

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

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「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?

- Tom No. Everything's fine, thank you. The lady in charge was very kind and explained everything to me.
- Kawano Right then, let's get down to work straight away. You will be an intern in our company for ten months, so we would like you to see two or three sections. For the last two months we may well send you to a branch office out of Tōkyō.
- Tom Yes, I understand.
- Kawano From your CV that we were sent, I notice that you have an interest in Japanese literature; how much do you know about the kind of business we are involved in?
- Tom Before I left, I met Mr Haruno in the London office and was shown around the company for a full day, but apart from that I do not know much.
- Kawano I see. It would be nice if you became interested in business while you're here with us.
- Tom With your help.
- Kawano Now this is a small detail, but in this company when you refer to a fellow employee or when you try to get someone's attention, it is normal not to use their name but to call them by rank.
- Tom Oh, I see.
- Kawano Particularly when the person is senior to you. For instance, you would not normally say 'Mr Haruno'; you would say 'Shitenchō' or 'Kachō' instead. Of course 'Haruno Shitenchō' is also possible.
- Tom I'm sorry. I didn't know.
- Kawano That's all right! You'll soon get used to it. And this habit is disappearing in some places. There are some companies where everyone is now being called '*...san*', so I wouldn't get too nervous about it.
- Tom I see. But I will take care.
- Kawano Your programme calls for three months study in the business department starting from tomorrow. Let's go and introduce you to the section chief, Shimizu. Shimizu graduated after me from the same university, so he's a good friend. I've asked him to look after you.
- Tom Thank you.
- Kawano And then, let's go to the general affairs office and arrange for you to get your season ticket.
- Tom Excuse me. What section was that you said? It's the first time I've heard that word and it's a bit difficult to catch.
- Kawano Shomuka. The Shomuka. How shall I put it? Well, it's the section that deals with the general business to do with running the company. Do you have any other questions?
- Tom No, thank you. There's so much that I don't understand at the moment, I'm not sure where to begin.
- Kawano No need to be that nervous. But if you do have a problem, don't just leave it; you must come and talk it over with me. Depending on the situation, you can talk

directly to the head of the section, but if it's something awkward, feel free to come and see me. It doesn't matter how trivial. It's part of my job to look after interns.

Tom I see.

Kawano There are those who, perhaps because they don't want to put me to any trouble, try and solve things on their own; but there have been times when I wished they had come to discuss things with me earlier.

Tom Really? I understand. With your help, I'll do my best.

Kawano Er. Let me see. Ah yes! Whenever you move to a new section, you're bound to be asked to introduce yourself to everyone, so if you prepare something for tomorrow, it doesn't matter how short, you won't be flustered.

Tom A self introduction? What kind of thing should I say?

Kawano Start with your name. Then just add where you have been studying, how much Japanese you have learned up to now, what your main subject is, why you have come to Japan, and then what your hobbies are.

Tom I see. And then I suppose I should open a bank account.

Kawano Yes. Let's finish all that this morning.

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相談にのっていただこうと思って伺ったのですが、よろしいでしょうか。

I came hoping you might do me the favour of giving me some advice; is it convenient now?

これは木下君の専門の分野だから、彼にやってもらおうと思うんだけど、どうかな。

This is Kinoshita's speciality, so I thought we'd get him to do it. What do you think?

ここは田舎で何もありませんが、海の近くなのでせいぜい新鮮なお魚を食べていただこうと思って用意しました。

We're in the country and don't have much to offer you, but we are near the sea so I thought I'd prepare some fresh fish to eat at the very least.

あそこのおばあちゃまは退屈していらっしゃるらしいから、近いうちに遊びにきていただこうと思っています。

That old woman seems bored, so I was just thinking of having her over soon.

3

彼は大きなミスをしたから、場合によっては首を切られることになるかもしれない。

He made a dreadful mistake, so depending on how things go, he might be sacked.

私が行かれない場合には妹が代りに出席するということになるかもしれません。

It may well be that if I can't go, my younger sister will go in my stead.

