

## Lesson 15

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### Yamakawa Tadashi's account of his climbing trip to the Japan Alps

朝七時発の急行アルプス二号に新宿駅から乗った。昼前に松本に着いた。底からバスで上高地まで行った。途中トンネルおたくさん通った。このルートは昔はとてつ時間がかかったが最近便利になった。上高地からなだらかな道を二時間半ほど歩いたがほとんど人に会わなかった。五時半ごろ山小屋に着いた。そこで偶然に大学時代の友達に会った。次の日は朝とても早く起きた。すばらしいお天気だった。五時すぎに山小屋を出た。その友達といっしょに登った。私達はあまり話をしなかったがとても楽しかった。めずらしい鳥やあざやかな色の高山植物をたくさん見た。昼ごはんにはおにぎりを食べた。途中のどがかわいたが頂上に着くまでほとんど水を飲まなかった。八時間以上も山道を歩いたが少しも疲れなかった。頂上近くの山小屋で泊まった。立派な宿ではなかったが気持ちよかつた。夜空の星が美しかった。

#### Comment

Both the last lesson and this one are cast entirely in the plain perfective. Note that this is not a form you will encounter much in polite conversation; this is why the context has shifted to a written record. As there are no polite endings used here, the effect is of reading a diary.

#### 15.1 More on negatives

ほとんど人に会わなかった。 私達はあまり話をしなかった。
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So far we have touched on how to form that negative of the copula, of descriptive verbs (12.3, 13.5) and adjectival nouns (13.3). You have also learned that the negative of あります is ありません, and of います is いません. So

how are the negatives of true verbs formed? In the polite *～ます* form this is very easy: for the imperfective change *～ます* to *～ません*; for the perfective change *～ました* to *～ませんでした*.

Polite forms

<i>imperfective</i>		<i>perfective</i>
<i>positive</i>	<i>negative</i>	<i>negative</i>
会います	会いません	会いませんでした
買います	買いません	買いませんでした
見ます	見ません	見ませんでした
食べます	食べません	食べませんでした
来ます	来ません	来ませんでした
します	しません	しませんでした

The plain forms, however, undergo different inflections:

	<i>imperfective</i>	<i>negative</i>	<i>perfective</i>
	<i>positive</i>		<i>negative</i>
<i>Group I</i>	ending in <i>-ru</i> , <i>-ku etc</i>	ends in <i>-ranai</i> <i>-kanai</i>	ends in <i>-ranakatta</i> <i>-kanakatta</i>
	入る	入らない	入らなかった
	乗る	乗らない	乗らなかった
	書く	書かない	書かなかった
	聞く	聞かない	聞かなかった
	飲む	飲まない	飲まなかった
	死ぬ	死なない	死ななかった
	話す	話さない	話さなかった
	ending in <i>-u</i>	ends in <i>-wanai</i>	ends in <i>-wanakatta</i>
	会う	会わない	会わなかった
	買う	買わない	買わなかった
exception:	ある	ない	なかった

<i>Group II</i>	ending in <i>-ru</i>	ends in <i>-nai</i>	ends in <i>-nakatta</i>
	いる	いない	いなかった
	出る	出ない	出なかった
	見る	見ない	見なかった
	食べる	食べない	食べなかった
<i>irregular</i>	来(く)る	来(こ)ない	来(こ)なかった
	する	しない	しなかった

## 15.2 Adverbial use of adjectival nouns

このルート...最近便利になった。

We have seen in 14.5 how descriptive verbs are used as adverbs. The same kind of adverb can be obtained from adjectival nouns by changing the *～な* to *～に*.

急な出発 a sudden departure	急に電車が止まった。 Suddenly the train stopped.
静かな村 a quiet village	あの方はとても静かに話す。 That person always talks very quietly.
便利な道具 useful tool	このあたりは最近とても便利になった。 This area has recently become very convenient.

Note that the meaning of the words can sometimes change. For example, 大切な means 'important' but 大切に used as an adverb means 'with care'.

