

Lesson 34

Mr and Mrs Yamakawa visit Mr Brown in hospital. At the entrance

山川信子 あのう、すいませんがブラウンさんという方の病室はどちらでしょうか。

受付けの人 何科の患者さんですか。

山川信子 さあ、よく分かりませんが交通事故にあって入院している人です。

受付けの人 そうですか。ちょっとお待ち下さい。ああ、マーク・ブラウンさん、イギリスの方ですね。病室は六階の628号です。

山川信子 どうもありがとうございました。

Mr and Mrs Yamakawa go into room 628.

山川一 おじまします。ブラウンさん、今回は大変な目にあいましたね。

ブラウン あ、山川さん。どうも。

山川信子 おかげんはいかがですか。

ブラウン これは、奥様も。わざわざおいでいただきましてありがとうございます。

山川信子 いいえ、どういたしまして。お花とくだものを少し持って参りましたのでどうぞ。

山川一 それから、これは英語の新聞と雑誌です。

ブラウン どうも御心配をおかけして申し訳ありません。

山川一 いやいや。それより具合の方はどうですか。

ブラウン 幸い骨は折れていないので歩けるのですが、動くともまだ痛みます。

山川一 打撲傷だけですか。

ブラウン まだよく分かりませんが、頭をひどく打ったのでそちらの方はまだ検査中です。

山川信子 そうですか。それは御心配ですね。

ブラウン ええ、でもこの病院はお医者さんも看護婦さんもととても親切ですし英語を話せる人も多いのでその点では安心

していられます。
山川信子 それはとても心強いですね。
山川一 そろそろ面会時間の終りなので失礼しよう。
山川信子 そうですね。近いうちに又参りますので何か必要なもの
がありましたらどうぞ遠慮なくおっしゃって下さい。
ブラウン ブラウンさんのアパートとうちはお近くですから。
ありがとうございます。それでは誠に申し訳ありません
がトランジスター・ラジオを持ってきていただけますか。
居間のテーブルの上にあると思います。
山川信子 はい、分かりました。
山川一 それでは又。お大事に。
山川信子 早くよくなって下さいね。

Comment

If you have an accident on the street in Japan, an ambulance will take you to the nearest hospital. But what if you just happen to feel ill? There is no system of general practitioners as there is in the UK, and so you would probably end up either at the nearest chemist's shop (薬局) or a clinic. Normally this would be a clinic for internal medicine (内科), but if you knew more specifically what was wrong with you, you might head straight for one of the more specialised clinics: ear, nose and throat (耳鼻咽喉科), eye (眼科), pediatrics (小児科), or dental (歯科). If you had broken your arm, you would go to a 外科, and if you were pregnant, you would go to a 産婦人科. Small clinics and hospitals are common all over the major cities. There is also, of course, traditional Chinese medicine and practice available, known generally as 漢方, and offering a range of remedies from massage (指圧), to acupuncture (鍼) or moxa (灸).

34.1 'Please wait a moment'

ちょっとお待ち下さい。

The phrase ちょっと待って下さい was introduced in 18.5. Here we have a more formal variation with the prefix お added to the conjunctive form of the verb + 下さい. Expect also the similar expression 少々お待ち下さい. Note that this is a polite phrase. Politeness and respect coalesce when the person you are addressing is the subject of the sentence.

ここにお名前と御住所をお書き下さい。

Please write your name and address here.

料金はあちらの窓口でお払い下さい。

Please pay the fare at the counter over there.

どうぞお上がり下さい

Please come in.

34.2 Expressing surprise.

これは、奥様も。

これは is here used as an interjection: 'My goodness. Mrs Yamakawa too!' Note how this statement is entirely adequate on its own; the truncation has nothing to do with being impolite. Mr Brown correctly gives the wife a very polite さま when he addresses her.

34.3 More on verbs of respect

おいでいただきましてありがとうございます。

The question of honorific language and levels of speech was mentioned in 25.8 and 26.2. Here we have a further example of a way of raising the status of the subject. The word おいで is made up from the prefix お and the conjunctive

form of the verb いでる, which itself is a remnant of the older language. Here it is almost exactly the same as いらっしゃる and acts as a respectful equivalent of either 行く, 来る, or いる, meaning something like 'your coming'. Added to this we find いただく 'receive'; the whole phrase is very similar to the ~ていただく just mentioned in 33.6. It could be literally translated as 'receiving your deigning to come, thank you', although this stilted English should not lead you to think that the Japanese expression is anything out of the ordinary. There is another place in the conversation where a respectful equivalent is used: 遠慮なくおっしゃって下さい. おっしゃる is the respectful equivalent of 言う 'to say'. More will be said about these equivalents in due course.

