

Lesson 48

A conversation between John and Tadashi.

- ジョン　きのうの新聞に電気製品をつくっているある会社の組合が給料を二十二パーセント上げろと社長に迫ったという記事が出ていましたが、ちょっと要求し過ぎの感じがしませんか。
- 正　それはすごいなあ。
- ジョン　日本の物価上昇率は今のところ五パーセント以下ですからね。
- 正　まあ、組合側としては自分達の要求がそのまま通るとは思っていないから、実際の目標よりは相当高い数字を出しているのだとは思いますがね。
- ジョン　それにしても必要以上に高い数を出すということは、労使間交渉が始まる前から会社側に悪い印象を与えることになるんじゃないでしょうか。
- 正　それはそうですね。でも労使関係というのは、もともとそうスムーズにいくものではないし、双方ともどこまで押せるか、どこで妥協すべきかということは案外よく分かっているんだと思いますよ。
- ジョン　話し合いが平行線をたどったままだということもなくはないみたいですがね。
- 正　そう、時にはお互いがああしろ、こうしろと繰り返すばかりで、相手側の立場を理解しようなどという気が全くないように見えることもありますね。
- ジョン　正君の病院でも組合運動はさかんですか。
- 正　ええ、かなり活発にやっていますよ。一番大きな問題は看護婦さん達の給料なんですね。彼女達の仕事は内容からいっても勤務時間の上からも相当きついのにな信じられないような低い給料で働かされているんですよ。
- ジョン　同じ問題をかかえている国はたくさんあると思いますね。私も看護婦さんや病院の雑用をしている人達の収入はもっとよくするべきだと思います。
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48.1 Expressing percentage

ある会社の組合が給料を二十二パーセント上げろと社長に迫った。

There are two ways of expressing percentage:

(a) using the loanword パーセント

15 per cent:	十五パーセント
83 per cent:	八十三パーセント

(b) using a combination of ～割 (わり), which means 10 per cent and ～分 (ぶ), which means 1 per cent.

15 per cent:	一割五分
83 per cent:	八割三分

この一年間で学生が習う漢字の数は漢字全体の数の十パーセント以下です。

The number of *kanji* the students will learn in this year is under 10 per cent of the whole.

48.2 Brusque commands

ある会社の組合が給料を二十二パーセント上げろと社長に迫った。

Brusque commands are formed by using yet another verb inflection, the imperative form.

	<i>plain form</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>negative imperative</i>
<i>group I</i>	ある	exist	(あれ)	-----
	歩く	walk	歩け	歩くな
	会う	meet	会え	会うな
	行く	go	行け	行くな
	入る	enter	入れ	入るな
	話す	talk	話せ	話すな
	言う	say	言え	言うな
	買う	buy	買え	買うな
	書く	write	書け	書くな
	聞く	listen, ask	聞け	聞くな
	待つ	wait	待て	待つな
	飲む	drink	飲め	飲むな
	乗る	ride	乗れ	乗るな
	使う	use	使え	使うな
	読む	read	読め	読むな
<i>group II</i>	いる	exist	いろ	いるな
	出る	go out	出ろ	出るな
	かける	hang	かけろ	かけるな
	見る	see	見ろ	見るな
	寝る	go to bed	寝ろ	寝るな
	起きる	get up	起きろ	起きるな
	食べる	eat	食べろ	食べるな
<i>Irregular</i>	来る	come	来 (こ) い	来るな
	する	do	しろ or せよ	するな

There is not much to say about the above forms except that they must be used very sparingly indeed, as they are potentially extremely rude. So unless you actually intend to be rude, restrict usage. Study the following examples, however, where it is correct to use this form:

気を付けろ
恥を知れ

Be careful!
For shame!

しっかりしろ	Pull yourself together! Cheer up!
頑張れ	Hold out! Bear up! Keep it up!
英訳せよ	Translate into English!
和訳せよ	Translate into Japanese!

Note that the form せよ is the imperative form of the verb する in the classical language. Its use in the modern language lends the sentence a very stiff, and even at times martial, feel. Although this imperative form is only rarely used in direct speech for the reasons just stated, it is a good way of making a sentence concise in indirect speech. Study the following:

父: 「早く来なさい」 →	早く来いと父が言った。
Father: 'Come quickly.'	My father told me to come quickly.

先生: 「この本を読みなさい」 →	この本を読めと先生がおっしゃった。
Teacher: 'Read this book.'	Our teacher told us to read this book.

48.3 Negative commands

The above list included negative commands listed at the end. Note that these are produced quite differently from the positive. Simply take the plain citation form of the verb and add either な or its literary equivalent なかれ. This な is, of course, related to the negative ~ない form.

近寄るな	Don't come near!
あきらめるな	Don't give up!
バカにするな	Don't make fun of me! Don't belittle me!
いい気になるな	Don't get conceited!

48.4 まま

要求がそのまま通る。
平行線をたどったままだ。

まま is a noun which means 'the way it is', and is sometimes translated 'as is'. It signifies a given or unchanging state of affairs. You will find it used in a number of idiomatic ways. Study the following examples:

これは生のまま食べられます。

You can eat this raw.

分からないまま質問もしないでほっておいたんですか。

Did you just leave the matter there without understanding it and not even asking?

まま will often be found with the preceding verb in the ~た form:

私は人から聞いたままを話しているだけですからそのつもりで聞いてください。

I'm just telling you exactly as I heard it from others; so please remember that as you listen.

むし暑いのでまどを開けたまま寝ます。

It's hot and sticky, so I'll go to sleep with the windows open (as they are).

48.5 Expression of duty with べき

どこで妥協すべきかということは

The word べき is added to the citation form of verbs and means 'should' or 'ought to'. It is in fact a descriptive verb from classical Japanese that remains in use today. With the common verb する be ready to find it in two forms: するべき or すべき; either is correct.

