがあります。 <i>Ashita tesuto ga arimasu.</i></p> <p>We have a test tomorrow.</p>
<p>私は、クラスみんなが大好きです。 <i>Watashi wa kurasu no minna ga daisuki desu.</i></p> <p>I love all of my classmates.</p>	<p>私は一年間日本語を勉強しました。 <i>Watashi wa ichi-nen-kan Nihon-go o benkyō shimashita.</i></p> <p>I studied Japanese for a year.</p>
<p>塾で働いています。 <i>Juku de hataraitte imasu.</i></p> <p>I work at a cram school.</p>	<p>ピーターは面白いです。 <i>Pītā wa omoshiroi desu.</i></p> <p>Peter is funny.</p>

よく、テレビをみますか。
Yoku, terebi o mimasu ka.

Do you often watch T.V.?

俺は学生です。
Ore wa gakusei desu.

I'm a student.(informal/rough)

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Particle and Conjunctions We Use to Give an Excuse.

塾で、みられなかった。

Juku de, mirarenakatta.

"I couldn't watch it because of cram school."

In this lesson, you'll learn the particle and conjunctions that are useful when you give reasons.

で (*de*)

In previous lessons, you learned that the usage of *de* marks the location of an action (in Lesson 7) as well as the means or material used to do/make something (in Lesson 15). In this lesson, you'll learn the usage of *de* when it indicates the reason of something. *De* comes after a noun that is a reason for something. It's equivalent to "and," "because of," or "due to" in English.

- かげで学校を休みました。
Kaze de gakkō o yasumimashita.
Literally, "I had a cold and I was absent from school."
"I didn't go to school because I had a cold."
- 台風で、木が倒れました。
Taifū de ki ga taoremashita.
"A tree fell over because of the typhoon."
- 交通事故でけがをしました。
Kōtsū jiko de kega o shimashita.
"I was injured due to a traffic accident."

Please notice that something beyond a person's control often precedes the *de* indicating the reason.

For Example:

1. (わたしは) 塾で、(テレビが) 見られなかった。
(*Watashi wa*) *juku de* (*terebi ga*) *mirarenakatta*.

We can translate this sentence into English in two ways:

1. Since *de* indicates a reason, we can translate *juku de* as "because of cram school" or "because I had to go to cram school." So the translation of the whole sentence would be "I couldn't watch TV because I had to go to cram school."
2. *De* also indicates where an action takes place, so the translation of *juku de* could also be "at cram school." The translation of the sentence would then be "I couldn't watch TV at cram school."

Since nobody expects to watch TV at cram school, the first interpretation is more likely in this case.

から (*kara*)

The conjunction *kara* follows a sentence and comes after a cause or reason. It corresponds to "because" or "since" in English.

[verb] + *kara*

For Example:

1. ケンは働かないから、お金がない。
Ken wa hatarakanai kara okane ga nai.
"Since Ken doesn't work, he doesn't have any money."
2. 結婚するから、家を買った。
Kekkon suru kara ie o katta.
"Since we're getting married, we bought a house."

[i adjective] + *kara*

For Example:

1. その店は安いから人気がある。
Sono mise wa yasui kara ninki ga aru.
"That store is popular because it's inexpensive."
2. 毎日忙しいかったから、勉強できなかった。
Mainichi isogashikatta kara benkyō dekinakatta.
"I couldn't study because I was busy every day."

[na adjective / noun] + da kara

For Example:

1. iPhoneは便利だから人気がある。
Aifon wa benri dakara ninki ga aru.
"The iPhone is popular because it's so useful."
2. 今日は日曜日だったから、たくさん人がいた。
Kyō wa nichiyōbi datta kara, takusan hito ga ita.
"There were a lot of people because today was Sunday."

*Please notice that the informal copula *da* precedes *kara* in non-past speech and that the informal past copula *datta* precedes *kara* in past speech.

ので (node)

The conjunction *node* also indicates a reason or cause. When we use it in this way, it is interchangeable with *kara*. However, *node* is more objective than *kara*. Because of that, *node* carries a softer and more polite connotation.

[verb] + node

For Example:

1. 結婚するので、家を買った。
Kekkon suru node, ie o katta.
"Since we're getting married, we bought a house."

[i adjective] + node

For Example:

1. その店は安いので人気がある。
Sono mise wa yasui node ninki ga aru.
"That store is inexpensive so it's popular."

[*na* adjective/noun] + *na node*

1. iPhoneは便利なので人気がある。
Aifon wa benri na node ninki ga aru.
The iPhone is popular because it's so useful.
2. 今日は日曜日だったので、たくさん人がいる。*
Kyō wa nichiyōbi datta node, takusan hito ga iru.
"There were a lot of people because today was Sunday."

*Please notice that *na* precedes *node* for non-past speech. For past speech, *datta* precedes *node*.

Reference

- の(*no*) as a possessive marker ⇒ Lesson 1
- ね(*ne*) as a sentence-ending particle ⇒ Lesson 13
- も(*mo*) means "too" or "also" ⇒ Lesson 1
- を(*o*) as an object marker ⇒ Lesson 2
- の(*no*) indicates a colloquial question ⇒ Lesson 4
- を(*o*) as an object marker ⇒ Lesson 2

Practice

Fill in the blanks with the particle *de*, *kara*, or *node*.

1. 病気 () 会社を休みました。
Byōki () kaisha o yasumimashita.
"I didn't go to work because I was sick."
2. けい子は18歳な () 車を運転できる。
Keiko wa jūhassai na () kuruma o unten dekiru.
"Keiko can drive a car because she is eighteen years old."

3. けい子は18歳だ () お酒が飲めない。
Keiko wa jūhassai da () o-sake ga nomenai.
"Keiko can't drink alcohol because she is eighteen years old."
4. 事故 () 遅刻しました。
Jiko () chikoku shimashita.
"I was late because of the traffic accident."
5. あのレストランは安くておいしい () 人気があります。
Ano resutoran wa yasukute oishii () ninki ga arimasu.
"That restaurant is popular because they serve good food at a reasonable price."

Answer:

1) *de*, 2) *node*, 3) *kara*, 4) *de*, 5) *kara/node*