

Lesson 45

- 交換手 東西銀行でございます。
- ブラウン 内線402をお願いします。
- 長谷川 外国為替課です。
- ブラウン 長谷川様はいらっしゃいますか。
- 長谷川 私ですが。
- ブラウン ブリティッシュ・エンジニアリングのブラウンです。
- 長谷川 あ、ブラウンさん。御無沙汰しております。その後、いかがですか。
- ブラウン おかげさまで。もうすっかりよくなりました。
- 長谷川 それは結構でした。
- ブラウン 実は、近々本社から副社長のハミルトンが参ります。つきましては、お忙しいとは存じますが出来ましたら長谷川様にもお目にかかりたいとのことなのですが。
- 長谷川 それはそれは。私共の支店長も是非お会いしたいと申すと思います。それで東京に到着されるのは何日ですか。
- ブラウン 三月の十二日で、十八日には香港に向けて発つことになっております。
- 長谷川 ずいぶん短い御滞在ですね。
- ブラウン ええ、しかも後半は名古屋の方へ行くことになっておりますので....。
- 長谷川 何日にこちらへおいでいただくのが一番よろしいでしょうか。
- ブラウン 十三日か十四日でしたら何時にでも伺えますが....。
- 長谷川 分かりました。それではさっそく支店長と相談いたしまして、おいでいただく日が決まりましたらすぐにお電話を差し上げます。
- ブラウン ありがとうございます。それから、これは仕事のことではないのですが、あまり時間をかけないで、副社長に日本らしいところを見せるとしたら、どこへ行くのがいいでしょうか。
- 長谷川 日光か鎌倉へいらっしゃったらいかがですか。月並みですが。
- ブラウン そうですね....。実は、副社長はあまり仏教とかお寺に興味がないようなので、もう少し活気のあるところはないでしょうか。
- 長谷川 それでは、築地の魚河岸へお連れになったらいかがですか。朝相当早くお出かけにならないければなりませんけれどとてもおもしろいと思いますよ。

ブラウン それはいいアイデアですね。
長谷川 もしよろしかったら、私もお伴しましょうか。
ブラウン ありがとうございます。案内していただけたら、とても
助かります。

Comment

It was mentioned earlier that telephone conversations, by their very nature, are often full of respect language. This is particularly the case when calling a company, so this conversation has been written partly to illustrate this phenomenon. Note how combinations of respectful and humble forms fly thick and fast.

45.1 'It's been quite a while'

御無沙汰しております。

'I have had no communication with you (for some time).'

 This is a very useful phrase, which you can use either on the phone or simply when meeting someone. It is also often found near the beginning of a letter.

45.2 Idiomatic use of the perfective

それは結構でした。

This phrase would probably be translated into English using the present tense: 'That's excellent news!' Note how the perfective is used in Japanese. Brown has just said that he is fully recovered and Hasegawa's reply is cast in the perfective to emphasise that something is over and that we are back to normal.

45.3 'Subjectless' sentences

お忙しいとは存じますが

This is as good an example as any of the way that explicit subjects are often quite redundant in Japanese. The phrase お忙しい, being respectful in that the subject is raised, could only possibly refer to 'you'; similarly, 存じます, which is a humble form meaning 'think' or 'know' here, could only refer to Brown himself.

45.4 The form of conditional ~たら

出来ましたらノ
十三日か十四日でしたら何時にでも伺えますがノ。
おいでいただく日が決まりましたらすぐにお電話を
差し上げます。

The verb inflections for positive ~たら are produced as follows:

	<i>plain citation</i>	<i>meaning</i>	~たら
<i>group I</i>	ある	exist	あったら
	歩く	walk	歩いたら
	会う	meet	会ったら
	行く	go	行ったら
	入る	enter	入ったら
	話す	talk	話したら
	言う	say	言ったら
	買う	buy	買ったら
	書く	write	書いたら
	聞く	listen, ask	聞いたら
	待つ	wait	待ったら

	飲む	drink	飲んだら
	乗る	ride	乗ったら
	使う	use	使ったら
	読む	read	読んだら
<i>group II</i>	いる	exist	いたら
	出る	go out	出たら
	かける	hang	かけたら
	見る	see	見たら
	寝る	go to bed	寝たら
	起きる	get up	起きたら
	食べる	eat	食べたら
<i>irregular</i>	来る	come	来(き)たら
	する	do	したら
<i>descr. verbs</i>	おいしい	tasty	おいしかったら
	美しい	beautiful	美しかったら
<i>copula だ</i>			だったら
	です		でしたら

The negative of this form is produced by taking the normal negative of the verb and then transforming the *～ない* to *～なかったら* as follows:

<i>plain citation</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>negative</i> ～たら
動く	move	動かなかったら
もらう	receive	もらわなかったら
開ける	open	開けなかったら
かわいい	cute, pretty	かわいくなかったら
短い	short	短かくなかったら
だ、です	[copula]	ではなかったら

45.5 Uses of ～たら

～たら, being based on the perfective, indicates that the action or event in the

first clause is completed before the second action or event occurs. The emphasis here is on what happens if or when, but certainly after, something else happens. When the final verb is in the present or the future, you will find yourself translating ～たら as 'if':

雨が降ったら出かけません。

If it rains, I won't go out.