学生はまず第一に勉強するべきだ。

Students should, above all, work.

言うべきことははっきり言わなければならない。

You must say clearly what has to be said.

決める前に両親に相談すべきだ。

You should consult your parents before making a decision.

べき operates slightly differently, depending on whether the context is imperfective or perfective. When the context is imperfective, べき usually refers either to another's duty or to a general obligation. The sentence すぐに関係者に知らせるべきだ, for example, means 'You (or they) should inform those who are concerned straight away.' If you wanted to say 'I should inform those who are concerned straight away' you would have to say すぐに関係者に知らせなければならない. You may well be tempted to produce a sentence such as *私は行くべきだ for 'I should go', but this is not acceptable, at least not as a main sentence. However, べき can be used with the reference to the first person in subordinate sentences or in interrogative contexts.

父が病院へ行く時は私もついて行くべきでしょうか。

Should I accompany my father when he goes to hospital?

私が行くべきだと思いますがその日は都合がつかないので代わりに人に行ってもらいます。

I think I should go but that day is inconvenient for me so I shall get someone to go in my stead.

In a perfective context, however, べき can refer to first, second and third person without the above restriction. It also brings with it the nuance 'should havebut didn't'.

その案は具体的な計画をきちんと立ててから実行に移すべきでした。

That idea should have been put into practice only after we had drawn up proper concrete plans.

彼を批判する前にもう少し注意深く考えてみるべきでした。

I should have thought a little more carefully before criticising him.

48.6 ああしろ、こうしろ

ああしろ、こうしろと繰り返すばかりで

As you might expect there is a set of three such words: こう、ああ、そう. They mean 'in this way', 'in that way', etc. and unlike こんな can stand on their own as here directly before a verb. Another example:

そうしろよ。

Yes, do it!

48.7 ような

信じられないような低い給料

Refer back to 32.2 and the pattern ようだ, meaning 'seems'. When this phrase is found modifying a noun, as in this example, it becomes ような, very much like an adjectival noun. So here the literal sense is 'low wages, which seem unbelievable'.

まるで政治家のような人ですね。

He's just like a politician, isn't he!

彼女は皆から好かれるような性格だ。

She has the kind of character that appeals to everyone.

Key to conversation

Romanisation

- Jon Kinō no shinbun ni denki seihin o tsukutte iru aru kaisha no kumiai ga kyōryō o nijūni pāsento agerō to shachō ni sematta to iu kiji ga dete imashita ga, chotto yōkyō shisugi no kanji ga shimasen ka.
- Tadashi Sore wa sugoi na.
- Jon Nihon no bukka jōshōritsu wa ima no tokoro go pāsento ika desu kara ne.
- Tadashi Mā, kumiaigawa to shite wa jibuntachi no yōkyū ga sono mama tōru to wa omotte inai kara, jissai no mokuhyō yori wa soto takai suji o dashite iru no da to wa omoimasu kedo ne.
- Jon Sore ni shite mo hitsuyō ijō ni takai kazu o dasu to iu koto wa rōshikan kōshō ga hajimaru mae kara kaishagawa ni warui inshō o ataeru koto ni narun ja nai deshō ka.
- Tadashi Sore wa sō desu ne. Demo rōshi kankei to iu no wa motomoto sō sumūzu ni iku mono de wa nai shi, sōhō tomo doko made oseru ka doko de dakyō subeki ka to iu koto wa angai yoku wakatte irun da to omoimasu yo.
- Jon Hanashiai ga heikōsen o tadotta mama da to iu koto mo naku wa nai mitai desu ga ne.
- Tadashi Sō, toki ni wa o-tagai ga ā shiro kō shiro to kurikaesu bakari de, aitegawa no tachiba o rikai shiyō nado to iu ki ga mattaku nai yo ni mieru koto mo arimasu ne.
- Jon Tadashi-kun no byōin de mo kumiai undō wa sakan desu ka.
- Tadashi Ē, kanari kappatsu ni yattemasu yo. Ichiban ōkina mondai wa kangofusan-tachi no kyūryō nan desu ne. Kanojo-tachi no shigoto wa naiyō kara itte mo kinmu jikan no ue kara mo sōtō kitsui no ni shinjirarenai yō na hikui kyūryō de hatarakasarete irun desu yo.
- Jon Onaji mondai o kakaete iru kuni wa takusan aru to omoimasu ne. Watakushi mo kangofu-san ya byōin no zatsuyō o shite iru hitotachi no shū'nyū wa motto yoku surubeki da to omoimasu.
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Translation

- John There was an article in yesterday's newspaper about the union in a company that

makes electrical goods that had been pressing their boss for a twenty-two per cent rise in pay; don't you think they're demanding too much?

Tadashi

That's pretty steep!

John

Because the rate of inflation in Japan at the moment is under 5 per cent.

Tadashi

Well, the union side doesn't believe that their demands will be accepted as it is, so they are undoubtedly presenting a figure much higher than their real target.

John

Even so, to present an unnecessarily high figure surely gives the employer's side a bad impression even before they start negotiating.

Tadashi

That's true. But labour relations never run very smoothly and I think both sides actually know quite well how far they can push and where they should compromise.

John

Mind you, that's not to say there aren't occasions when discussions never seem to converge.

Tadashi

Yes. Sometimes they just go at each other, 'do this' 'do that', and they never seem to want to even try and understand each other's position.

John

Do you have an active union movement at your hospital?

Tadashi

Yes, it's fairly active. The greatest problem is nurses' pay. Their work is pretty tough both in terms of what they do and their hours, and yet they are made to work for unbelievably low wages.

John

I think there are a lot of countries with the same problem. I agree that they ought to improve the pay of nurses and hospital orderlies.
