

## Lesson 32

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Ōyama goes into Yamakawa's office.

- 大山 部長、失礼いたします。  
山川 やあ、大山君。何だね。  
大山 実はブリティシ・エンジニアリングのブラウンさんが交通事故にあって入院されましたのでお知らせに来ました。  
山川 それは大変だ。けがはひどいのか。  
大山 詳しいことはよく分かりませんが、タクシーに乗っていた時に大きなトラックが横からぶつかって来たらしいんです。幸い命に別条はないみたいですが、体全体に相当ひどい打撲傷を受けたようです。  
山川 もうお見舞いには行ったのかね。  
大山 ええ、きのう会社の帰りに行ってきました。案外元気そうでしたけれど、動くたびにあちこち痛がっていました。  
山川 もうイギリスの家族には連絡したんだろうね。  
大山 ええ、こんな時に一人では心細いらしくて、おくさんやお子さんにとっても会いたがっていました。  
山川 それはそうだろう。それで病院はどこ。  
大山 渋谷の川里病院です。地下鉄の神宮前駅からすぐです。  
山川 そうか、分かった。どうもありがとう。  
大山 それでは私はこれで失礼いたします。
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### 32.1 Use of the passive for respect

入院されましたのでお知らせに来ました。

される is the passive form of the verb する. The passive will be dealt with in detail in lesson 35. All you need to do at this point is to learn the form される

and take note of the fact that it raises the status of its subject; Ōyama is using it to show respect for Mr Brown, because Mr Brown is 'outside' the circle. The fact that the respect/humble system is separate from the politeness system means that he can do this without being impolite to his boss Yamakawa. Take care to study the regular alternation of polite verb endings from Ōyama with brusque ones from Yamakawa. お知らせに: here we have the conjunctive form of the verb 知らせる 'to inform', followed by に + a verb of motion, a pattern that was explained in 23.3. 知らせる is literally 'to cause to get to know': this causative form of the verb will be introduced in 37.2. The prefix お shows respect to his boss.

### 32.2 Seeming

トラックが横からぶつかってきたらしいんです。  
幸い命に別条はないみたいですが  
打撲傷を受けたようです。  
元気そうでしたけれど、

All these expressions, らしい, みたい, ようだ and ~そうだ have to do with some kind of speculation on the part of the speaker: 'it seems that...' らしい, in the form らしくなりました, was introduced in 23.2. To repeat: it is a suffix which inflects in the manner of a descriptive verb; it is added either to the plain form of the verb or directly after a noun: 彼は医者らしい 'It seems he's a doctor.' When らしい is used, it is not clear whether the speculation is based on the speaker's own observation or not. Note how らしい attaches to various words:

大雪で列車が遅れているらしい。

Due to heavy snow, trains seem to be delayed.

橋本さんは行きたくなかったらしい。

It seems that Mr Hashimoto did not want to go.

清水さんは病気らしい。

It seems that Miss Shimizu is ill.

彼はおとうさんがこわいらしい。

He seems to be afraid of his father.

近藤さんの弟さんはドイツ語が得意らしい。

It seems that Mr Kondo's younger brother is good at German.

みたい is somewhat similar to らしい in that it links directly to verbs and nouns. Note, however, that unlike らしい it does *not* act like a descriptive verb: it takes だ, more like an adjectival noun. Also take great care not to confuse it with the word 見たい 'I wish to see'; both words are obviously closely connected but should be treated as being distinct.

よう is the *on* reading of 様, a noun meaning 'shape' or 'appearance'. Being a noun, it attaches directly to verbs but needs an intervening の when linked to another noun. It can be described as a slightly more formal equivalent to みたい, which is colloquial and often heard in the conversation of children or close friends. Note that with either of these patterns there is no inherent indication of whether the statement is based on the speaker's own observation or from information taken from another source.

Observe the following:

まだ分からないよう /or みたい/ ですね。

It seems you still don't understand.

