

Lesson 44

- マリー ジョンさん。困ったことが出来てしまったんですが、相談にのって下さい。
- ジョン 浮かない顔をしていますね。どうしたんですか。
- マリー 実は、結婚を申し込まれてしまったんです。
- ジョン えっ。じょうだんでしょう。
- マリー じょうだんじゃないから困っているんです。
- ジョン 僕の知っている人ですか。
- マリー いいえ。私でさえあんまりよくは知らない人なんですから。
- ジョン それじゃあ、マリーさんはその人と結婚する気はないんですか。
- マリー 全然...
- ジョン マリーさんにその気がなければ、しかたがありませんね。断ればいいじゃありませんか。
- マリー ところが、問題はそう簡単じゃないんです。その人は私の気持変わるまで待つというんです。
- ジョン ハッハッハ。それは困りましたね。
- マリー 笑いごとじゃないんですよ。どう説明すれば、私の気持は変わらないということが、相手に分かってもらえるでしょうか。
- ジョン 言葉を並べて、説明しようとするほど、こんがらがってくるのではないのでしょうかね。
- マリー それじゃあ、どうすれば一番いいんですか。
- ジョン まあ、よく分かりませんが、僕なら相手にはっきりと言いますね。そして、しばらく会わなければ、相手の人の気持も少しずつ落ち着いてくるじゃありませんか。
- マリー でもとなりの研究室の人ですから、大学に行けば顔を合わせなければならぬんです。
- ジョン そんなに深刻になって考えなくても大丈夫ですよ。
- マリー このごろ、気になって夜も眠れないんですよ。
- ジョン 寝る前に、ウイスキーをちょこっと飲めば、ぐっすり眠れますよ。
- マリー ジョンさんは私の問題をちっとも真面目に考えてくれないみたい。
- ジョン いやいや、ただこの件に関しては、マリーさんの気持がはっきりしているので、あまり考える余地もありませんからね。相手は絶対にあきらめないというのならば、冷たいようですが、ほっておくより仕方がないでしょう。
- マリー そうかもしれないわ。
-

44.1 Conditionals

リーさんにその気がなければ、しかたがありませんね。

Conditionals were introduced in 29.2, but we shall restate the points that were made there, because they are important. There are a number of ways of expressing the idea of 'if' or 'when' in Japanese, and the next two lessons will introduce the major patterns. None of them are intrinsically difficult, but they do need careful study because they do not coincide with English constructions. The main difference is that English concentrates on whether or not the speaker knows an action will or will not happen: if you know something is going to happen, then you will use 'when'; if you do not know or are not at all sure, you will use 'if'. Japanese, on the other hand, concentrates on the connection between two events, whether the second event is expected or arbitrary, natural or forced. The patterns involve two further verb inflections, *～えば* and *～たら*, and two grammatical 'function words': *と* and *なら(ば)*. *～えば* is introduced first.

44.2 Form of *～えば*

The verb inflections for positive *～えば* are produced as follows:

	<i>plain citation</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>～えば</i>
Group I	ある	exist	あれば
	歩く	walk	歩けば
	会う	meet	会えば
	行く	go	行けば
	入る	enter	入れば
	話す	talk	話せば
	言う	say	言えば
	買う	buy	買えば
	書く	write	書けば
	聞く	listen, ask	聞けば
	待つ	wait	待てば
	飲む	drink	飲めば

	乗る	ride	乗れば
	使う	use	使えば
	読む	read	読めば
<i>Group II</i>	いる	exist	いれば
	出る	go out	出れば
	かける	hang	かければ
	見る	see	見れば
	寝る	go to bed	寝れば
	起きる	get up	起きれば
	食べる	eat	食べれば
<i>Irregular</i>	来る	come	来(く)れば
	する	do	すれば
<i>Descr. verbs</i>	おいしい	tasty	おいしければ
	美しい	beautiful	美しければ

The negative of this form is produced by taking the normal negative of the verb and then transforming the *～ない* to *～なければ* as follows:

動く	move	動かなければ
もらう	receive	もらわなければ
開ける	open	聞けなければ
かわいい	cute, pretty	かわいくなければ
短い	short	短くなければ

There is no form for the copula listed here; it will be dealt with separately.

44.3 Uses of *～えば*

With *～えば*, the emphasis is on the conditions under which something will or might occur. The implication of this form is that the second clause is a necessary and natural consequence of the first clause; provided that something happens, something else will then happen. *～えば* is usually, but not always, restricted to

present or future time.

