

- Ōsawa 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.
- Ōsawa 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?
- Ōsawa 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?
- Ōsawa 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?
- Ōsawa Well, I take your point.....But still.....
- Matsudaira I did think that you had bit more sense than that.
- Ōsawa 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.

Afterwards

- John Can I just ask about how you answered the phone just then?
 Tadashi What! Grammar again?
 John Don't say that. I just want to learn from you.
 Tadashi Well, if I can answer you.
 John Would it be a mistake to say '*haha wa kaimono ni ikimashita*'?
 Tadashi Well not exactly a mistake, but if you used '*itta*' instead of '*itte iru*' it would sound dismissive and even a bit rude.... But I'm not sure why it would produce that impression.
 John I see.
-

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- 今から行けば四時半には大阪に着いていると思いますので、その頃お電話を下さい。
 If I go now I think I should have arrived in Ōsaka by 4.30, so please give me a ring about then.
 八月も半ば過ぎになるとかなり涼しくなっているはずですので、セーターぐらいはお持ち下さい。
 Hot though it will be, it should have cooled down a bit by late August, so please at least bring a sweater.
 来年の今頃になれば株価もかなり回復している可能性がありますね。
 Well, there is a possibility that by this time next year the price of shares will have recovered.

- John That car over there; does it belong to someone in the neighbourhood?
 Marie I don't think so. Everyone around here has a garage so hardly anyone leaves their car on the street. But I've seen it a lot recently, that one. Why are you asking about it?
 Were you particularly interested in cars?
 John Well it's nothing really, but that's a very expensive German car; it's this year's new model.
 Marie Really? No wonder; I thought it looked unusual. But John, you said '*asoko ni iru kuruma*' just then, didn't you?
 John Yes. Is that wrong?
 Marie No, but surely it doesn't agree with the kind of grammar we were taught when we first started learning Japanese. A car is not a living thing so shouldn't one use '*aru*'?
 John Well, now you mentioned it...
 Marie Don't you think the rule should divide things into 'moving things' and things that don't move'? With plants you use '*aru*'.
 John You're right. When I said '*asoko ni iru kuruma*' I certainly had in mind 'something that moves'.

- Marie What's more, with people you can quite often use 'aru': *'sō iu mikata o shite iru hito mo aru'*, for example. In such cases 'people' are not being taken as 'something that moves'.
- John Oh dear, I feel a headache coming on.
- Marie And we often make a mistake with that too.
- John Did I say something wrong?
- Marie No, no. It's that lots of people say *'zutsū ga arimasu'* instead of *'zutsū ga suru'*.
- John Yes. I often made that mistake myself translating directly from English.
- Marie Look! That guy who looks like a gangster leaving the house, isn't it his car?
-

6

兄弟のある人と一人っ子ではやはり性格に差が出るものだろうか。

I wonder if those who have brothers inevitably develop different characters from those who are only children.

希望者があれば又このような会を催したいと考えます。

If anyone is interested, I'm think of holding another meeting like this one.

私には敵も味方ありません。

I have neither enemies nor allies.

連れがありますので、失礼します。

I've got someone with me, so I can't stop.

人種差別反対を唱えながら、韓国人に対しては蔑視むき出しの態度をとる人がある。

There are those who say they are against racial discrimination but who are openly dismissive of Koreans.

あそこにいる飛行機、ほら、今滑走路の方にすごい音をして動き出したの、あれがコンコルドだよね。

You see that plane over there? The one revving up and moving onto the runway. That's Concorde, isn't it.

私が船着き場に着いた時はフェリーは向こう岸にいたが、五分もしないうちにこちらへ向けて進んできた。

When I got to the jetty the ferry was still on the other bank, but it wasn't five minutes before it started over to this side.