

Lesson 38

John and Marie are waiting for Tadashi at Shinbashi Station.

- ジョン おかしいなあ。正君はいつも時間に正確なのに....。
- マリー そうですね。もう約束の時間を十五分も過ぎているのに...。
アッ、来ましたよ。
- 正 ごめん、ごめん。寒いところでずいぶん待たせてしまって、悪いことをしました。
- マリー どうしたんですか。
- 正 八時には用意が出来ていたのに、丁度家を出ようとした時に電話がなったんです。
- ジョン 急な用事だったんですか。
- 正 いや、新しい仕事を頼まれただけなんです。
- マリー ずいぶん、忙しそうですね。
- 正 いやあ、このごろとても忙しいのに、また仕事の一つ増えてしまいましたよ。ところで、マリーさん、お誕生日おめでとうございます。
- マリー どうもありがとう。今日の鎌倉行きは前からとても楽しみにしていました。
- ジョン 鎌倉にはもう何度も行ったことがあるでしょう。
- マリー ええ、有名な大仏や八幡宮には行ったことがありますけど、冬の鎌倉は初めてです。
- 正 京都は寒くて、雪が降っているらしいけれど、こちらは割にあたたかいから梅の花がそろそろ咲きかけているかもしれないな。
- ジョン 電車が来ましたから乗りましょう。

The three of them are now on the train.

- ジョン 日曜日なのに案外混んでるなあ。
- 正 そうですね。ところで、十二時半に精進料理の店に予約をしておきました。
- マリー わあ、本物の精進料理ですか。
- 正 今日はマリーさんのお誕生日ですからね。ジョン君と僕から

のプレゼントです。

マリー 本当にもうありがとうございます。すばらしい記念になりそうです。

ジョン お昼まで時間があるので、どうしましょうか。

正 鎌倉駅の一つ手前の北鎌倉で電車を降りて、円覚寺をぬけて、それから建長寺の方へ下るのはどうですか。

ジョン 寒くないかなあ。

マリー 寒くても私は平気よ。それに今日はとてもカラッとしたいいお天気だし。

正 鎌倉駅からバスに乗って、大塔の宮から瑞泉寺の方を見にいてもいいと思うけれど。

マリー 瑞泉寺は確か水仙のころに一度行きました。

ジョン それじゃあ、円覚寺から歩くことにしよう。正君は何度も通ったことのある道でしょう。

正 ええ、でも何度通っても飽きない散歩道ですけど。

Comment

As we have explained, tourism in Japan is a habit with a long history. You will find that the commuter trains in the Tōkyō area are only slightly less crowded at the weekend than during the week, and it seems at times as though everyone is forever on the move. Kamakura, the old seat of power in the thirteenth century, is about one hour's train ride south of the capital and is a favourite for 'days out'. It is possible to follow mountain routes from temple to temple, and there is nowhere better to get some feel of Japan as it was in pre-modern times; if, that is, you can avoid the crowds.

38.1 Concessions with のに

正君はいつも時間に正確なのに...。
もう約束の時間を十五分も過ぎているのに...。
八時には用意が出来ていたのに、

のに here means 'despite the fact that...' or 'although';. It is added directly to the plain form of verbs. When the copula is present, it takes the form な.

試験が近いのに遊んでばかりいる。

Despite the fact that the exams are close, he does nothing but play around.

わざわざ彼の家まで訪ねて行ったのに留守だった。

We went to his house specially to see him, but he was out.

As you will see from the above examples, のに can express either surprise at something unexpected or disappointment at an unwelcome outcome.

せっかくケーキを焼いたのにだれも食べようとしなかった。

Although I baked a cake specially, nobody tried it.

38.2 'Forgive me'

ごめん、ごめん。

ごめん is here a colloquial abbreviation of ごめんなさい, 'I do apologise' or 'Please forgive me.' For a somewhat different use of this word in the phrase 御免下さい, meaning 'excuse me' but used when entering a room, refer back to 26.1.

