

Lesson 37

Minoru meets Kinoshita in front of the library on a snowy day.

実 木下さん、今日は。寒いですね。
木下 本当に。きのうから降り出した雪はちっともやみそうもありませんね。
実 下宿のそばのお寺は雪化粧をして、とてもきれいでした。
木下 うちの近くでは、子供達が雪だるまを作っていましたよ。
実 卒業試験の前で忙しいですか。コーヒーでも飲みに行きませんか。
木下 そうしましょうか。

They go into a nearby cafe.

実 コーヒー二つ、お願いします。
ウェイトレス はい、ホットですね。
実 卒論/試験の準備で忙しいでしょう。
木下 ええ、でも先学期は一週間に三回も高校で英語を教えていたので、もっと大変でした。
実 アルバイトですか。
木下 とんでもない。英語教員の資格をとるための実習ですよ。
実 あ、そうか。うまく出来ましたか。
木下 授業を始める前に生徒を静かにさせるのがひと苦勞でした。
実 僕も大学から若い先生が来た時は、さわいだ記憶があるな。それで、どんなことをしたんですか。
木下 まあ、テキストを読ませたり、練習問題に答えさせたりしましたけど。
実 宿題も出したんですか。
木下 ええ、作文を一度書かせました。とてもよく出来ているのもありましたよ。
実 木下さんは本当に将来先生になるつもりなんですか。
木下 さあ、何だか自信がなくなっていました。
実 四月からはイギリスに行くんでしょう。
木下 ええ、カンタベリーに六ヶ月ほど行くことにしました。

実 そう言えば、妹の国子もヨーロッパに行くみたいですよ。
木下 妹さん、大学へは行かないんですか。
実 父の手紙によると、ドイツの音楽学校へ行ってピアノを
 続けたいという本人の希望をいれて、留学させることにした
 そうです。
木下 そうですか。

Comment

Note the words ホット and アルバイト here. They are typical examples of what can happen to loanwords: their range is often either narrowed or transformed entirely. ホット 'hot' is short for ホットコーヒー 'hot coffee'. It never stands for anything else, not even tea. アルバイト stems from the German *Arbeit* 'work'. In Japanese, however, it refers only to the kind of part-time work that students and others often undertake to help out on their expenses. It could involve working in a shop, a restaurant, or tutoring middle and senior high school students for their exams. It is such a common thing to do that it immediately springs to mind when Minoru hears Kinoshita has been teaching English.

37.1 'You must be joking!'

とんでもない。

Learn this phrase as an idiom. It can mean a range of things from 'absurd' to 'inconceivable' and you will often hear it in this sense of 'far from it'. You may see it written with the *kanji* for *tobu* 'fly', i.e. 'not even if I (could) fly!' but this is based on a somewhat fanciful etymology.

37.2 The causative form

生徒を静かにさせる

Japanese verbs have a further inflection that represents causative constructions, namely 'causing someone do something'. The causative is formed using the 'negative' base (see 15.1) as follows

	<i>plain form</i>	<i>causative</i>
<i>Group I</i>	ending in <i>-ru, -ku, -mu, -nu, -su, -gu</i>	ends in <i>-raseru, -kaseru, -maseru, etc.</i>
	入る	入らせる
	乗る	乗らせる
	書く	書かせる
	聞く	聞かせる
	飲む	飲ませる
	死ぬ	死なせる
	話す	話させる
	泳ぐ	泳がせる
	ending in <i>-u</i>	ends in <i>-waseru</i>
	会う	会わせる
	買う	買わせる

Note that there is no causative for the verb ある.

	<i>plain form</i>	<i>causative</i>
<i>Group II</i>	ending in <i>-ru</i>	ends in <i>-saseru</i>
	いる	いさせる
	出る	出させる
	見る	見させる
	食べる	食べさせる

	<i>plain form</i>	<i>causative</i>
<i>irregular</i>	来る する	来 (こ) させる させる

The polite form of the causative is obtained by replacing る with ~ます. All causatives become group II verbs for the purposes of further inflection.

The basic meaning of this form is 'to make, or let, someone do something'; causatives can span the whole range from permission to coercion. Because it covers 'allowing' as well as 'causing', it is also known as the permissive form. As a general rule both subjects and underlying agents should be animate beings. Both transitive and intransitive verbs may appear in the causative.

