

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*. 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, do you drink?

Michael Yes, of course. Thank you.

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 '*okusan*'...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.
- Kazuko 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?
- Kazuko 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.

1

日本語だとうまく説明出来るんですが。

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

あんなに行きたがっているん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.

医者になりたいという息子には勉強を続けさせてやりたかったんですが、あの頃はどうしても経済的に無理だったんですよ。

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.

5

結婚式は、クリスチャンでもないのに、日本式ではなくて教会でやりたいという女の子がかなりいる。

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.

10

騙されたと思って食べてごらん。おいしいから。

Just trust me and try it. It tastes lovely.

彼に聞いてごらん。きっといいアイデアをくれると思うよ。

Try asking him. He's bound to give us good advice.

ほら、ごらん

See. I told you!

11

私が調べた限りではその年にはそういう事件は起きていませんが。

As far as I have looked into it, nothing like that happened in that year.

私が理解している限りでは社長はこのプロジェクトにはあまり乗り気ではないみたいですよ。

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

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最低六年はエジンバラに住むことになるわけだから家を借りるより買った方が経済的かもしれない。

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.

この仕事は彼に手伝ってもらわなきゃならないわけだから、彼のスケジュールに合わせてこちらの予定を組んだ方がいいんじゃないかな。

There's no way we can do this without his help, so perhaps we should plan to fit in with his schedule.

ここのところわけもなくイライラすることが多いんだ。ストレスがたまってるのかなあ。

Recently I've been getting upset for no apparent reason. Perhaps the stress is getting too much.

二年やそこら勉強しただけでこんなに上手な日本語が書けるわけがない。

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

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.'

「おじいさんは寝たつきりですか」 「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. 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 batchelor'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?