38.3 Concessions with ~ても

寒くても私は平気よ。

でも何度通っても飽きない散歩道ですけど。

When a verb in the ~て form is followed by も, the effect is equivalent to the English 'even though;' or 'even if'.

その子は母親の言うことが分かっていても分からないふりをします。

That child pretends he doesn't understand what his mother says, even though he does.

その本はずっと前から捜していたので高くても買います。

I have been looking for that book for a long time, so I'll buy it even if it is expensive.

The same construction can be observed with the copula, in which case it appears as *でも*. In such cases the English equivalent may have to be more idiomatic.

その問題には専門家でも答えられないかも知れません。

It could well be that even a specialist would find it difficult to answer that question.

山田さんがいくら英語から日本語へのほん訳が上手でもこの仕事を三日でするのは無理でしょう。

No matter how good Mr Yamada is at translating English into Japanese, I don't think he can do this job in three days.

38.4 *のに* and *～ても* compared

So how do these two patterns differ? The difference is often difficult to define and is perhaps best illustrated with some examples. In general the 'if' element in *～ても* is much stronger, and *のに* cannot be used in a future context.

明日は雨が降っても出かけます。

I'll go out tomorrow even if it rains.

雨が降っているのに出かけるらしい。

It seems that he intends to go out even though it's raining.

あの子はどんなに悪いことをしてもしかられない。

That child never gets a scolding no matter how naughty he is.

あの子は何も悪いことをしないのにしかられてばかりいる。

That child is always being scolded although she never does anything naughty.

38.5 The suggestive form + とする

ちょうど家を出ようとした時に電話がかかってきた。

This pattern means 'to be about to...' or 'to try to...' and often marks an action which is about to be interrupted.

道路を渡ろうとした時に信号が赤に変わった。

I was just about to cross the road, when the traffic lights turned red.

遅れてすみません。出来るだけ早く来ようとしたのですが.....

Sorry I'm late. I tried to come as soon as possible.

38.6 'Congratulations'

お誕生日おめでとうございます。

The form おめでとうございます is used very much like the English 'Congratulations' or 'Happy X' Other common examples are: 御結婚おめでとうございます, for a newly married couple, and 明けましておめでとうございます or 新年おめでとうございます, for the New Year.

38.7 も with a positive verb

何度も行ったことがあるでしょう。

You were introduced to the use of classifier + も with the negative in 24.8. Here we have も marking an indeterminative in a positive sentence. It can be

translated 'You must have been many times before.'

彼は一日何杯もコーヒーを飲む。

He drinks many cups of coffee a day.

38.8 The conjunctive form + かける

梅の花がそろそろ咲きかけているかもしれないな。

We saw in lesson 29 how compound verbs could be created by using the conjunctive form of the first verb. Occasionally the second verb in a compound has a special role and かける is one such example. It signifies 'be on the verge of' or 'begin to'. It is broadly the same as 始める in meaning, although 始める has a sense of conscious control about it. With かける the impression is of some process which is about to get underway, and which may be interrupted:

この子は何かやりかけてもすぐに飽きてしまって、途中でやめてしまいます。

This child quickly gets bored with things as soon as he starts them, and so gives up halfway.

Key to conversation

Romanisation

Jon Okashii na. Tadashi kun wa itsumo jikan ni seikaku na no ni...

Mari Sō desu ne. Mō yakusoku no jikan o jūgofun mo sugite iru no ni...A! Kimashita yo.

Tadashi Gomen, gomen. Samui tokoro de zuibun matasete shimatte warui koto o shimashita.

Mari Dō shitan desu ka.

Tadashi Hachiji ni wa yōi ga dekite ita no ni, chodo ie o deyō to shita toki ni denwa ga nattan desu.

Jon Kyū na yōji dattan desu ka.

Tadashi Iya, atarashii shigoto o tanomareta dake nan desu ga.

Marī Zuibun, isogashisō desu ne.

Tadashi Iya, kono goro totemo isogashii no ni, mata shigoto ga hitotsu fuete shimaimashita yo. Tokoro de, Marī-san o-tanjōbi o-medetō gozaimasu.

