

## Lesson 49

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### A telephone conversation between Mrs Yamakawa and Mrs Ōyama

山川           もしもし。

大山           もしもし、山川様でいらっしゃいますか。

山川           はい、さようでございますが。

大山           あのう....、大山でございますが。

山川           ああ、サウジアラビアに行っているいらっしゃる大山さんの奥様  
                  でいらっしゃいますね。

大山           はい。さようございます。

山川           御主人様はお元気でいらっしゃいますか。

大山           はい、おかげさまで。やっと新しい環境にも慣れてきたよう  
                  でございます。実は私共も今月末にサウジの方へ出発する  
                  ことになりましたので、近いうちに一度御挨拶に伺いたい  
                  と思ひまして。

山川           それは御丁寧にありがとうございます。もし御都合がよろし  
                  ければ、今度の日曜の午後あたりいかがでしょうか。あいにく  
                  主人はまだもどっておりませんが、その日は一日家でゆっくりする  
                  ようなことを申しておりましたから。

大山           せっかくのお休みの日におじゃまするようで申し訳ございません  
                  が、それでは遠慮なく日曜日に伺わせていただきます。  
                  何時ごろがよろしいでしょうか。

山川           三時過ぎでしたら、いつでも結構でございます。

大山           それではそのころに。

山川           御出発の準備で何かと大変でいらっしゃいますでしょう。

大山           ええ、出来るだけ荷物は少なくするように心がけてはいるの  
                  ですが、子供の本や薬などでずいぶん量が増えてしまいました。

山川           ヨーロッパやアメリカへ出かけるのとはちがいますものね。

大山           ええ、それと言葉の方が心配で...

山川           御主人様は御出発前に、だいぶアラビア語を勉強していらっ  
                  しゃったようですが。

大山           ええ、私もカセット・テープなどはいっしょに聞いたりいた  
                  しましたので少しは分かるはずなのですが、実際に人々の話  
                  しているのが聞きとれるかどうかは行ってみないと分かりません。

山川           そうですね。でもあまり御心配なさらなくてもきっと大丈夫  
                  だと思いますよ。

大山           まあ、あまり気にしても仕方のないことですから。お電話で  
                  とんだ長話をして失礼いたしました。それではまた日曜の午後に。

山川           お目にかかって、御主人様からのニュースなど聞かせていただくのを  
                  楽しみにしております。

大山           御主人様にもどうぞよろしくお伝えくださいませ。

山川           承知いたしました。それではまた、ごめん下さいませ。

#### 49.1   でございます and でいらっしゃいます

山川様でいらっしゃいますか。  
さようでございます。  
大山でございますが。

This is a revision section. You have already met both of these forms before. In 31.1 *でございます* was explained as a super-polite or 'deferential' form of the copula. The more polite you want to be, the more you will find yourself using this form. *いらっしゃる*, without the *で*, is the respectful equivalent of the verb *いる* 'be'. *でいらっしゃる*, however, is the form of the copula you must use when you are referring to the addressee or to someone connected with the addressee. Its use is therefore fairly restricted, but quite common in telephone conversations and the like, for obvious reasons. Note that for 大山 to say \*山川様でございますか would be a mistake.

#### 49.2   Honorific language, a synopsis

By now, you will have already met most of the ways Japanese produces either humble or respectful forms: what follows is essentially for reference. Please look back to specific sections for more details. The first distinction to keep in mind is that between *politeness* and *honorific language*. Politeness is governed by your attitude to the person you are addressing: you can be polite, neutral or rude, as

the case may be. The most obvious way to achieve politeness is to keep your verbs in the ~ます form and to use です as opposed to だ for the copula. Honorific language, on the other hand, is concerned with your attitude to the subject or topic of discourse, and this is achieved by either raising or lowering the status of the subject. Obviously, there will be occasions when these two phenomena overlap: when, for instance, the addressee is also the subject of the sentence; but nevertheless the two concepts should be kept separate in your mind.

#### 49.3 Forms expressing respect; (by raising the subject)

(a) The prefix お + conjunctive form of the verb + になる (see 45.8). Note that a shorter form of the above can be obtained by replacing になる by a simple です:

お発ちです。

He is leaving.

お帰りですか。

Are you going home?

The honorific nature of this statement can be turned a notch higher by changing です to でいらっしやいます。

いつお発ちでいらっしやいますか。

When are you leaving?

(b) Alternatively, the passive form of the verb may also be used to indicate respect (see 32.1).