37.3 Transitive causatives

テキストを読ませたり、練習問題に答えさせたりしましたけど。

With transitive verbs the person or animal being made to do something is normally marked by に, so with all the elements present, a sentence might read:

私は	生徒に	テキストを	読ませた
I	the students	text	caused to read
topic/subject	underlying agent	direct object	transitive causative

Incidentally, note that the second に in the sentence in the box (練習問題に) has nothing to do with the causative and is *not* marking the agent. It is part of an idiom whereby 'answering questions' is rendered in Japanese as 'replying to questions'. Some more examples of the causative of transitive verbs:

先生は学生に日本語で日記を書かせた。

The teacher made the students write their diary in Japanese.

赤ん坊にミルクを飲ませた。

I fed the baby with milk.

There are, however, some exceptional cases in which the underlying agent of the transitive verb in the causative form is marked not by に but by を:

会議が終わるまでタクシーを待たせます。

I will have the taxi wait (for me) until the meeting is over.

娘を手伝わせましょう。

I will have my daughter help (you).

In these sentences the direct objects (the ones in brackets) are omitted because they are obvious from the context, and the subject, 'I' in both cases, is treating the underlying agent (the taxi and the daughter respectively) as an object over which there is complete control. Note that if the direct object is present, then に *must* be used to mark the underlying agent.

洗いものを娘に手伝わせましょう。

I will have my daughter help you wash up.

37.4 Intransitive causatives

静かにさせる

Causatives can also be used with verbs that do *not* have direct objects.

医者	患者を/に	一日三十分	歩かせる。
The doctor	the patient	30 mins. a day	causes to walk
topic/subject	underlying agent		intransitive causative

With intransitive verbs both に and を are used to mark the underlying agent. に is used when the agent has complete choice or freedom of action:

その先生は子供達に湖で好きなだけ泳がせた。

The teacher let the children swim in the lake as long as they liked.

However if the agent is forced to act, or the agent has no ability to perform the act on his or her own, the particle must be を.

その先生は子供達をプールで泳がせた。

The teacher let the children swim in the pool (under his supervision).

When the person (or animal) acts either intentionally or without the aid of the subject, に and を can be employed with little difference in meaning.

この老人ホームでは元気な老人達に/を毎日海岸まで散歩させる。

In this home for the aged, they send healthy old people for a daily walk to the beach.

Either に or を can be used in this case, because the walking is an act controlled by the old people themselves. But in the following case you can only use を, because the baby is still too weak to really help itself.

その若い母親はヨチヨチ歩きの赤ん坊を毎日散歩させる。

That young mother takes her toddler for a walk every day.

私は犬を散歩させる。

I take the dog for a walk.

The particle after 犬 here *must* be を because, although a dog can wander about, it cannot 'go for a walk' on its own. Similarly を is employed in the following example:

温室で真冬にバラをさかせる。

In our greenhouse I get roses to flower in midwinter.

37.5 Agent marked by を with verbs of emotion

With those verbs that express emotion or involuntary action such as 笑う 'to laugh', おこる 'to get angry', 悲しむ 'to be sad' etc., the underlying agent must always be marked by を. This is because these emotions and actions cannot normally be controlled by the individual concerned; they are indeed involuntary.

じょうだんを言ってみんなを笑わせた。

He made people laugh by telling jokes.

弟は無理ばかり言って両親を困らせる。

My younger brother is always coming out with unreasonable statements and causing my parents much worry.

そのニュースは母をととても喜ばせた。

The news delighted my mother.

37.6 Cases when the causative cannot be used

Sentences can often be grammatically correct but still wrong in context. Social considerations come into play here, especially with a form like the causative, which by its very nature, implies the ability to make others do something. The causative is only really used, therefore, when the subject is equal or higher in status to the underlying agent. A sentence such as

私は先生に説明させるつもりだ。

I intend to make my teacher explain.

may be grammatically correct but it is not socially acceptable. So what about the following?

私はがんこな父を病院へ行かせた。

I persuaded my stubborn father to go to hospital.

Usually, your father should be regarded as someone superior to you. In this case, however, the relative positions of speaker and father are reversed, perhaps because of the father's illness or old age: if the speaker can be seen acting as a protector, the sentence is acceptable.