雨が降れば出かけません。

I won't go out if it rains.

This does not just describe what will happen when or if it rains; it actually gives a condition under which I will not go out.

分からなければ、遠慮をしないで聞いて下さい。

If you don't understand, please don't hesitate to ask me.

その人の立場に立ってみなければ理解出来ないことがたくさんあります。

There are many things you won't understand, unless you try seeing things from their point of view.

44.4 ~えば + いい

断ればいい。

This pattern literally means 'if..., then good'. It is used as a mild exhortation, the equivalent of the English 'I should..., (if I were you)'.

どうすればいいでしょう。

What should I do?

どこで払えばいいでしょう。

Where should I pay?

正直にありのままを言えばいいでしょう。

I think you should tell him honestly how things are.

44.5 The pattern 'the more...the more/the less

説明しようとするほど、こんがらがってくるのではないでしょうか。

The Japanese equivalent of 'the more...the more/the less' is created in a very different way to its English counterpart. In this example sentence *～えば* links with the noun 'extent' to produce a first phrase that can be literally rendered 'when I try to explain' or 'to the extent that I explain...'; the second part of the sentence is straightforward, although note here that *～てくる* appears, stressing the progressive nature of the construction. Study the following examples:

練習すればするほど、上手になる。

The more you practise, the better you become.

眠ろうとすればするほど、眠れなくなる。

The more I try to go to sleep, the more difficult it becomes.

44.6 Expressing obligation and asking permission

大学に行けば顔を合わせなければならないんです。

We have already seen that Japanese often prefer to avoid expressing power or authority over others, by employing some roundabout phrase. Obligations are, of course, no exception, and the Japanese construction that is the equivalent of the English 'must' or 'ought to' is oblique in the extreme. 'You must go' is expressed as 'if you do not go, things will not work out'. For this, the *～えば* inflection of *～ない*, namely *～なければ*, is used. Using this form as a question is a good way of asking permission.

～なければ + ならない (なりません)

～なければ + いけない (いけません)

三時までにはいかなければなりませんか。
Must I be there by three o'clock?

明日までにレポートを二本書かなければいけない。
I have to write two essays by tomorrow.

彼は子供の時に父親に死なれたので十六歳の時から働かなければならなかった。
He had to start working at the age of sixteen because his father died when he was child

地球は丸いということの人々に分からせるために、ガリレオは命をかけなければならなかった。
In order to make people understand that the earth is round, Galileo had to risk his life.

Sometimes ならない and いけない are interchangeable, but it is fair to say that when you oblige someone else to do something, いけない is usually word to choose.

よく休まなければいけませんよ。
You ought to have a good rest.

この記事には知らない単語がたくさんあるので一つ一つ辞書で調べなければならぬ。
There are many words which I do not know in this article so I have to look them up in a dictionary one by one.

図書館の本は借りてから四週間以内にお返さなければいけませんよ。
You must return library books within four weeks after you borrow them.

44.7 なら or ならば

僕なら相手にはっきりと言いますね。
相手は絶対にあきらめないというのならば、

The ～えば form of the copula is created by going back to the classical equivalent of だ/です, namely なり→ならば, which is also shortened to just なら. When it directly follows a noun, it can simply mean ‘if it were...’. as it does in the example sentence, but it often has the extended sense of ‘if actually’ or ‘if it is indeed a question of...’, referring to something in context.

ストならば出かけません。
If there’s a strike on, I’ll stay at home.

そのことならもう聞いています。
If it’s a question of that matter, I have already heard about it.

こちらの方が好きならば取り替えて上げますよ。
If you prefer this one, then I’ll change it for you.

When it follows a verb, usually in the imperfective, a nominalising の is usually present:

来られないのならば早目にそう言って下さい。
If you cannot come, please let me know.

これだけ説明したのにわからないのなら仕方がない。
If you still do not understand after I have explained it at such length, then it’s hopeless.

By and large it is fair to say that なら and ならば are interchangeable, although occasionally なら has an extra nuance: it may sometimes imply either will or intention:

ラジオを聞いたらあっちで聞いて下さい。
If you want to listen to the radio, please do so over there.

44.8 Uses of さえ

私でさえ

The particle さえ has a number of uses. Here it is operating idiomatically with

で meaning 'even.

子供でさえそんなことはしませんよ。

Even a child wouldn't do such a stupid thing.