どこかで事故があったよう /or みたい/ だ。

I think there has been an accident somewhere.

ブラウンさんのけがは相当ひどいみたい /or よう/ ですね。

It appears that Mr Brown's injury is rather serious.

彼も共産主義者みたい /or のよう/ ですね。

It appears that he is also a communist.

このごろ割にひまみたい /or なよう/ ですね。

You seem to be relatively free nowadays.

～そうだ is added to the conjunctive form of verbs, the base of descriptive verbs and directly to most adjectival nouns. Note two irregular formations:

よい (いい) + そう → よさそう      ない + そう → なさそう

Compared to ようだ, ~そうだ gives a stronger sense of the speaker's direct observation of something. It implies in fact that that you have good reason for your speculation. There is less distance between observer and event, and more personal involvement.

このケーキはおいしそうだ。

This cake looks delicious.

心配しない方がよさそうです。

It seems to me that it is best not to worry.

日焼けして子供達はみんな丈夫そう。

All the children look healthy with their suntans.

頭が痛くて死にそう。

I have such a bad headache that I feel I am almost dying.

病人は何も食べたくなさそうですね。

The patient looks as if he does not want to eat anything.

When used with a verb, ~そう sometimes suggests that something is about to occur.

その子は大切なノートをなくして今にも泣き出しそうだった。

Having lost her favourite notebook, that child was about to start crying.

あっ、雨が降りそう。

Oh dear, it's going to rain!

Note that one cannot express speculation about an event in the past using this conjunctive + ~そう construction. In this case ようだ has to be used, because the speaker by definition can have had no direct observation of the particular event.

このあたりは道路にまだ水たまりが残っているのできのうの夜は相当雨が降ったようですね。

There are still some puddles around here, so it must have rained quite a lot last night.

cf. モンスーンの季節には一日に何回かザーッと雨が降るようですね。  
It seems that there are showers several times a day during the monsoon season.

### 32.3 Citation form + たびに (度に) + verb

動くたびに

You have already been introduced to the use of 時に in this kind of position, signifying simply 'when'. Using たびに puts stress on the recurrent nature of the event.

この写真を見る度に母のことを思い出します。

Whenever I see this picture it brings back memories of mother.

日本へ行くたびに地震にあいます。

Whenever I go to Japan, I meet up with an earthquake.

### 32.4 The suffix がる

あちこち痛がっていました。  
会いたがっていました。

We have here two examples of the suffix がる. We saw in the previous lesson how the suffixes ~たい and ほしい could only be used with reference to one's own desires or wishes, on the principle that one cannot really know someone else's desires. This principle also operates with reference to people's feelings and emotions, expressed in Japanese by descriptive verbs (and adjectival nouns on occasion). When, for instance, Ōyama describes how Mr Brown felt after his accident, he cannot simply say 'it hurts' 痛い, because he can only say that about

himself. Just as in English we would be likely to say 'he feels pain', so in Japanese you need something extra: the suffix がる. It is assumed that this suffix actually stems from 気 (げ) + ある 'to have an appearance (feeling) of'. がる attaches to the stem of descriptive verbs, so producing 痛 (いた) がる, 痛がっている. Note that がる transforms a descriptive (hence stative) verb into a true verb of group I, hence any intransitive が sentence is transformed into a transitive sentence with を:

そのおばけの話がこわい。

I'm scared by that ghost story.

but

子供達はそのおばけの話をこわがった。

The children were scared by that ghost story.

このねこはとてもかわいいですねえ。

This cat is really sweet, isn't it!

but

むすめはこのねこをととてもかわいがっています。

My daughter really spoils this cat (finds it sweet).

Unlike English, however, wishes are treated in exactly the same way as feelings and emotions; so that when Ōyama wants to say 'he wants to see his wife and children' he cannot simply use the ~たい form, he must use ~たがる.

弟はスポーツカーを買いたがっている。

My younger brother is keen to buy a sports car.

