Translations

せっかく来ていただいたのにすいません。今日に限って出かけてるんですよ。
I'm sorry you've taken the trouble to come, but today's the one day he's gone out.

Lesson 7  Homestay

Coordinator  Michael. This is Mrs Shimizu, who has agreed to have you for a homestay.
Michael  Michael Green from the University of Cambridge. How do you do?
Shimizu Kazuko  How do you do and welcome. You must be tired from the long flight.
Michael  Yes, I am.
Shimizu Kazuko  By English time, let me see, the time difference is nine hours, so it's now 3 o'clock at night. You must be sleepy.
Michael  Yes. But I'm still quite excited so...
Coordinator  Well now, we've got nothing special planned for today, so please take him home and let him have some rest. I've already explained to Michael on the train from the airport what happens from tomorrow, so please make sure he knows how to get to the University from your house. Let me see, it was by underground and then bus, wasn't it?
Shimizu Kazuko  Yes, that's right. Right then, Michael. Where are your bags?
Michael  I left them at the entrance.
Shimizu Kazuko  Right. (turning to the coordinator) Well we'll say goodbye then.
Coordinator  Thank you.

They arrive at the Shimizu's

Kazuko  Come on, please. Do come in.
Michael  Thank you.
Kazuko  Is this your first time in a Japanese house?
Michael  Yes. It's my first time in Japan.
Kazuko  Oh, really? Well then, first of all, take your shoes off here and please wear these slippers while you're inside the house. We've got this pair for you.
Michael  Thank you very much.
Kazuko  Let me first of all show you to your room. It's on the first floor.
Michael  Thank you.
Kazuko  It's a Japanese-style tatami room, but we've put in a bed rather than a futon.
Michael  It's a little small but please bear with us.
Michael  Thank you very much.
Kazuko: Put your bags here, wash your hands and then please come downstairs. Let’s have some tea. Um, the washroom and bathroom are there on the right of the stairs, and the toilet is next to them. Will you be all right?

Michael: Yes, thank you, I’ll be fine.

That evening, in the dining-kitchen room

Michael: Hello.

The Shimizus: Welcome!

Kazuko: Right. Come over here. Let’s do the introductions. This is my husband Masaaki. Then there’s Akira, the eldest, and Takeshi, his younger brother.

Michael: Michael Green. Very pleased to meet you.

Brothers: How do you do?

Masaaki: Well, you’ve come a long way! Please, make yourself comfortable.

Michael: Thank you. Ah, this is from my parents in England.

Kazuko: My, my! How thoughtful of you. Oh, how nice! It’s a calendar for next year!

Masaaki: Let’s see! Ah, a collection of English castles. Thank you very much.

Kazuko: Do you think your room will do?

Takeshi: Mother! For goodness sake! Don’t be so formal!

Kazuko: Well, I suppose I shouldn’t. Dear me. Of course it’s the first time we’ve had a foreign student to stay.

Akira: Look, you’re doing it again! You shouldn’t get so het up like that.

Kazuko: All right, all right. Shall we all have a little beer?

Masaaki: Good idea. ‘Cause it’s been some time since we’ve been all together like this.

Michael: Michael, do you drink?

Masaaki: Right, and how about you, Takeshi.

Takeshi: I’ll have a Coke.

Masaaki: Right! Cheers! I hope you have a good year here with us.

Michael: Thank you very much.

Kazuko: If there’s anything you don’t understand, don’t hesitate to ask.

Michael: Well, what should I call you all?

Kazuko: Well, Michael and Akira are the same age so just ‘Akira kun’, perhaps. Takeshi is younger, so call him ‘Takeshi’; although at home we all call him ‘Takechan’, so I suppose that would all right too.

Akira: I don’t mind just ‘Akira’; leave the ‘kun’ off. I’ll call you just Michael. Mother and father are the problem.

Kazuko: Oh yes. Dear me!

Takeshi: Mother! Nothing but ‘dear me’!
Kazuko
Don’t scold me! I’ve never given it any thought. It would be odd to call me Shimizu san at home, and… it seems a bit odd to have someone of Michael’s age calling me ‘otōsan’… What would you do in England? When a Japanese comes to stay?

