

Lesson 36

John tells Tadashi about his unfortunate day.

- 正 この間はひどい目にあっただけですね。
- ジョン どうして知っているんですか。
- 正 おとといマリーさんと電話で話した時に聞きました。
- ジョン そうですか。あの日は一日中運の悪いことばかりあったんですよ。
- 正 かばんをとられただけではなかったんですか。
- ジョン それが、交番に行って、届けを出したりしていたので大切なミーティングに遅れてしまったんです。
- 正 でもそれは仕方がないじゃありませんか。
- ジョン と、僕も思ったんです。でもその集まりに来ていた人の一人に、ひったくりにあったのはボンヤリしていたからだろうなどといやみを言われました。
- 正 ずいぶん同情心のない人がいるもんだなあ。
- ジョン バカにされたみたいな気がしましたよ。
- 正 まあ、いろいろな人がいるから気にしない方がいいな。
- ジョン その上、帰りには雨に降られてびしょぬれになったんですよ。そのおかげでかぜをひいてしまいました。
- 正 かさは持っていなかったんですか。
- ジョン それが持ってはいたんですが....。多分ひったくりにあって気が転倒していたからだと思うのです。かさは交番に置き忘れたんですよ。
- 正 それは全くふんだりけったりでしたね。ところで、交番のお巡りさんは親切にしてくれましたか。
- ジョン ええ、住所名前の他いろいろなことを聞かれましたけれどとても親切にしてくれました。
-

36.1 'Well yes, but...'

それが、

This phrase is hanging in mid-air. Do not mistake it for the subject of the following verb. It takes up what has just been said in the previous sentence and tries to put a gloss on it.

36.2 ～てしまう

ミーティングに遅れてしまったんです。
かぜをひいてしまいました。

(a) ～てしまう expresses the completion of an action or an event (not, of course, a state which cannot be 'completed'), and it often carries with it a sense of regret, or annoyance at something you (or someone else) might have done, or at something that has happened.

長い間かっていた犬が死んでしまった。
(Sadly) the dog which we had had for a long time died.

車のワイパーが急に動かなくなってしまった。
My car's windscreen wipers suddenly packed in.

As these examples indicate, ～てしまう usually has a negative implication, so a sentence such as

長いこと使わなかったのでドイツ語が下手になってしまった。
My German has become rusty, because I have not used it for a long time.

is quite acceptable; but you cannot really say:

*ドイツ語が上手になってしまった。
My German has gone and got a lot better.

because the negative connotation of ～てしまう contradicts the general sense of the sentence.

However there are cases when ～てしまう can express a strong sense of completion with pride.

木村君はこの本を読むのに一ヶ月もかかったが私は十日で読んでしまった。

Although it took Kimura a whole month to read this book, I finished reading it in ten days.

この仕事は明後日までに仕上げてしまう予定です。

I plan to have this job completed by the day after tomorrow.

(b) ～てしまう is different from the conjunctive form of the verb + 終わる that you met in 29.1. This latter signifies no more than that an action has been completed. Remember that with ～てしまう a sense of regret, or occasionally pride, at having managed to complete something, is normally present.

その本は三日前に読み終わりました。

I finished reading that book three days ago (neutral).

この図書館の本は全部読んでしまいました。

I have read all the books in this library.

This last sentence implies either that the speaker is very pleased at having read all the books in the library or that he is sad because there is nothing left to read. Notice also in this context another compound which was dealt with in 29.1: verb in conjunctive form + 上げる.

とうとう源氏物語を読み上げた。

I've finally got through the *Tale of Genji*.

(c) You will find ～てしまう used quite often, especially in Tokyo and among young people, so often in fact that its completive force is sometimes lost. In this context note the common abbreviations: ～ちゃう for ～てしまう and ～ちゃった for ～てしまった.

飲んでしまった → 飲んじゃった

来てしまった → 来ちゃった

(d) しまった! used on its own has the force of 'blast!' or 'damn it!'

36.3 'So I thought'

と、僕も思ったんです。

Note the use of the particle と here. You have previously met it as a marker of direct and indirect speech. In this particular context it is standing for the whole of the previous statement, hence the translation 'So I thought, but...'

36.4 Further connotations of the passive

いやみを言われました。
バカにされたみたいでした。

We have seen that the use of the passive form in this kind of sentence where the speaker is directly involved often brings with it a sense that the speaker is being adversely affected by the action of the verb. It is for this reason that when you want to say something like 'they treated me very well' you cannot express it with a passive in Japanese: *私はとても親切にされた. This will have to be rephrased using one of the donatory verbs: 親切にしてもらいました, or 親切にしてくれました, as you see at the end of this conversation. All the following sentences and phrases carry with them a sense of being hard done by:

私は (彼女に) 不愉快なことを言われた。

She said unpleasant things to me.

きのう彼女から気になることを言われたので落ち着きません。

I feel unsettled because she said some disturbing things to me yesterday.

私は笑い者にされた。
I was made a laughing stock.
私は不親切にされた。
I was treated unkindly.
私は意地悪をされた。
They were very unkind to me.

36.5 Verb + もんだ

ずいぶん同情心のない人がいるもんだなあ。

The effect of this pattern もんだ or ものだ is to lend a sense of sympathetic emphasis to the sentence: 'there *are* some unsympathetic people around, aren't there!'

36.6 Two expressions with the noun 気

バカにされたみたいな気がしましたよ。
気にしない方がいい

The noun 気 'feeling' or 'spirit' is used to form a number of idiomatic expressions in Japanese. 気がする means 'have a feeling that'.

