

## Lesson 31

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### Some more conversations

交換手 東西銀行でございます。  
林田 内線402をお願いします。  
藤本 外国為替課でございます。  
林田 長谷川様はいらっしゃいますか。  
藤本 誠に申し訳ございませんが、長谷川はただ今席をはずしております。失礼ですが、どちらさまでいらっしゃいますか。  
林田 中野商事の林田と申します。長谷川様がお帰りになりましたらお電話をいただきたいのですが....。  
藤本 はい、承知いたしました。中野商事の林田様ですね。もどりましたらすぐにこちらからお電話を差し上げます。

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正 国子、僕のフランス人の友達のマリーさんには会ったことがあるね。  
国子 ええ、だいぶ前にジョンさんとうちにいらっしゃった時にお会いしたわ。  
正 来週の日曜日は彼女のお誕生日なのだけれど、プレゼントには何がいいかな。  
国子 そうね。何か日本的なものを上げるのはどうかしら。  
正 それはいい考えだけれど、たとえばどんなもの。  
国子 うーん。なかなか難しいわね。でも考えておくわ。  
正 ありがとう。それから僕はあしたから五日間、学会で留守をするから、僕の部屋の植木に一日おきに水をやってほしいんだけど。  
国子 いいわよ。そういえば、そろそろポチにえさをやる時間だわ。

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原 山川君、今度の水曜日の晩はひまですか。  
山川 ええ、あいてますが、何か御用ですか。

原 いや、そうではなくて、音楽会の券が二枚あるので上げますよ。  
山川 それは、ありがとうございます。よろしいんですか。  
原 もちろん。人からもらった券なんです、その日は残念ながら  
先約があるので。山川君は確か音楽が好きでしたね。  
山川 ええ、大好きです。  
原 それはよかった。

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ジョン もしもし。  
正 もしもし、正です。  
ジョン ああ、正君。お元気ですか。  
正 おかげさまで。急な話ですが、あさつての晩はひまじや  
ありませんか。  
ジョン うん。特に予定はありませんけれど。  
正 原先生が音楽会の券を二枚下さったので、いっしょに  
行きませんか。ドイツ人のピアニストの演奏です。  
ジョン 僕に一枚くれるんですか。それは嬉しいですね。どうも  
ありがとう。

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### *Comment*

The purpose of these conversations is to investigate further the workings of language in its social context. The two main elements that affect the use of different speech levels are (a) the superior/inferior distinction that has reference to matters of age, sex, level of education, profession and rank or position in a company and (b) the inside/outside distinction that has reference to one's group. We have already seen how you must be ready to shift your vocabulary at all times to respond to these changes in the context in which you are speaking. One area that may give you some trouble is the use of what are known as 'donatory verbs', namely verbs of giving and receiving. By their very nature, these verbs involve questions of status and of interpersonal relations, questions that simply cannot be avoided when speaking Japanese.

### 31.1 The deferential copula

東西銀行でございます。  
外国為替課でございます。

You have already met the word *ございます* in such phrases as *ありがとうございます* and *おはようございます*. It is in fact a super-polite form of the verb *ある*. Here, in the form *でございます*, it is a super-polite or 'deferential' form of the copula. It is extremely common, particularly in business situations. Note, therefore, that the copula has the following forms:

	<i>plain</i>	<i>polite</i>	<i>deferential</i>
<i>neutral</i>	だ	です	でございます
<i>formal</i>	である	であります	でございます

### 31.2 Talking on the phone

林田 長谷川様はいらっしゃいますか。  
藤本 誠に申し訳ございませんが、長谷川はただ今、席を  
はずしております。失礼ですが、どちらさま  
でいらっしゃいますか。  
林田 中野商事の林田と申します。長谷川様がお帰りになり  
ましたらお電話をいただきたいのですが...

By now you should be used to the fact that people are referred to differently in different contexts. Remember, for example, that when addressing your father you must use the word *おとうさん* or *おとうさま*. The same word can be used when talking about your father to others within the family circle, but as soon as the situation shifts and you find yourself talking about your father *outside* that circle, the word must change to *父*. This ability to shift register quickly is especially important when talking on the phone; after all, such a context forces

you to rely entirely on the nuances of language because there is no visual contact. This is why people tend to use extremely polite language in such a situation. The conversation quoted above contains hardly a single neutral word; not only is it all in the polite ~ます form, but it also contains a succession of subject-raising and subject-lowering verbs. When Hayashida rings the bank, he asks for 長谷川様 (さま), using a suffix that is one notch higher than a simple さん. He also uses the respectful verb いらっしゃいます for 'is'. Fujimoto, however, is in a completely different situation. If she were either talking directly to Hasegawa or talking about him to his other colleagues in the company, she too would use the suffix さん. But when talking to someone outside the company circle, she cannot possibly use an honorific about Hasegawa, *no matter how important Hasegawa may be inside the company*. The 'inside' versus 'outside' relationship will always take precedence over the more parochial relationship.