Mari Dōmo arigatō. Kyō no Kamakura-yuki wa mae kara totemo tanoshimi ni shite imashita.

Jon Kamakura ni wa mo nando mo itta koto ga aru deshō.

Marī Ē, yūmei na Daibutsu ya Hachimangū ni wa itta koto ga arimasu kedo, fuyu no Kamakura wa hajimete desu.

Tadashi Kyōto wa samukute, yuki ga futte iru rashii keredo, kochira wa wari ni atatakai kara ume no hana ga sorosoro sakikakete iru ka mo shirenai na.

Jon Densha ga kimashita kara norimashō.

Jon Nichiyōbi na no ni angai konderu na.

Tadashi Sō desu ne. Tokoro de, jūnijihan ni shōjin ryōri no mise ni yoyaku o shite okimashita.

Mari Wā, honmono no shōjin ryōri desu ka.

Tadashi Kyō wa Marī-san no o-tanjōbi desu kara ne. Jon-kun to boku kara no purezento desu.

Marī Hontō ni domo arigatō. Subarashii kinen ni narisō desu.

Jon O-hiru made jikan ga aru no de, dō shimashō ka.

Tadashi Kamakura eki no hitotsu temae no Kita-Kamakura de densha o orite, Enkakuji o nukete, sore kara Kenchōji no hō e kudaruru no wa dō desu ka.

Jon Samukunai ka na.

Marī Samukutemo watakushi wa heiki yo. Sore ni kyō wa totemo karatto shita ii o-tenki da shi.

Tadashi Kamakura eki kara basu ni notte, Daitō no Miya kara Zuisenji no hō o mi ni itte mo ii to omou keredo.

Marī Zuisenji wa tashika suisen no koro ni ichido ikimashita.

Jon Sore jā, Enkakuji kara aruku koto ni shiyō. Tadashi-kun wa nando mo totta koto no aru michi deshō.

Tadashi Ē, demo nando tōtte mo akinai sanpomichi desu kedo.

Translation

- John How strange. Tadashi's normally so punctual!
- Marie So he is. It's already fifteen minutes past the time we agreed to meet. Ah, here he comes.
- Tadashi Sorry, so sorry. How bad of me to have kept you waiting so long in the cold.
- Marie What happened?
- Tadashi I was ready by eight, but just as I was about to leave the house the telephone rang.
- John Was it something urgent?
- Tadashi No, I was merely asked to take on a new job.
- Marie You seem very busy.
- Tadashi Yes, and even though I'm really busy at the moment now there's yet another thing I have to do. But Marie. Happy birthday.
- Marie Thank you very much. I've been looking forward to our trip to Kamakura today for some time.
- John You must have been to Kamakura many times before surely?
- Marie Yes, I've been to famous places like the Daibutsu and the Hachimangu, but this is my first time to go to Kamakura in the winter.
- Tadashi It's cold in Kyoto and they say it's snowing there, but here it's comparatively warm, so the plum blossom may be just about coming out.
- John The train's here. Shall we get on?
- John It's rather crowded for a Sunday.
- Tadashi So it is. By the way, I've made a booking at a Buddhist vegetarian restaurant for twelve thirty.
- Marie Oh marvellous! Real vegetarian food?
- Tadashi Because it's your birthday today. It's a present from John and me.
- Marie Really, thank you so much. I'm sure it'll be a meal to remember.
- John We'll have some time before lunch, so what shall we do?
- Tadashi How about getting off one stop before Kamakura at Kita-Kamakura and going through Enkakuji, and then down towards Kenchoji?
- John It won't be too cold?
- Marie I don't mind if it's cold. And today it's such good weather ☺ crisp and dry.
- Tadashi We could also take a bus from Kamakura station and go and have a look at Daito no Miya and Zuisenji.

Marie I'm pretty sure I went to Zuisenji when the daffodils were out.
John Well then, let's walk from Enkakuji. You've done the route many times haven't you Tadashi?
Tadashi Yes, but it's a path that you never tire of, no matter how many times you do it.