When the final verb is in the past, you will find yourself using the translation 'when':

公園に行ったら田中さんが犬を散歩させていました。

When I went to the park, Mr Tanaka was taking his dog for a walk.

45.6 Plain verb + としたら

見せるとしたら、

This phrase is a little more elaborate than just a simple 'if': 'if it was a case of showing...' or perhaps here 'if you had to show...' The conditional part of the phrase is being stressed. In this kind of context としたら can be replaced by either とすれば or とすると with no real change in meaning.

会社が終わってから来るとしたら、こちらに着くのは八時ごろですね。

If you were to come after work, you'd get here about eight, wouldn't you?

私の給料だけで暮らさなければならぬとしたら、生活はかなりきついと思いますよ。

If we really had to survive on my salary alone, I think things would be fairly tight.

45.7 ～たらどうですか; ～たらいかがですか

日光か鎌倉へいらっしゃったらいかがですか。
それでしたら、築地の魚河岸へお連れになったらいかがですか。

Now you have been introduced to the ～たら form, learn these two idiomatic phrases, meaning ‘Why don’t you....?’, or ‘How about....?’

人の批判ばかりしないで、少しは自分のことも反省してみたら
どうですか。

Why don’t you reflect on your own actions a little instead of criticizing
others all the time?

その問題に関しては日英共同研究を計画してみたらいかがでしょう。
On that issue, how about planning a joint Anglo-Japanese research
project?

Another idiomatic phrase appears near the end of this conversation: よろしかっ
たら: ‘if it’s all right by you’ or ‘if it’s convenient’. よろしい is a polite
equivalent of いい.

45.8 More on forms of respect

築地の魚河岸へお連れになったらいかがですか。
早くお出かけにならなければなりません。

You have already come across a number of ways to express respect. Perhaps the
commonest of these forms is the one introduced here: prefix お + conjunctive +
になる, giving rise to such verbs as お書きになる, and お話になる. Most verbs
can be cast in this form. Remember that a respect form is used to raise the status
of its subject. Note one anomaly here however: the form お見えになる means

only 'put in an appearance' and so 'come', *not* 'see'.

45.9 ～たら and ～えば compared

Now that you have been introduced to both ～たら and ～えば, you will want to know how they differ. This is not an easy matter to explain, and you will have to accept that some aspects of this difference will simply have to be learned through trial and error. Sometimes ～たら and ～えば are interchangeable, especially if the verb in the main clause is in the imperfective. For example:

- (a) この薬を飲んだらすぐに熱が下がる。
- (b) この薬を飲めばすぐに熱が下がる。

A fitting translation of (a) might be 'When you take this medicine, your temperature will soon drop.' Since a ～たら sentence signifies 'once an action has taken place X will/might occur', the emphasis is on the temporal link between the two events. (b) might be translated 'If and only if you take this medicine, your temperature will soon drop.' The weight of emphasis here is on the taking of the medicine as a prerequisite. It must be admitted, however, that in these examples the difference is minimal. In the following sentences, however, there are noticeable differences.

弟が帰ってきたらすぐに出かけます。

I will go out as soon as my younger brother returns.

弟が帰ってくれば出かけます。

If my younger brother comes back I will go out.

The first sentence is concerned with timing. The second sentence, with ～えば, is more concerned with the conditions under which the speaker will act, and so a word like *すぐに* which means 'immediately' or 'straight away' seems unnatural.

Further examples:

八百屋の前まで行ったら雨が降ってきた。

When I got to the greengrocer's, it started raining.

This sentence *cannot* be rewritten in the ～えば form because the ‘raining’ is not a consequence of arriving in front of the greengrocer’s. You can, however, say

八百屋の前まで行けばバスの停留所が見えます。

If you go as far as the greengrocer's, you will be able to see the bus stop.

There are some exceptional cases where only ～たら can be used. Observe the following:

京都へ行ったら清水寺を見に行きましょう (行こう)。

When we go to Kyōto, let’s visit the Kiyomizu-dera.

京都へ行ったらつけものを買ってきて下さい。

When you go to Kyōto, please buy me some pickles.

～えば cannot be used in any of these sentences because the condition ‘a necessary and natural consequence of the first clause’ cannot be met.