Note how the conversation proceeds. In her reply, Fujimoto first of all apologizes with 申し訳ございません. This phrase, which means roughly the same as すみません, is made up of the humble verb 申(もう)す 'respectfully say' compounded with the noun わけ 'reason', hence 'excuse': 'there is no excuse'. She then leaves off the さん suffix and uses a humble equivalent for はずしています, namely はずしております 'he has left his seat'. Note this verb おる, which is often found in place of いる, when a humble expression is called for. This is followed by a very polite どちらさまでいらっしゃいますか 'Who are you please?' でいらっしゃいます is a somewhat specialised form of the copula, which you will only really meet when you find yourself referring directly to the addressee or to someone closely connected to the addressee: 'Who are you?' When Hayashida in his turn speaks, he uses a humble equivalent about himself and a respectful equivalent when he refers to Hasegawa.

### 31.3 Giving and receiving

長谷川様がお帰りになりましたらお電話をいただきたいのですが...。  
もどりましたらすぐにこちらからお電話差し上げます。

There is in this sentence a verb form that will be treated in detail somewhat later in the course: なりましたら. It can be translated here as 'when...' But our main concern here is with the verbs of giving and receiving. This section will range across all the rest of the conversations. During this discussion you will have to keep in mind the concept of being either 'inside' or 'outside' a closed circle.

#### 31.4 Giving 'out'

There are three verbs meaning 'give': 差し上げる 'offer up', 上げる 'give', and やる 'offer down'. In the following examples Tadashi is on the same level as Marie, his teacher Hara is treated as being superior to him and, linguistically at least, he can look down on his younger brother, the dog and any inanimate object. Remember that it is Tadashi who is doing the 'giving' here, so the subject of the quoted sentences is 'I'.

正 giving to 原教授, says 「原先生にお電話を差し上げたが、お留守だった。」  
'I gave Professor Hara a call, but he was out.'

正 giving to マリー, says 「マリーさんのお誕生日にプレゼントを上げるつもりだ。」  
'I intend to give Marie a present for her birthday.'

正 giving to 実, says 「この自転車はもう使わないから上げる/やる。」  
'I'm not using this bicycle any more so I'll give it to you.'

正 giving to his dog or his plant, says 「水をやる。」  
'I'll give it some water.'

So Tadashi must 'offer up' things to the teacher, he can simply 'give' things to Marie, and he can 'offer down' things to the rest if he feels like it. The first thing is to remember that he has a choice of three verbs. The decision as to which one he actually uses will, of course, depend on the social context.

#### 31.5 Giving 'in'

This situation is in some ways the reverse of the above. Tadashi is being given things by other people, but there is no passive here because the subject is not 'I'

but 'he', the donor. So when Tadashi wants to say 'he gave me' he has a choice of two verbs: 下さる 'bestow, present' and くれる 'let have'.

原教授 giving to 正, 正 says 「原先生が音楽会の券を下さった。」

'Professor Hara gave me a concert ticket.'

山川一 giving to 正, 正 says 「父がとてもいいカメラをくれた。」

'Father gave me a very good camera.'

ジョン giving to 正, 正 says 「ジョンがいいアドバイスをくれた。」

'John gave me some good advice.'

実 giving to 正, 正 says 「京都にいる弟がはがきをくれた。」

'My younger brother in Kyoto sent me a postcard.'

### 31.6 Receiving

This situation is similar to the above in that the action occurs 'inwards', but the point of view shifts as Tadashi now becomes the subject, so it is no longer an act of 'giving' but an act of 'receiving'. Again he has a choice of two verbs, depending on his relationship to the donor: いただく 'receive from above, be granted' and もらう 'get'. The agent can be marked by either に or から.

正 receiving from 原教授 says 「原先生から音楽会の券をいただいた。」

'I received a concert ticket from Professor Hara.'

正 receiving from 山川一 says 「父にとってもいいカメラをもらった。」

'I received a very good camera from father.'

正 receiving from ジョン says 「ジョンにめずらしい切手をもらった。」

'I got a rare stamp from John.'

正 receiving from 実 says 「京都にいる弟からはがきをもらった。」

'I got a postcard from my younger brother in Kyoto.'

Again, the decision as to which of these verbs to use will hang on the precise relationship of donor to receiver.

### 31.7 Donatory verbs with expressions of hope and desire

お電話をいただきたい、  
植木に一日おきに水を'ってほしいんだけど。

These verbs of giving and receiving can be combined with those expressions of hope and desire that we met in the last lesson. In such cases, of course, the subject must be 'I'. But take care to note the difference between these two sentences. The first one simply means 'I would like to be granted a telephone call.' The second one means 'I would like *you* to give the plant some water every other day.' (see 30.7)

#### Key to conversations

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##### *Romanisation*

Kōkanshu	Tōzai ginkō de gozaimasu.
Hayashida	Naisen yon-zero-ni o o-negai shimasu.
Fujimoto	Gaikoku kawase-ka de gozaimasu.
Hayashida	Hasegawa-sama wa irasshaimasu ka.
Fujimoto	Makoto ni mōshiwake gozaimasen ga, Hasegawa wa tadaima, seki o hazushite orimasu. Shitsurei desu ga, dochira sama de irasshaimasu ka.
Hayashida	Nakano shōji no Hayashida to mōshimasu. Hasegawa-sama ga o-kaeri ni narimashitara o-denwa o itadakitai no desu ga...
Fujimoto	Hai, shōchi itashimashita. Nakano shōji no Hayashida-sama desu ne. Modorimashitara sugu ni kochira kara o-denwa o sashiagemasu.