彼は来ないような気がする。
I have a feeling that he is not going to come.
その名前は前にどこかで聞いたことがあるような気がします。
I have a feeling that I have heard that name before somewhere.

You will also come across a number of other nouns that combine with the verb *する* in this intransitive fashion. Many of these phrases can be translated into English using a *transitive* equivalent.

台所で変な音がしたような気がしましたが。

I thought I heard a strange noise in the kitchen.

おかあさん。となりで知らない人の声がするけど、お客さんが来てるの。

Mother, I hear a stranger's voice next door. Do we have a guest?

何かがこげているにおいがしますが大丈夫ですか。

There is a smell of something burning; is it all right?

The second phrase here is *気にする*. This means 'worry about', 'be affected by'.

もう済んだことですから、気にしないで下さい。

It's all over and done with, so please don't worry about it.

36.7 Verb + 方が...

気にしない方がいいな。

Constructions with *方がいい* were introduced in 29.5. The pattern *方が...* can be used with either imperfective or perfective forms.

もう行った方がいい。

It would be better if you left now.

ケンブリッジからオックスフォードまではバスで行く方が便利です。

From Cambridge to Oxford, going by bus is more convenient.

When the statement that follows is conditional on the completion of the action of the first verb, the *～た* form is used. The imperfective, on the other hand, is normally used for making general statements.

Some more examples:

よく考えた方がいいですよ。

I think you should think about it carefully.

あまり考え過ぎない方がいいのではありませんか。

Don't you think it would be preferable to stop worrying about it too much?

私が運転した方が安全だと思いますが....。

I really do think it would be safer if I drove!

少しだけですがビールを飲んだので運転しない方がいいと思います。

It was only a little, but I have drunk some beer so I think it would be better if I didn't drive.

36.8 Passive of intransitives

雨に降られてびしょぬれになったんですよ。

From the point of view of an English speaker, another rather 'unusual' use of the passive is with intransitive verbs. Here too there is a strong suggestion that the subject has been adversely affected by the event or situation.

父に死なれた。

My father went and died on me.

急にお客に来られた。

I was suddenly visited by a guest (and it was highly inconvenient).

36.9 Sarcastic use of おかげで

そのおかげでかぜをひいてしまいました。

You have met the phrase おかげさまで meaning 'thanks to you' in 17.5. Just as in English, it can also be used ironically, although it is usual in such a context to drop the polite さま. そのおかげで here means 'and thanks to the rain'.

Key to conversation

Romanisation

- Tadashi Kono aida wa hidoi me ni atta sō desu ne.
Jon Dōshite shitte irun desu ka.
Tadashi Ototoi Mari-san to denwa de hanashita toki ni kikimashita.
Jon Sō desu ka. Ano hi wa ichinichi-jū un no warui koto bakari attan desu yo.
Tadashi Kaban o torareta dake de wa nakattan desu ka.
Jon Sore ga, kōban ni itte, todoke o dashitari shite ita no de taisetsu na mītingu ni okurete shimattan desu.
Tadashi Demo sore wa shikata ga nain ja arimasen ka.
Jon To, boku mo omottan desu. Demo sono atsumari ni kite ita hito no hitori ni, hittakuri ni atta no wa bonyari shite ita kara darō nado to iyami o iwaremashita.
Tadashi Zuibun dōjōshin no nai hito ga iru mon da na.
Jon Baka ni sareta mitai na ki ga shimashita yo.
Tadashi Ma, iroiro na hito ga iru kara ki ni shinai hō ga ii na.
Jon Sono ue, kaeri ni wa ame ni furarete bishonure ni nattan desu yo. Sono o-kage de kaze o hiite shimaimashita.
Tadashi Kasa wa motte inakattan desu ka.
Jon Sore ga motte wa itan desu ga...Tabun hittakuri ni atte ki ga tentō shite ita kara da to omou no desu. Kasa wa kōban ni okiwasuretan desu yo.
Tadashi Sore wa mattaku fundari kettari deshita ne. Tokoro de, kōban no o-mawari-san wa shinsetsu ni shite kuremashita ka.
Jon Ē, jūsho ya namae no hoka iroiro na koto o kikaremashita keredo totemo shinsetsu ni shite kuremashita.
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Translation

- Tadashi I heard you had a pretty bad time the other day.

John How do you know?

Tadashi I heard about it when I was talking on the telephone with Marie the day before yesterday.

John I see. That day I had nothing but bad luck all day long.

Tadashi Having your case taken wasn't the only thing?

John What with going to the police station and submitting the complaint, I was late for an important meeting.

Tadashi But there was nothing you could do about that surely?

John That's what I thought. But I had the humiliating experience of being told by one of the people at the gathering that I must have been daydreaming to have something snatched.

Tadashi There are some unsympathetic people around, aren't there!

John I felt as if I was being laughed at.

Tadashi Well, it takes all sorts, so don't take it to heart.

John And then on the way home I was rained on and got completely soaked. Thanks to that I caught a cold.

Tadashi You weren't carrying an umbrella?

John Well yes, I was carrying one/I think it must have been because I was upset after my case had been snatched. I left my umbrella at the police kiosk.

Tadashi Oh that's really adding insult to injury! And was the policeman at the kiosk kind to you?

John Yes. I was asked all sorts of things, apart from my name and address of course, but he did treat me very kindly.