45.10 ～たら versus ～なら

Refer back to 44.7. Make sure that you can see the difference between uses of ～たら and ～なら.

この本を読む (の) なら上げます。

If you want/intend to read this book, I will give it to you.

この本を読んだら上げます。

I will give you this book when I’ve finished reading it.

Key to conversation

Romanisation

Kokanshu Tōzai ginkō de gozaimasu.

Buraun Naisen 402 o o-negai shimasu.

Hasegawa Gaikoku kawase ka desu.
Buraun Hasegawa-sama wa irasshaimasu ka.
Hasegawa Watakushi desu ga.
Buraun Buritissu Enjiniaringu no Buraun desu.
Hasegawa A, Buraun-san. Go-busata shite orimasu. Sono go ikaga desu ka?
Buraun O-kage sama de. Mo sukkari yoku narimashita.
Hasegawa Sore wa kekkō deshita.
Buraun Jitsu wa chikajika honsha kara fukushachō no Hamiruton ga mairimasu.
Tsukimashite wa o-isogashii to wa zanjimasu ga dekimashitara Hasegawa-sama ni mo o-me ni kakaritai to no koto na no desu ga...
Hasegawa Sore wa sore wa. Watakushidomo no shitenchō mo zehi o-ai shitai to mōsu to omoimasu. Sore de Tōkyō ni tōchaku sareru no wa nannichi desu ka?
Buraun Sangatsu no jūninichi de, jūhachinichi ni wa Honkon ni mukete tatsu koto ni natte orimasu.
Hasegawa Zuibun mijikai go-taizai desu ne.
Buraun Ē, shikamo kōhan wa Nagoya no hō e iku koto ni natte orimasu no de...
Hasegawa Nannichi ni kochira e o-ide itadaku no ga ichiban yoroshii deshō ka?
Buraun Jūsannichi ka jūyokka deshitaru nanji ni demo ukagaemasu ga...
Hasegawa Wakarimashita. Sore de wa sassoku shitenchō to sōdan itashimashite o-ide itadaku hi ga kimarimashitara sugu ni o-denwa o sashiagemasu.
Buraun Arigatō gozaimasu. Sore kara, kore wa shigoto no koto de wa nai no desu ga amari jikan o kakenaide fukushachō ni Nihon-rashii tokoro o miseru to shitara, doko e iku no ga ii deshō ka?
Hasegawa Nikkō ka Kamakura e irashattara ikaga desu ka? Tsukinami desu ga.
Buraun Sō desu ne... Jitsu wa fukushachō wa amari bukkyō to ka o-tera ni kyōmi ga nai yō na node, mō sukoshi kakki no aru tokoro wa nai deshō ka?
Hasegawa Sore deshitaru, Tsukiji no uogashi e o-tsure ni nattara ikaga desu ka? Asa sōtō hayaku o-dekake ni naranakereba narimasen keredo, totemo omoshiroi to omoimasu yo.
Buraun Sore wa ii aida desu ne.
Hasegawa Moshi yoroshikattara, watakushi mo o-tomo shimashō ka?
Buraun Arigatō gozaimasu. Annai shite itadaketara totemo tasukarimasu.

Translation

Operator Tōzai Bank.

Brown Extension 402 please.

Hasegawa Foreign Exchange Department

Brown Is Mr Hasegawa there please?

Hasegawa Speaking.

Brown This is Brown from British Engineering.

Hasegawa Oh, Mr Brown! It's been a long time. How have you been?

Brown Well, thank you. I've completely recovered.

Hasegawa That's splendid.

Brown Actually our Deputy Chairman Hamilton will be coming to Japan soon. I know you're very busy, but if at all possible he would very much like to see you.

Hasegawa Well, well. I am sure our Branch Manager will want to see him too. What day does he arrive in Tokyo?

Brown March 12th and he leaves for Hong Kong on the 18th.

Hasegawa A very short visit then.

Brown Yes. And what's more, for the second half he's going to Nagoya.

Hasegawa What day would it be most convenient to have him come over?

Brown We could come over any time on either the 13th or 14th.

Hasegawa Right then. I'll get on to our Branch Manager right away and ring you as soon as we have fixed a day.

Brown Thank you very much. One more thing. It's not to do with business, but where do you think we should go to show him something typically Japanese; something that would not take up too much time?

Hasegawa What about going to Nikko or Kamakura? Mind, that's what everyone does.

Brown Yes. Actually he doesn't seem to be that interested in Buddhism or temples; isn't there somewhere a little more lively?

Hasegawa In that case, what about taking him to the fish market at Tsukiji? You'll have to leave fairly early in the morning, but I would have thought it would be most interesting.

Brown That's a very good idea!

Hasegawa If you'd like, I'll come along with you.

Brown Thank you. It would help enormously if you could take us.