

Lesson 28

John and Tadashi visit Marie's new flat.

- 正 今晚は。
マリー 今晚は、正さん。どうぞこちらへ。
正 ずいぶんながめのいいところですね。
マリー ええ、六階ですから。
正 このまどから西の方を見ると遠くに富士山も見えますね。
マリー そうなんです。まわりには木もたくさんあるし、朝は鳥が鳴くのも聞こえるんですよ。
正 それはいいですね。あの辺にあるのは桜の木ですね。
マリー ええ、近所の人春になるときれいな花がさくと言っていました。
ジョン ごめん下さい。
マリー ジョンさん、どうぞ。
ジョン やあ、正君。もう来ていたんですか。
正 いや、僕も今来たところです。
マリー 何か飲み物はいかがですか。
正 ビールをお願いします。
ジョン いいですね。僕もとてものがかわれているのでビールをいただきます。
マリー はい、どうぞ。
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28.1 Subjects in subordinate clauses

ずいぶんながめのいいところですね。

In 21.3 we touched on the fact that subjects of subordinate clauses may be marked with *の* instead of *が*. This happens particularly when the subordinate

clause modifies the noun very closely, as here. *ながめのいいところ* is literally 'a place whose view is good' hence 'a place with a good view'.

28.2 Further uses of と

このまどから西の方を見ると遠くに富士山も見えますね。
春になるときれいな花がさく

When the sentence particle と is added to a verb, either in plain or ~ます form, the result is a pattern meaning 'when...'. There are a number of restrictions on its use, however, and its range is not nearly as wide as you might expect from the translation. It will never, for instance, be found following a ~た form but is rather associated with the imperfective. Study the following:

(a) When the second clause is either a habitual occurrence or a natural consequence of the first clause, the feeling is that of a general statement, and the translation 'whenever' may perhaps be used:

秋になると木の葉が散る。

When autumn comes the leaves fall.

かぜをひくと必ず高い熱が出ます。

Whenever I catch cold, I always get a high temperature.

(b) と may also be used in more specific circumstances, but here too it is subject to a number of constraints. In this context the verb in the first clause is often found in the ~ている progressive form and the verb in the second clause in the perfective. This particular pattern often brings with it an element of surprise:

ピアノをひいていると電話がなった。

The telephone rang, while I was playing the piano.

(or) There I was playing the piano when the telephone rang.

知子さんのうわさをしていると彼女が入ってきた。

As we were gossiping about Tomoko she (unexpectedly) turned up.

(c) Verb in plain form + と + verb in perfective. In this pattern, the action indicated by the second verb is either a direct and immediate reaction to that of the first verb, or both actions occur one after the other in rapid succession.

その話を聞くと青年は真っ赤になっておこった。

Hearing that story, the young man was absolutely furious.

私のすがたを見るとポチはしっぽをふりながら走って来た。

As soon as he saw me, Pochi (a dog) came running towards me wagging his tail.

品物を受け取ると男は大急ぎで店を出て行った。

On receiving the goods, the man left the shop in a hurry.

私がおはようと言うと彼女は「もう午後ですよ」とそっけなく答えた。

When I said good morning to her, she replied coldly saying 'it's already afternoon'.

(d) Verb in plain form + と + verb in past progressive or perfective.

In this pattern, the action indicated by the first verb makes the subject realise what had been going on.

外に出ると雨が降っていた。

On going out, I found it was raining.

家へ帰ると食事の支度が出来ていた。

On going home, I found that dinner had been prepared.

ふと目を上げると外は雪で真っ白だった。

I looked up and I found that outside everything was quite white with snow.