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Tadashi	Kuniko, boku no Furansujin no tomodachi no Marī san ni wa atta koto ga aru ne.
Kuniko	Ē, daibu mae ni Jon-san to uchi ni irasshatta toki ni o-ai shita wa.
Tadashi	Raishū no nichiyōbi wa kanojo no o-tanjōbi na no da keredo, purezento ni wa nani ga ii kana.
Kuniko	Sō ne. Nani ka Nihonteki na mono o ageru no wa dō kashira.

Tadashi           Sore wa ii kangae da keredo, tatoeba donna mono.  
Kuniko            Ūn. Nakanaka muzukashii wa ne. Demo kangaete oku wa.  
Tadashi            Arigatō. Sore kara boku wa ashita kara itsukakan, gakkai de rusu o suru kara,  
                      boku no heya no ueki ni ichinichi oki ni mizu o yatte hoshiin da kedo.  
Kuniko            Ii wa yo. So ieba, sorosoro Pochi ni esa o yaru jikan da wa.

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Hara               Yamakawa-kun, kondo no suiyōbi no ban wa hima desu ka.  
Yamakawa        Ē, aitemasu ga, nani ka goyō desu ka.  
Hara                Iya, sō de wa nakute, ongakkai no ken ga nimai aru no de agemasu yo.  
Yamakawa        Sore wa, arigatō gozaimasu. Yoroshiin desu ka.  
Hara                Mochiron. Hito kara moratta ken nan desu ga, sono hi wa zannen nagara  
                      senyaku ga aru no de. Yamakawa-kun wa tashika ongaku ga suki deshita ne.  
Yamakawa        Ē, daisuki desu.  
Hara                Sore wa yokatta.

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Jon                Moshi moshi.  
Tadashi            Moshi moshi, Tadashi desu.  
Jon                Ā, Tadashi-kun. O-genki desu ka.  
Tadashi            O-kagesama de. Kyū na hanashi desu ga, asatte no ban wa hima ja arimasen ka.  
Jon                Un. Toku ni yotei wa arimasen keredo.  
Tadashi            Hara sensei ga ongakkai no ken o nimai kudasatta no de, issho ni ikimasen ka.  
                      Doitsujin no pianisuto no ensō desu.  
Jon                Boku ni ichimai kurerun desu ka. Sore wa ureshii desu ne. Dōmo arigatō.

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### *Translation*

Operator         Tozai Bank.  
Hayashida        Extension 402 please.  
Fujimoto         Foreign exchange department.  
Hayashida        Is Mr Hasegawa there please?  
Fujimoto         I'm terribly sorry but Hasegawa is not at his desk just at the moment. May I ask  
                      who is calling?  
Hayashida        It's Hayashida from Nakano Trading. When Mr Hasegawa returns, I'd be very  
                      grateful if he could ring me please.  
Fujimoto         Certainly. That's Mr Hayashida of Nakano Trading. He'll ring you as soon as he



returns.

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Tadashi       Kuniko, you've met my French friend Marie haven't you?  
Kuniko        Yes, I met her some time ago when she came here with John.  
Tadashi       It's her birthday next Sunday, and so I was wondering what would be a good  
                  present.  
Kuniko        I see. What about giving her something Japanese?  
Tadashi       That's a good idea, but what sort of thing for example?  
Kuniko        Hmm. It's hard isn't it? But I'll give it some thought.  
Tadashi       Thanks . Oh and I'll be away from home at a conference for five days as of  
                  tomorrow, so would you water the potplants in my room every other day?  
Kuniko        That's OK. That reminds me, it's almost time to feed Pochi.

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Hara           Yamakawa, are you free next Wednesday evening?  
Yamakawa     Yes, I'm free. Is there something you need me for?  
Hara           No, it's not that. It's just that I've got two tickets to a concert that I'd like to give  
                  you.  
Yamakawa     Thank you very much. Are you sure that's alright?  
Hara           Of course. They're tickets someone gave me, but unfortunately I have a prior  
                  engagement that day. If I remember rightly, you're fond of music aren't you?  
Yamakawa     Yes, I do enjoy it.  
Hara           That's good.

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John           Hello?  
Tadashi       Hello, it's Tadashi.  
John           Oh, Tadashi. How are you?  
Tadashi       Very well thank you. It's very short notice, but you wouldn't be free the night  
                  after tomorrow would you?  
John           Yes. I don't have anything in particular on.  
Tadashi       Professor Hara kindly gave me two tickets to a concert, so would you like to  
                  come with me? It's a recital by a German pianist.  
John           You'll give me a ticket? That sounds wonderful. Thanks very much.

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