34.4 More on being humble

持って参りました
御心配をおかけして申し訳ありません。
近いうちにまた参ります

Remember that the normal way of making a humble equivalent is with お + conjunctive form + する (see 26.2). We have another example here with 御心配をおかけして, from the phrase 心配をかける 'to cause someone worry'. The verb 参る is a humble equivalent of 行く or 来る. The subject in both of these cases is 'I'. We met 申し訳 in 31.2.

34.5 の方 (ほう) は

それより具合の方はどうですか。

There are two phrases here that need explanation. より is a comparative 'than'. We will meet it later when comparatives are discussed in greater detail. The

phrase is being used to change subject radically: ‘rather than that...’ or ‘now we’re not here to talk about that, are we?’ As far as the other phrase, 具合の方は, is concerned, note first that 方 is pronounced ほう, rather than かた. It occurs again a few lines later in そちらの方は. Meaning ‘direction’ or ‘alternative’, it in a sense strengthens the effect of the は as a contrast marker and functions in this kind of context as a kind of vague pointer: ‘let’s concentrate on *this* for a moment’. The reasons for vagueness could range from embarrassment to assumed nonchalance. Although it is not an exact parallel, think of the use of the word ‘old’ in ‘so how’s the old foot then?’

34.6 The potential form

歩けるのですが
英語を話せる人も多い

The idea that ‘someone can do (is able to do) something’ can be expressed with a pattern you have already met: verb + ことが出来る (see 17.4 and 26.7).

木下さんは中国語を話すことができます。
Mr Kinoshita can speak Chinese.

Here こと nominalises the verb, and 出来る, originally meaning something like ‘to be forthcoming’, means ‘is possible’. Note the stative は + が construction again: ‘As for Mr Kinoshita, speaking Chinese is possible.’ In addition to this construction, however, there is a special form of the verb itself, known as the potential. It is created as follows:

<i>Group I</i>	<i>plain citation</i> ending in -u	<i>potential form</i> ends in-eru
	会う meet	会える
	言う say	言える
	買う buy	買える

ending in *-ru*

入る enter
乗る ride
ある exist

ends in *-reru*

入れる
乗れる

ending in *-tsu*

待つ wait

ends in *-teru*

待てる

ending in *-ku*

書く write
聞く ask
[聞く listen, hear
行く go

ends in *-keru*

書ける
聞ける
聞こえる]
行ける or 行かれる

ending in *-mu*

読む read
飲む drink

ends in *-meru*

読める
飲める

ending in *-nu*

死ぬ die

ends in *-neru*

死ねる

ending in *-su*

話す talk

ends in *-seru*

話せる

Group II

ending in *-ru*

いる exist
出る go out
かける hang
見る look, see
食べる eat
寝る go to bed
起きる get up

ends in *-rareru*

いられる
出られる
かけられる
見られる or 見える
食べられる
寝られる
起きられる

<i>irregular</i>	来る	come	来られる (こられる)
	する	do	出来る

Note that for Group II verbs the potential form is in fact the same as the passive form, which you will meet in the next lesson.

The meaning of the sentences この子はもう歩くことが出来ます and この子はもう歩けます is exactly the same and in most cases these two forms are interchangeable. The only difference is that ことが出来る sounds slightly more formal and is more often used in the written language.

All potential forms are *stative* in character and hence are used with the same kind of construction that you have met in 12.2. As with ~たい constructions (30.1), however, you will often find that the dynamic nature of the verb takes precedence over the stative nature of the potential form itself, with the result that a transitive construction is often found. Either of the following sentences is perfectly acceptable (although see lesson 43 for further comments on the two verbs 聞ける and 見られる).

(あなたは) この漢字が読めますか。

(あなたは) この漢字を読めますか。

34.7 Polite requests with いただける

トランジスターラジオを持ってきていただけますか。

For an explanation of the grammar of this construction turn back to 33.6. It comes up again here because it involves the potential form of いただく. The potential of both もらう and いただく are combined with the ~て form to express polite requests.

明後日まで待ってもらえますか (or いただけますか)。

Could you please wait until the day after tomorrow?

And by using this pattern with the negative form, one can be even more polite.