28.3 The verbs 見える and 聞こえる

富士山も見えますね。
鳥が鳴くのも聞こえるんですよ。

Both these sentences would normally be expressed in English using a transitive verb: 'you can even see Fuji-san' and 'you can hear the birds sing too'. In Japanese these are best expressed intransitively. The whole question of transitive versus intransitive will be given more detailed coverage later. Note here that the verb 見える, being the intransitive equivalent of 見る, literally means 'is visible', and the verb 聞こえる, being the intransitive equivalent of 聞く, literally means 'is audible'. It is worth pointing out perhaps that the 'can' of the English translations does not really indicate ability, but rather possibility.

28.4 Uses of ところ

僕も今来たところです。

The noun ところ, which means 'place', is used as a grammatical tool as follows.

(a) Added to the imperfective, ところです means 'to be just on the point of...'

これから実験を始めるところです。

I am just about to start an experiment.

(b) added to the ~ている form, it means 'to be just now in the process of...'

今その本を読んでいるところです。

I am in the process of reading that book now.

(c) Added to the perfective, *ところです* means, as you might expect, 'to have just done something'.

今お茶を入れたところです。

I have just made some tea.

山田さんは今帰ったところです。

Yamada has just gone home.

28.5 Interrogative word + か

何か飲み物はいかがですか。

This is an extension of note 25.10. When *か* is added to an interrogative noun such as *だれ* 'who', *何* 'what', *どこ* 'where', *いくつ* 'how many', it has the effect of transforming it into an *indefinite noun*: *だれか* 'someone', *何か* 'something', *どこか* 'somewhere', *いくつか* 'some (number/amount)'. Note that syntactic particles such as *が* are often omitted with these words. Where numerical classifiers are involved, the pattern is *何* + numerical classifier + *か*.

その話はどこか (が) おかしい。

Something is wrong with that story.

冬休みにはどこかへ行くつもりですか。

Do you have any plans to go somewhere during the winter holiday?

私がいないうちにだれかがこのコンピューターを使ったことはまちがいない。

There is no doubt that someone has used this computer during my absence.

このクラスには何人か剣道の得意な人がいる。

There are some in this class who are good at kendō.

Key to conversation

Romanisation

Tadashi	Konban wa.
Marī	Konban wa, Tadashi-san. Dōzo kochira e.
Tadashi	Zuibun nagame no ii tokoro desu ne.
Marī	Ē, rokkai desu kara.
Tadashi	Kono mado kara nishi no hō o miru to toku ni Fujisan mo miemasu ne.
Marī	Sō nan desu. Mawari ni wa ki mo takusan aru shi, asa wa tori ga naku no mo kikoerun desu yo.
Tadashi	Sore wa ii desu ne. Ano hen ni aru no wa sakura no ki desu ne.
Marī	Ē, kinjo no hito ga haru ni naru to kirei na hana ga saku to itte imashita.
Jon	Gomen kudasai.
Marī	Jon-san, dōzo.
Jon	Yā, Tadashi-kun. Mō kite itan desu ka.
Tadashi	Iya, boku mo ima kita tokoro desu.
Marī	Nani ka nomimono wa ikaga desu ka.
Tadashi	Bīru o o-negai shimasu.
Jon	Ii desu ne. Boku mo totemo nodo ga kawaite iru no de bīru o itadakimasu.
Marī	Hai, dōzo.

Translation

Tadashi	Good evening.
Marie	Good evening Tadashi. Do come in please.
Tadashi	Your place has a wonderful view hasn't it?
Marie	Well, that's because it's on the sixth floor.
Tadashi	When you look to the west from this window you can even see Mt Fuji in the distance.
Marie	That's right. And there are lots of trees around, and you can hear the birds singing in the morning.
Tadashi	That's nice. Those ones over there are cherry trees aren't they?
Marie	Yes, one of my neighbours said that in spring there are lots of beautiful flowers in bloom.

John May I come in?
Marie John! Come in.
John Tadashi! You're already here.
Tadashi No no, I've only just arrived too.
Marie Would you like something to drink?
Tadashi A beer please.
John That sounds good. I'm very thirsty so I'll have a beer too.
Marie Here you are then.