It can also be used straight after a noun with roughly the same meaning: that of an emphatic も.

あの学生は外国語はもちろん母国語さえまともに書けない。

That student can't write his own language properly, never mind a foreign one.

There is also the important pattern さえすれば, which is why we have left this explanation until the end of this lesson, after ~えば.

来(き)さえすればいいんですか。

Is it OK as long I just turn up?

「ごめんなさい」と言いさえすればいいんですね。

It's all right as long as I just say I'm sorry, isn't it?

Key to conversation

Romanisation

- Marī Jon-san. Komatta koto ga dekite shimattan desuga, sōdan ni notte kudasai.
Jon Ukanai kao o shite imasu ne. Dō shitan desu ka.
Marī Jitsui wa kekkon o mōshikomarete shimattan desu.
Jon E! Jōdan desho.
Marī Jōdan ja nai kara komatte irun desu.
Jon Boku no shitte iru hito desu ka.
Marī Iie. Watakushi de sae anmari yoku wa shiranai hito nan desu kara.
Jon Sore jā, Marī san wa sono hito to kekkonn suru ki wa nain desu ka.
Marī Zenzen.
Jon Marī san ni sono ki ga nakereba shikata ga arimasen ne. Kotowareba ii ja arimasen ka.
Marī Tokoro ga, mondai wa sō kantan ja nain desu. Soino hito wa watakushi no kimochi ga kawaru made matsu to iun desu.

Jon Hahaha. Sore wa komarimashita ne.
Marī Waraigoto ja nain desu yo. Dō setsumei sureba watakushi no kimochi wa kawaranai to iu koto ga aite ni wakatte moraeru dehsō ka.
Jon Kotoba o narabete setsumei shiyō to sureba suru hodo kongaragatte kuru no de wa nai deshō ka ne.
Marī Sore jā, dō sureba ichiban iin desu ka.
Jon Mā, yoku wakarimasen keredo boku nara aite ni hakkiri to iimasu ne. Soshite shibaraku awanakereba aite no hito no kimochi mo sukoshi zutsu ochitsuite kurun ja arimasen ka.
Marī Demo, tonari no kenkyūshitsu no hito desu kara, daigaku ni ikeba kanarazu kao o awasenakereba naranain desu.
Jon Sonna ni shinkoku ni natte kangaenakute mo daijōbu desu yo.
Marī Kono goro ki natte yoru mo nemurenain desu yo.
Jon Neru mae ni uisukī o chokotto nomeba gussiru nemuremasu yo.
Marī Jon san wa watakushi no mondai o chittomo majime ni kangaete kurenai mitai.
Jon Iya, iya. Tada kono ken ni kanshite wa Marī san no kimochi ga hakkiri shite iru no de, amari kangaeru yochi mo arimasen kara ne. Aite ga zettai ni akiramenai to iu no naraba, tsumetai yō desu ga, hotte oku yori shikata ga nai deshō.
Marī Sō ka mo shiremasen wa...

Marie John, something awkward has happened. Plewasae give me some advice.
John You look a bit depressed. What's up?
Marie Actually I've had a marriage proposal.
John What! You're joking.
Marie No, I'm not joking. That's why it's awkward.
John Anyone I know?
Marie No. It's someone I don't know very well myself.
John Well then, you're not interested in marrying him?
Marie Not in the slightest
John If you don't want to, then that's it. Can't you simply refuse him?
Marie But it's not that simple. He says he will wait until I've changed my mind.
John Ah ha. That is a bit of a problem.
Marie It's no laughing matter. How can I explain so as to get him to understand that I won't change my mind?
John The more you try and explain by putting it into words, the more entangled it will become, I should think.
Marie So what's the best thing to do?
John Well, I don't really know, but if I were you, I'd tell him straight. And if you try not to meet him for a while, he may settle down gradually, don't you think?

Marie But he's in the next seminar room to mine and I'm bound to meet him whenever I go to the university.

John Surely you don't have to get so worked up about it all.

Marie I'm so worried I haven't been able to get to sleep recently.

John Have a little tot of whisky just before you go to bed and you'll sleep like a top.

Marie It doesn't seem as though you're taking this at all seriously.

John No. no. it's just that because you feel as certain as you do, there's not much point on worrying about it. If he really won't resign himself, then I know it sounds cruel, but you'll just have to ignore him.

Marie Yes, I suppose you're right.