あしたもう一度連絡してもらえませんか (or いただけませんか)。

Could you please contact me again tomorrow?

Key to conversation

Romanisation

- Nobuko Anō, suimasen ga, Buraun-san to iu kata no byōshitsu wa dochira deshō ka.
Uketsuke Nanika no kanja-san desu ka.
Nobuko Sā, yoku wakarimasen ga kōtsū jiko ni atte nyūin shite iru hito desu.
Uketsuke Sō desu ka. Chotto o-machi kudasai. Ā, Maku Buraun san, Igrisu no kata desu ne. Byōshitsu wa rokkai no roku-ni-hachi gō desu.
Nobuko Dōmo arigatō gozaimashita.
Hajime O-jama shimasu. Buraun-san, konkai wa taihen na me ni aimashita ne.
Buraun Ā, Yamakawa san. Dōmo.
Nobuko O-kagen wa ikaga desu ka.
Buraun Kore wa, okusama mo. Wazawaza o-ide itadakimashite arigatō gozaimasu.
Nobuko Iie, dō itashimashite. O-hana to kudamono o sukoshi motte mairimashita no de dōzo.
Hajime Sore kara kore wa Eigo no shinbun to zasshi desu.
Buraun Dōmo go-shinpai o o-kake shite mōshiwake arimasen.
Hajime Iya iya. Sore yori guai no hō wa dō desu ka.
Buraun Saiwai hone wa orete inai no de arukeru no desu ga, ugoku to mada itamimasu.
Hajime Dabokushō dake desu ka.
Buraun Mada yoku wakarimasen ga, atama o hidoku utta no de sochira no hō wa mada kensa-chū desu.
Nobuko Sō desu ka. Sore wa go-shinpai desu ne.
Buraun Ē, de mo kono byōin wa o-isha-san mo kangofu-san mo totemo shinsetsu desu shi, Eigo o hanaseru hito mo ōi no de sono ten de wa anshin shite iraremasu.
Nobuko Sore wa totemo kokorozuyoi desu ne.
Hajime Sorosoro menkai jikan no owari na no de shitsurei shiyo.
Nobuko Sō desu ne. Chikai uchi ni mata mairimasu no de nani ka hitsuyō na mono ga

arimashitara dōzo enryo naku osshatte kudasai. Buraun-san no apāto to uchi wa o-chikaku desu kara.

Buraun Arigatō gozaimasu. Sore de wa makoto ni mōshiwake arimasen ga toranjisutā rajio o motte kite itadakemasu ka. Ima no tēburu no ue ni aru to omoimasu.

Nobuko Hai, wakarimashita.

Hajime Sore de wa mata. O-daiji ni.

Nobuko Hayaku yoku natte kudasai ne.

Translation

Nobuko Excuse me, could you tell me which is the room of a Mr Brown?

Receptionist Which section is he in?

Nobuko Well now, I'm not really sure, but he's in hospital because he was involved in a car accident.

Receptionist I see. Just a moment please. Ah, Mr Mark Brown, from England. He's room number 628 on the sixth floor.

Nobuko Thank you very much.

Hajime May we disturb you? Mr Brown, this is a dreadful business.

Brown Oh, Mr Yamakawa. How good to see you.

Nobuko How are you feeling?

Brown My goodness! Mrs Yamakawa too! How very kind of you to go out of your way.

Nobuko Not at all. I've brought flowers and a little fruit for you.

Hajime And this is an English newspaper and a magazine.

Brown I'm terribly sorry to have put you to so much trouble.

Hajime Nonsense. More importantly, how are you feeling?

Brown Happily I haven't broken any bones and so I'm able to walk, but it still hurts whenever I move.

Hajime Is it just bruising?

Brown That's not clear yet. I hit my head badly and so that's still being investigated.

Nobuko I see. That's a worry isn't it?

Brown Yes, but the doctors and nurses at this hospital are very kind and there are many who can speak English, so I've no worries on that score.

Nobuko That is very reassuring isn't it?

Hajime It's almost the end of visiting hours, so let's be on our way.

Nobuko Yes. We'll come again soon, so if there's something you need please don't

hesitate to say so. Our house is very close to your flat so/

Brown Thank you very much. In that case I wonder if I might ask you to bring my transistor radio. I think it's on the table in the living room.

Nobuko Yes, of course.

Hajime Well then, until next time. Look after yourself.

Nobuko Do get better soon.