毛利さんは二、三日前に北海道へ移られました。

Mr Mori moved to Hokkaido a few days ago.

鈴木さんは息子さんの先生と話し合わせてからこのことを決められました。

Mr Suzuki decided on this matter after having had a discussion with his son's teacher.

(c) Verbal nouns. Although verbal nouns can be used with the passive form, as in 先生が説明された 'the teacher explained', they are usually dealt with in a different fashion. They take the prefix 御 (ご) and change する to なさる: 旅行する → 御旅行なさいます.

もう御注文なさいましたか。

Have you already ordered?

(d) The other group is of those verbs that have special honorific equivalents:

いる	いらっしゃる、おいでになる
行く、来る	いらっしゃる、おいでになる
着る	召す、お召しになる
くれる	下さる
見る	ごらんになる
死ぬ	亡くなる、お亡くなりになる
する	なさる
食べる	上がる、お上がりになる、召し上がる
言う	おっしゃる

NB: Remember that ~ます, which is not on the level of reference but of address, need not be used unless the speaker specifically wants or needs to show politeness to the second person; but if the second person is the subject, ~ます is normally obligatory. There will be occasions, however, when you will hear these forms being used both to and about the second person without the expected ~ます. This is a pattern found more widely among women than men, and conveys a feeling of respect combined with a friendly familiarity:

いっしょにいらっしゃらない。

Won't you please come along too?

You have seen the command forms of 来る and 見る, namely 来なさい and 見なさい respectively, in lesson 47. However, おいでなさい or いらっしゃい, and ごらんなさい are also commonly used. The command is considerably softened when such verbs that indicate respect are used.

こちらへいらっしゃい。いっしょにお茶を飲みましょう。  
Come this way. Let's have some tea together.

#### 49.4 Forms expressing humility; (by lowering the subject)

(a) Formed by the prefix お + conjunctive form of the verb + します/いたします (see 26.2)

お食事の支度が出来ましたらお呼びいたします。  
I will call you when the meal is ready.

(b) As with the respect forms, there are two groups of verbs which do not use this construction. One is verbal nouns: 説明する → 御説明します/いたします. Note however that a phrase like \*御勉強いたします is not normally used. With all these verbs, the other person being shown respect should be involved in some way or other in the action. The implication is that something is being done 'for' someone else. If no other person is involved, as in the case of 勉強, an ordinary plain form is used.

どうぞこちらへ。工場の中を御案内いたします。  
Please come this way, I will show you the factory.

旧友の大野さんを御紹介いたします。  
I would like to introduce my old friend Ono to you.

(c) The following have special humble equivalents:

いる	おる
行く、来る	参る、伺う
言う	申す、申し上げる
する	いたす
もらう、飲む、食べる	いただく、ちょうだいする
見る	拝見する/いたす
見せる	お目にかける、ごらんにいれる、お見せする
会う	お目にかかる、お会いする

思う、知る  
かりる  
‘る  
聞く

存じる、存じ上げる  
拝借する  
上げる、差し上げる  
伺う、承る

NB: The same comment made about respect forms applies here: *～ます* is used when the speaker wishes to be polite to his interlocutor; it does not refer to anything within the world of the sentence as such.

#### 49.5 Using causatives for requests

日曜日に伺わせていただきます。  
聞かせていただくのを楽しみにしております。

The causative form (37.2) can often be used to make a request or a demand. As shown in the examples below, some of these expressions are not necessarily designed to express politeness, but there is an advantage in using the causative form to request something for oneself, because it implies the speaker's submission to the will of the person addressed. Such expressions often look very complicated, but they are in common use and should be mastered.

- (a)           Causative + *～てもらいます*  
                  Causative + *～ていただきます*

This form is used to announce something one has already decided to do. One is not really asking for permission, merely being polite.

失礼させていただきます。

I will take my leave.

*lit:* I will receive the favour of your permitting me to be rude (and leave)

It can also be employed as an abrupt parting shot.

それではやめさせてもらいます。

Right then, I'll resign.

(b)

Causative + てくれ  
て下さい  
てもらいたい  
てほしい  
ていただきたい

Here a strong request or even demand is cast in the form of asking for a favour.

その件についてはしばらく考えさせて下さい。

Let me think over the matter for a while.

見合い結婚をするつもりはありません。好きな人と結婚させて  
もらいたいと思います。

I have no intention of accepting an arranged marriage. Let me marry  
someone I love.