これは大切な手紙です。  
This is an important letter.

兄のカメラは大切に使います。

I use my elder brother's camera with care.

Some adverbs are used only or mainly with negatives:

ほとんど                    'hardly', 'almost'

少しも                    'not in the least', 'not at all'

祖母はこのごろほとんど外出しません。

My grandmother hardly goes out these days

その雑誌はもうほとんど読みました。

I have read almost all of that magazine

かぜが少しもよくなるらない。

My cold does not get better at all

少しもおなかがすかない。

I don't feel hungry at all.

### 15.3 Noun + に as adverb

偶然に大学時代の友達に会った。

The term 'adjectival noun' is reserved for those nouns that take *な* when they modify other nouns, and we have seen how these can become adverbs with the addition of *に*. It is important to remember, however, that only a limited number of nouns can become adjectival in this way. The rest must be linked to another noun by means of *の*. The word 偶然 'accidental' here is a case in point.

Although it can become an adverb with the addition of *に*, as here, it cannot act adjectivally with *な*; it needs to link with *の*. There are no easy rules to tell you into which category a noun will fall, but you should at least be on your guard.

#### 15.4 Use of the particle に meaning 'for'

昼ごはんにはおにぎりを食べた。

We have met に in 7.1, 7.6, 9.3, and 14.2. A further use of に, meaning 'for' is introduced here:

姉のお誕生日のプレゼントにレコードを買った。

I brought a record for my elder sister's birthday present.

テープレコーダーを発音の練習に使う。

We use a tape recorder for our pronunciation practice.

このくつは私の足にぴったり合う。

These shoes fit my feet perfectly

#### Key to passage

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##### *Romanisation*

Asa shichiji-hatsu no kyūkō Arupusu nigō ni Shinjuku-eki kara notta. Hiru mae ni Matsumoto ni tsuita. Soko kara basu de Kamikōchi made itta. Tochū tonneru o takusan tōtta. Kono rūtoha mukashi wa totemo jikan ga kakatta ga, saikin benri ni natta. Kamikōchi kara nadaraka na mich o nijikanhan hodo aruita ga hotondo hito hi awanakatta. Gojihan goro yamagoya ni tsuita. Soko de gūzen ni daigaku jidai no tomodachi ni atta. Tsugi no hi wa asa totemo hayaku okita. Subarashii o-tenki datta. Goji sugi ni yamagoya o deta. Sono tomodachi to issho ni nobotta. Watashitachi wa amari hanashi o shinakatta ga, totemo tanoshikatta. Mezurashii tori ya azayaka na iro no kōzan shokubutsu o takusan mita. Hiru gohan ni wa o-nigiri o tabeta. Tochū nodo ga kawaita ga, chōjō ni tsuku made hontonso mizu o nomanakatta. Hachijikan ijō mo yamamichi o aruitaga, sukoshi mo tsukarenakatta. Chōjō chikaku no yamagoya de tomatta. Rippa na yado de wa nakatta ga, kimochi ga yokatta. Yozora no hoshi ha utsukushikatta.

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### *Translation*

At Shinjuku station I boarded the Alps No. 2 express, which departs at seven o'clock in the morning. We arrived at Matsumoto before noon. From there I went by bus to Kamkōchi. We passed through many tunnels along the way. In the past this route used to take a very long time but recently it has become easier. From Kamikōchi I walked up a gently sloping path for two and a half hours but I met almost no one. At about half past five I reached the mountain lodge. Quite by chance I met a friend from university days there. The next day I got up very early. The weather was superb. I left the lodge just after five o'clock. I climbed with that friend. We didn't talk much but it was a lot of fun. We saw many unusual birds and much brightly-coloured alpine vegetation. For lunch we ate riceballs. I became thirsty along the way but I hardly drank any water until we reached the summit. We walked in the mountains for more than eight hours, but I wasn't a bit tired. We stayed at a mountain lodge near the summit. It wasn't very well equipped but there was pleasant feeling about it. The stars in the night sky were beautiful.

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