Key to conversation

Romanisation

- Minoru Kinoshita-san, konnichi wa. Samui desu ne.
- Kinoshita Hontō ni. Kinō kara furidashita yuki wa chittomo yamisō mo arimasen ne.
- Minoru Geshuku no soba no o-tera wa yukigeshō o shite, totemo kirei deshita.
- Kinoshita Uchi no chikaku de wa, kodomo-tachi ga yukidaruma o tsukuttemashita yo.
- Minoru Sotsugyō shiken no mae de isogashii desu ka. Kōhī de mo nomi ni ikimasen ka.
- Kinoshita Sō shimashō ka.
- Minoru Kōhī futatsu, o-negai shimasu.
- Ueitoresu Hai, hotto desu ne.
- Minoru Sotsuron ya shiken no junbi de isogashii deshō.
- Kinoshita Ē, demo sengakki wa isshūkan ni sankai mo koko de Eigo o oshiete ita no de, motto taihen deshita.
- Minoru Arubaito desu ka.
- Kinoshita Tonde mo nai. Eigo kyōin no shikaku o toru tame no jishū desu yo.
- Minoru Ā, sō ka. Umaku dekimashita ka.
- Kinoshita Jūgyō o hajimeru mae ni seito o shizuka ni saseru no ga hitokurō deshita.
- Minoru Boku mo daigaku kara wakai sensei ga kita toki wa, sawaida kioku ga aru na. Sore de, donna koto o shitan desu ka.
- Kinoshita Mā, tekisuto o yomasetari, renshū mondai ni kotaesasetari shimashita kedo.
- Minoru Shukudai mo dashitan desu ka.
- Kinoshita Ē, sakubun o ichido kakasemashita. Totemo yoku dekite iru no mo arimashita yo.
- Minoru Kinoshita san wa hontō ni shōrai sensei ni naru tsumori nan desu ka.
- Kinoshita Sā, nan da ka jishin ga nakunatte shimaimashita.
- Minoru Shigatsu kara wa Igrisu ni ikun deshō.
- Kinoshita Ē, Kantaberī ni rokkagetsu hodo iku koto ni shimashita.
- Minoru Sō ieba, imōto no Kuniko mo Yoroppa ni iku mitai desu yo.
- Kinoshita Imōto-san, daigaku e wa ikanain desu ka.
- Minoru Chichi no tegami ni yoru to, Doitsu no ongaku gakkō e itte piano o tsuzuketai to iu honnin no kibō o irete, ryūgaku saseru koto ni shita sō desu.
- Kinoshita Sō desu ka.
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Translation

- Minoru Kinoshita san, hello! It's cold isn't it?
- Kinoshita Very. The snow that's been falling since yesterday doesn't look like stopping at all, does it?
- Minoru The temple next to my lodgings has a coat of snow and looked very pretty.
- Kinoshita Near my place, the children were making snowmen.
- Minoru You must be busy just before the final exams. Do you have time for a cup of coffee?
- Kinoshita Let's do that.
- Minoru Two coffees please.
- Waitress Yes, hot coffee?
- Minoru You must be busy preparing your graduation thesis and for the exams.
- Kinoshita Yes, but last term I was teaching English three times a week at a high school, so that was much worse.
- Minoru A part-time job?
- Kinoshita You must be joking! It was practice-teaching in order to get my qualification as an English teacher .
- Minoru I see. Did you do well?
- Kinoshita It was a big effort to get the students quiet before I began a class.
- Minoru I remember making a lot of noise when a young teacher came from university. So, what sorts of things did you do?
- Kinoshita Well, I had them do things like read texts and answer practice questions.
- Minoru Did you give them homework too?
- Kinoshita Yes, I had them write a composition once. Some were very well done, too.
- Minoru Do you really intend to become a teacher in the future?
- Kinoshita Hm, but I'm somehow not so confident about it now.
- Minoru You're going to England in April aren't you?
- Kinoshita Yes, I've decided to go to Canterbury for six months.
- Minoru That reminds me, it looks as though my younger sister Kuniko is going to Europe too.
- Kinoshita Your sister's not going to university?
- Minoru According to father's letters, he says he's agreed to her own wish to continue studying piano at a German music school, so he has decided to let her go abroad to study.
- Kinoshita I see.
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