#### 49.6 出来るだけ

出来るだけ荷物は少なくするように

This phrase simply means 'as...as possible'

出来るだけ今日中に仕上げてください。

Try as hard as possible to finish this today.

出来るだけ早く来て下さい。

Come as soon as (as early as) possible.

#### 49.7 Some idiomatic uses of ように

出来るだけ荷物は少なくするように

- (a) Verb (imperfective) + ようにする, meaning 'to make it so that it becomes...'

道を広げて車が通れるようにしました。

We widened the path so that cars could go through.

この国立公園ではいろいろな設備を整えて一般の人々にも自然の価値が理解出来るようにするつもりです。

We intend to provide various facilities in this National Park so that ordinary people (too) can appreciate the value of nature.

- (b) Verb (imperfective) + ようにしている, meaning 'I try to make it a rule that...'

手紙をもらったらすぐに返事を書くようにしている。

I try to reply as soon as I receive a letter.

酒は飲まないようにしている。

I try not to drink any alcohol.

cf. 酒は飲まないことにしている。

I have decided not to drink.

#### 49.8 Idiomatic use of もの

ちがいますものね。

もの or もん can be used at the end of a sentence in this way in order to add a gesture of sympathy directed towards the listener.



彼が自殺したって本当ですか。

They say he's committed suicide; is it true?

うん、分からないもんだな。

Yes, you never know, do you?

#### 49.9 はず

少しは分かるはずなのですが、

はず<sup>ㇿ</sup>, a noun meaning 'expectation', usually found at the end of a clause or sentence in the form はずだ (です), expresses a state of general expectation that something will either occur or follow on naturally from something else.

札幌行きの特急はあと十分で出るはずです。

The limited express for Sapporo is due to leave in ten minutes.

義務教育を終えているのだから少なくとも新聞は読めるはずだ。

As he has completed his compulsory education, he should be able to read the newspapers at least.

あしたは祭日なので、学校は休みのはずです。

Tomorrow is a festival day, so there should be a holiday at school.

国子さんはもう十年以上もピアノを習っているのでかなり上手なはずですよ。

Kuniko has been practising the piano for more than ten years now, so you'd expect her to be fairly good.

Note that the English concept of 'expectation' can sometimes suggest intention, as in the sentence 'I expect I'll go to Japan this summer.' はず<sup>ㇿ</sup> cannot be used if any element of intention or conscious planning is present. So to translate this as: \*私は今年の夏休みに日本へ行くはずです is wrong. はず<sup>ㇿ</sup> refers to something that that is in a sense bound to occur. The sentence 今年彼は日本へ行くはずです is possible, but only if you are saying 'I have reason to believe that he is going to

Japan this year.' It cannot mean 'He expects to go to Japan this year.'

#### 49.10 かどうか

人々の話しているのが聞きとれるかどうかは  
行ってみないと分かりません。

Reported questions of the form 'whether or not' are expressed by adding かどうか directly after a verb or a noun.

ロシア語は話せますか。

Can you speak Russian?

ロシア語が話せるかどうか聞いた。

I asked whether he could speak Russian.

明日六時半までに来られますか。

Can you come by six thirty tomorrow?

明日六時半までに来られるかどうか聞いた。

I asked whether she could come tomorrow by six thirty.

人類は進歩しているのかどうか分からない。

I am not sure whether mankind has been progressing or not.

その部屋は静かかどうか聞いて下さい。

Please ask whether that room is quiet or not.

この絵が本物かどうかは私には分かりません。

I cannot tell whether this picture is genuine or not.

As seen in this last example, の is sometimes inserted between the verb and かどうか. This addition of の tends to strengthen the sense of doubt but does not otherwise affect the meaning. Compare the following:

人類は進歩しているのか(進歩)していないのか分からない。

I am not sure whether mankind has been progressing or not.

人類は進歩しているのか退歩しているのか分からない。

I am not sure whether mankind has been progressing or regressing.