Michael
Well, in my experience it’s always Mr so-and-so or Mrs so-and-so…

Kazuko
What shall we do? What do you think, dear?

Masaaki
Let me see. Well, he’s going to be made one of the family so how about ‘otōsan’ and ‘okāsan’, just like Akira and Takeshi?

Akira
That’s what an American girl who is staying with the family of a friend of mine uses.

Masaaki
But do you mind calling someone not your parents ‘father’ or ‘mother’?

Michael
No, not in the slightest.

Masaaki
Right then, that’s settled.

Kazuko
Good. Now then, breakfast is about 7.30 and dinner about 7.00.

Michael
Yes. I see.

Kazako
When you eat out with friends or something, it would help if you could tell me beforehand or ring me.

Michael
Of course. I heard before I came that there were a lot of families with a curfew. Do you have one?

Kazako
Oh really? Well, we don’t have one here. Both Akira and Takeshi have keys, so let me give you one too. You’re an adult now, so you can do as you please; but I’ll be worried if you’re back too late, so in that case do call, won’t you.

Michael
Of course.

Masaaki
You look a bit sleepy now.

Michael
Yes, I’m sorry. I suddenly feel tired.

Kazuko
Well then, let’s eat now.

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1
日本語をうまく説明出来るんですか。
I could explain it better in Japanese.
地下鉄だと十五分ですね。
[If we go] By underground, it takes fifteen minutes.

4
みんなに行きたがっているですから行かせて上げて下さい。
Since he’s so very keen to go, please let him.
My son wanted to become a doctor; I wanted to let him continue with his studies but at that juncture it was really financially impossible, you know.

There are many young girls who want to get married in a church rather than have a Japanese-style wedding, even though they are not Christians.

Just trust me and try it. It tastes lovely.
Try asking him. He's bound to give us good advice.
See. I told you!

As far as I understand, the chairman doesn't seem to be very enthusiastic about this project.

Since it's a fact that we're going to live in Edinburgh for at least six years, it would probably be more economical to buy than to rent.
There's no way we can do this without his help, so perhaps we should plan to fit in with his schedule.
Recently I've been getting upset for no apparent reason. Perhaps the stress is getting too much.

There's no way he could write Japanese this well having just studied it for two years or so.
Translations

そんな言い訳がなりたつわけがない
There’s no way that that excuse will stand up.
こういうわけで今回は辞退させていただきたいと思います。
And so for this reason, I’d like to decline this time.

この言葉のわけ
The meaning of this word
わけの分かった人間
Someone reasonable
わけの分からないことばかり言っている
He’s always talking nonsense
彼が失敗したわけ
The reason for his failure

13
‘お酒は全然だめですか。’ ‘いいえ、そんなことはありません。たくさんはだめですが。’
‘Can’t you drink at all?’ ‘No, it’s not that. It’s just that I can’t drink a lot.’
‘おじいさんは寝たっきりですか’ ‘そんなことはありません。外出は無理ですが。’
‘Is your grandfather bedridden?’ ‘No, it’s not that. It’s just he can’t go out.’

Lesson 8  Internship

Reception  Good morning.
Tom  Could I see Mr Kawano of the Personnel Department, please?
Reception  Mr Kawano of the Personnel Department? Certainly. Excuse me, but...
Tom  My name is Tom Harris from the University of Cambridge.
Reception  Please take a seat and wait over there. [On the telephone] Someone called Tom Harris from the University of Cambridge for you...Yes. I understand.
Tom  Mr Harris? Personnel is on the fifth floor, so please go straight up. The lift is to your left.

Tom  Thank you.
Kawano  Ah! Mr Tom Harris is it? I’ve been expecting you. My name is Kawano, in charge of student interns.
Tom  Tom Harris. Pleased to meet you.
Kawano  And the same here. Did you find the bachelor’s lodgings all right?
Tom  Yes, thank you. It was easy to find with the map you sent to Cambridge.
Kawano  Excellent. No problem with the room or the food?