### 32.5 だろう/でしょう

連絡したんだろうね。

それはそうだろう。

Uncertainty is expressed by adding the suggestive form of the copula, plain *だろう*, polite *でしょう*, to the plain form of the verb.

北海道は今ごろもう寒いでしょうね。

I suppose it's already cold in Hokkaido now.

この天気では飛行機はだいぶ遅れるだろう。

In this weather, the flight will probably be considerably delayed.

Note that if pronounced with a rising and hence questioning intonation here, *でしょう* will indicate a rhetorical question.

大丈夫でしょう。↗

It's OK, isn't it?

分かるでしょう。↗

You understand, don't you?

The form *でしょうか* can be used instead of *ですか* if you wish to ask a polite question.

すみませんが、今 何時でしょうか。

Excuse me, what time is it now?

東京駅はどこでしょうか。

Where is Tōkyō Station?

仙台行きの新幹線は何番線からでしょうか。

From which platform does the Shinkansen for Sendai leave?

It can also be used to show sympathy. The following sentence expresses sympathetic understanding rather than any real sense of uncertainty.

今日は十時間以上も山道を歩いてきつと疲れたでしょう。

You must be tired out, having walked over mountain tracks for more than ten hours today.

## Key to conversation

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### *Romanisation*

- Ōyama Buchō, shitsurei itashimasu.
- Yamakawa Ya, Ōyama-kun. Nan da ne.
- Ōyama Jitsu wa Buritissu Enjiniaringu no Buraun-san ga kōtsū jiko ni atte nyūin saremashita no de o-shirase ni kimashita.
- Yamakawa Sore wa taihen da. Kega wa hidoi no ka.
- Ōyama Kuwashii koto wa yoku wakarimasen ga, takushi ni notte ita toki ni ōkina torakku ga yoko kara butsumatte kita rashiin desu. Saiwai inochi ni betsujō wa nai mitai desu ga, karada zentai ni sōtō hidoi dabokusho o uketa yō desu.
- Yamakawa Mo o-mimai ni wa itta no ka ne.
- Ōyama Ē, kinō kaisha no kaeri ni itte kimashita. Angai genkisō deshita keredo, ugoku tabi ni achikochi itagatte imashita.
- Yamakawa Mō Igrisu no kazoku ni wa renraku shitan darō ne.
- Ōyama Ē, konna toki ni hitori de wa kokorobosoi rashikute, okusan ya o-kosan ni totemo aitagatte imashita.
- Yamakawa Sore wa sō darō. Sore de byōin wa doko.
- Ōyama Shibuya no Kawazato byōin desu. Chikatetsu no Jingumae-eki kara sugu desu.
- Yamakawa Sō ka, wakatta. Dōmo arigatō.
- Ōyama Sore de wa watakushi wa kore de shitsurei itashimasu.
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### *Translation*

- Ōyama Do you have a minute sir?
- Yamakawa Oh, Ōyama. What is it?
- Ōyama I've come to tell you that Mr Brown of British Engineering was involved in a car accident and has been admitted to hospital.
- Yamakawa That's terrible. Is he badly injured?
- Ōyama I don't know the details, but apparently he was hit from the side by a big truck as he was in a taxi. Happily it appears that he won't suffer any after-effects, but it seems that he has been quite badly bruised all over his body.
- Yamakawa Have you been to see him already?
- Ōyama Yes, I went yesterday on my way home from work. He looked surprisingly well,



but he appeared to be in pain in various places whenever he moved.

Yamakawa     Someone's already informed his family in England I suppose.

Ōyama         Yes, he seems a bit forlorn by himself at a time like this, and he wanted to see his wife and children.

Yamakawa     Yes, I imagine he would. Where is the hospital?

Ōyama         It's the Kawazato Hospital in Shibuya. Not far from the Jingumae underground station.

Yamakawa     Right then, understood. Thanks very much.

Ōyama         Well then, I'll be on my way now. Excuse me.

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