Lesson 11  Here and there

Exercise conversations

1
Hashimoto  Yesterday I bumped into Yoshino at the Ginza 4-chōme crossroads.
Kimura    Oh really? I haven’t seen her for ages. How was she?
Hashimoto  Well, as usual. You know; she never changes.

2
Maeda    I recently saw someone in a department store who was the spitting image of Hugh Grant.
Akashi   Who’s that then?
Maeda    What! Don’t you know Hugh Grant? Don’t you know that he’s an English actor who has recently become famous?
Akashi   I’ve never heard of anyone of that name.

3
Akiko    Do you remember the man who started a conversation when we went to see the film together the other day?
Haruko    Of course. The American, you mean?
Akiko    Yes. But it seems he was actually English.
Haruko    Oh, really! So what about him?
Akiko    Yesterday I went to the British Embassy on business and there he was again.
Haruko    What a coincidence! Did you talk to him?
Akiko    Yes, he remembered us very well and suggested that the three of us might go for a meal sometime.
Haruko    Well, wasn’t that him just being polite?
Akiko    I think it was more than that. He got out his diary and wanted to fix it for next Monday or Wednesday evening.
Haruko    So what did you say?
Akiko    I said that I would talk to you first and then give him a ring.
Translations

4
Hara Hello
Kimura Ah, Mr Hara. I do apologize for having left in the middle of the meeting.
Hara That’s all right. Because nothing important came up after you left.
Kimura I’m relieved to hear it.

5
Otani I met someone called Fleming the other day at a party at the British Embassy.
Mizuno Has he been working there long?
Otani No, he said he had only just taken up his post last month.
Mizuno What’s his field?
Otani He didn’t really say, so I don’t know, but I think it’s got something to do with the military because when I told him I knew someone in the Defence Agency he said he’d really like to meet him.
Mizuno Wasn’t he just making polite conversation?
Otani No, I think it was more than just that because he did ask me things like what was his job in the Defence Agency or whether he was a specialist in Russo-Japanese affairs.

6
Old man No matter how much I tell your generation about the war, you have never experienced it and so you won’t really understand. It all happened before you were born.
Student We, I suppose you’re right. But mother has told me a lot about that time. She’s always saying to me ‘no matter what, things have got better compared to those days’.

7
Akashi According to the information in from the London Embassy, there are as usual a lot of applications for student visas, so they have told us that it will probably take three months.
Nick Bureaucracy takes time, doesn’t it?
Akashi The other day I happened to meet a friend who lives in Paris and asked her how things were over there. It seems as though it’s just as much trouble to get a visa there.

8
Matsudaira I’d like to have a few words with you about that Niigata project.
Ôsawa Ah, yes sir. I had something to discuss with you about that as well.
Matsudaira Oh good. Katô came to see me yesterday and told me he really wanted to be released from the project. I wondered whether or not there might be some problem so I tried to delve further but he didn’t really come up with any sensible response. Has he said anything to you that might help to explain it?
Osawa: Well, that’s the first time I have heard of anything of the sort. I’ll make sure I’ll talk to him about it as soon as possible.

Matsudaira: Do that for me, would you? At the pre-start meeting he was really keen, so there must be some reason that he is reluctant to divulge.

Osawa: At that stage I don’t think that anyone realized that the work would involve us being in Niigata almost all the time.

Matsudaira: Oh, I see. Now what was it that you wanted to talk to me about?

Osawa: Well, actually I had been wondering whether you might not release me from that project as well.

Matsudaira: What did you say? What kind of excuse have you got?

Osawa: It’s a bit difficult to explain really.

Matsudaira: All you can say is that you want to be let off this project without giving me any good reason – where on earth do you think you could get away with that?

Osawa: Well, I take your point.... But still.....

Matsudaira: I did think that you had bit more sense than that.

Osawa: I’m terribly sorry.

Lesson 12: What! Grammar again?

Tadashi: Tomorrow is Marie’s birthday. Do you remember we all went to Kamakura last year?

John: Oh yes. I’d completely forgotten. It was tomorrow, wasn’t it?

Tadashi: She seems terribly busy recently, so she’s probably forgotten herself.

John: Yes, I know. Do you think she’s all right, working so hard?

Tadashi: She seems OK. My mates at the hospital said they were going hill walking last weekend, so I asked her along.

John: Is she a good hill walker?

Tadashi: She’s pretty good. The others wanted to rest but she said ‘Let’s carry on. We’ve only been walking for two hours’, and by the end she was leading them all.

John: Really? Appearances are deceptive.

Tadashi: Oh. The telephone. Excuse me.

On the phone

Tadashi: Mother’s out shopping at the moment.

Tadashi: I think she should be back by six.

Tadashi: Thank you. Goodbye.