### Key to conversation

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#### *Romanisation*

- Yamakawa Moshi moshi.
- Ōyama Moshi moshi. Yamakawa-sama de irasshaimasu ka.
- Yamakawa Hai, sayō de gozaimasu ga.
- Ōyama Ano...Ōyama de gozaimasu ga.
- Yamakawa Ā, Sauji Arabia ni itte irassharu Ōyama-san no okusama de irasshaimasu ne.
- Ōyama Hai, sayō de gozaimasu.
- Yamakawa Go-shujin-sama wa o-genki de irasshaimasu ka.
- Ōyama Hai, o-kage sama de. Yatto atarashii kankyō ni mo narete kita yō de gozaimasu. Jitsu wa watakushidomo mo kongetsumatsu ni Sauji no hō e shuppatsu suru koto ni narimashita node, chikai uchi ni ichido go-aisatsu ni ukagaitai to omoimashite.
- Yamakawa Sore wa go-teinei ni arigatō gozaimasu. Moshi go-tsugō ga yoroshikereba kondo no nichiyō no gogo atari ikaga deshō ka. Ainiku shujin wa mada modotte orimasen ga, sono hi wa ichinichi ie de yukkuri suru yō na koto o mōshite orimashita kara.
- Ōyama Sekkaku no o-yasumi no hi ni o-jama suru yō de moshiwake gozaimasen ga, sore de wa enryo naku nichiyōbi ni ukagawasete itadakimasu. Nanji goro ga yoroshii deshō ka.
- Yamakawa Sanji sugi deshitara, itsu demo kekkō de gozaimasu.
- Ōyama Sore de wa sono koro ni.
- Yamakawa Go-shuppatsu no junbi de nanika to taihen de irasshaimasu deshō.
- Ōyama Ē, dekiru dake nimotsu wa sukunaku suru yō ni kokorogakete wa iru no desu ga, kodomo no hon ya kusuri nado de zuibun ryō ga fuete shimaimashita.
- Yamakawa Yoroppa ya Amerika e dekakeru no to wa chigaimasu mono ne.
- Ōyama Ē, sore to kotoba no hō ga shinpai de...

Yamakawa Go-shujin-sama wa go-shuppatsu mae ni daibu Arabiago o benkyō shite irasshatta yō desu ga.

Ōyama Ē, watakushi mo kasetto tēpu nado wa issho ni kiitari shimashita no de sukoshi wa wakarū hazu na no desu ga, jissai ni hitobito no hanashite iru no ga kikitoreru ka do ka wa itte minai to wakarimasen.

Yamakawa Sō desu ne. De mo amari go-shinpai nasaranakute mo kitto daijōbu da to omoimasu yo.

Ōyama Mā, amari ki ni shite mo shikata no nai koto desu kara. O-denwa de tonda nagabanashi o shite shitsurei itashimashita. Sore de wa mata nichiyō no gogo ni.

Yamakawa O-me ni kakatte, go-shujin-sama kara no nyūsu nado kikasete itadaku no o tanoshimi ni shite orimasu.

Ōyama Go-shujin-sama ni mo dōzo yoroshiku o-tsutae kudasaimase.

Yamakawa Shōchi itashimashita. Sore de wa mata gomen kudasaimase.

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*Translation*

Yamakawa Hello.

Ōyama Hello. Is that the Yamakawas?

Yamakawa Yes, that's correct.

Ōyama Ah, this is Ōyama speaking.

Yamakawa Oh, Mrs Ōyama. Your husband went to Saudi Arabia?

Ōyama Yes, that's right.

Yamakawa Is he well?

Ōyama Yes, thank you. It seems he's finally getting used to the new environment. Actually it's been decided that we are to go out there at the end of the month, so I thought about coming to pay my respects soon.

Yamakawa How kind of you. If it suits you, how about sometime this Sunday afternoon? Unfortunately my husband is not back yet, but he did say he'd be pottering around the house that day.

Ōyama Well I'm sorry to interrupt you on the one free day you have, but we'll take you at your word and come on Sunday. What time would be most convenient?

Yamakawa Any time after three in the afternoon.

Ōyama We shall see you then, then.

Yamakawa One way or another, you must be very busy before your departure.

Ōyama Yes, I'm trying to keep down the amount of luggage as far as possible, but what

with the children's books, medicine and the like there's an awful lot of it.

Yamakawa It's rather different from when you go to Europe or America, isn't it?

Ōyama Yes, and I'm worried about the language.

Yamakawa Your husband studied quite a lot of Arabic before he left, didn't he?

Ōyama Yes, and I listened to the cassette tapes with him so I should understand a little, but I don't know whether I will be able to catch what people are actually saying until I get there.

Yamakawa Yes, I know. But I'm sure you'll be all right. No need to worry.

Ōyama Well, there's no point in worrying too much I suppose. I'm sorry to have taken up so much of your time on the telephone. Until next Sunday afternoon then.

Yamakawa I look forward to seeing you and hearing how your husband is getting on.

Ōyama Please give my regards to Mr Yamakawa.

Yamakawa I will indeed. Looking forward to it. Goodbye.

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