4

買うか買わないかは質と値段による。

Whether I buy or don't buy depends on quality and price.

聞くところによると、彼は部長に辞表をたたきつけて出ていったそうだ。

According to what I heard, he threw his resignation letter at the boss and charged out.

今朝の新聞によると、また税金が上がるそうだ。

According to today's newspaper, it seems that taxes are going up again.

さっきのNHKのニュースによると、南米のコロンビアでクーデターが起きたそうだ。

According to the NHK news a minute ago, it seems they have had a coup d'état in Colombia.

今度の戦争によってもたらされたお互いに対する不信感をとり除くには相当時間がかかりそうです。

It appears that it will take some considerable time before we can remove the lack of mutual trust that has been occasioned by the recent fighting.

この候補者に対する評価は人によってずいぶん違う。

The reputation of this candidate differs greatly, depending on whom you talk to.

見方によっては違った解釈も出来るのではありませんか。

Depending on how you look at it, you could interpret it differently, couldn't you?

考えようによっては後になってからではなく、この段階で問題点が明るみに出たのはそう悪いことではなかったかもしれない。

It all depends on how you look at it. Perhaps it's such a bad a thing that the problem has emerged at this stage rather than later on.

5

政治家の汚職に関してはそれに何らかの形で関係している人はみな口をかたく閉ざしているのでとても資料が集めにくい。

When it comes to the corrupt behaviour of politicians, those who are involved in some way or other all keep their mouths tightly shut, so it's very difficult to collect material on the subject.

日本語の起源に関してはさまざまな説があるようだ。

It seems there are various theories about the origins of the Japanese language.

太平洋戦争に関する本は多数出版されている。

There are a lot of books published about the Pacific War.

この点について疑問のある方はどうぞ遠慮なくおっしゃって下さい。

Those who have queries about this matter, please do not hesitate to say so.

永年いっしょに仕事をしてきたので、彼の仕事ぶりよく分かっているが、彼の個人的なことについてはほとんど何も知らないと言っていい。

I've worked with him for many years and so I know a lot about how he works, but you could say I know almost nothing about him as a person.

問題点を一つ一つ取り上げてそれについて参加者全員の意見を求めたので会議はひどく長引いた。Because we brought up the problems point by point and sought the opinion of all participants, the conference dragged on for a very long time.

現在起こっている日米間の貿易摩擦の原因についてお話を伺いたと思います。

I would like to hear your opinion on the causes of the present US-Japan trade friction.

6

目上の人への言葉遣いというのはよく問題にされますが、目下の人に対する言葉遣いにも一種のきまりがあるんじゃないでしょうかね。

The use of language towards superiors is often a subject of discussion, but are there not also some rules for talking to those below you as well?

目上、目下という感覚で人間関係をとらえるのは必ずしも日本だけではないのではありませんか。

Surely it's not only in Japan that human relations are dealt with in terms of superior and inferior.

7

あのころはフランスの作家の中ではカミュとかサルトル（とか）が学生の間で人気があったようです。

It would seem that at that period the most popular French authors with students were Camus or Sartre or the like.

本を読むとか散歩をするとか、ただボンヤリしているよりましな時間の過ごし方はいくらでもあると思いますが。

Well I would have thought there were plenty of better ways of spending your time rather than just loafing around: like reading books or going for walks.

急いでいるのなら、電話をすとかファックスを送るとかしたらどうですか。

If you're in a hurry, why don't you do something like call or send a fax?

8

今度バンコックへ転任だってね。僕の大学のゼミの先輩が特派員で行っているから紹介状を書こうか。

I heard you were being transferred to Bangkok. Someone who was above me in my seminar at the university has gone there as a special correspondent. Shall I write you a letter of introduction?

今度大学のボート部の後輩が二人も入社してくるようになったので、社内でもボート・クラブを始めようじゃないかなんていう話をしてるんだよ。

Two of my friends who were in the University Boat Club after me have been taken on by the company, so we're wondering whether or not to start a Company Boat Club.