

Lesson 52

A letter from John to Mr and Mrs Yamakawa in printed form

皆様その後お変わりありませんか。十日前に東京を発ってアメリカへ渡り、そこで大学時代の友達に会ったり、いところを訪ねたりして一週間ほど過ごしました。イギリスへはおとといもどってきたばかりです。前々から母にはイースターまでには帰ると言ってあったので、約束通りイースターの前の日に帰ってきた私を見て両親は大喜びでした。日本はもうすっかり春らしい陽気になっていることと思います。こちらも色とりどりの花が咲き乱れています。四月末から五月にかけてはイギリスの一番美しい季節かもしれません。朝夕はまだ冷えこみますが、日中はコートなしで歩く人のすがたも見られます。

出発前には私のためにあのように盛大な送別会を開いていただきありがとうございました。それにプレゼントまでいただいて、どのようにお礼を申し上げたらよいのか分かりません。思い起こしてみますと、私の日本到着の日からまる三年の間、何かにつけて本当にお世話になりました。下宿が見つかるまでは一ヶ月以上も泊めていただきましたし、その後もことあるごとにお宅に伺わせていただきました。まるで家族の一員のように受け入れていただけたことは、この上もなく幸せなことだったと思っております。改めて心からのお礼を申し上げます。

新しい仕事が始まるまでにはまだ五ヶ月以上もありますので、少し落ち着いて医学雑誌などを読んで暮らしたいと思っております。日本にいた間は毎日毎日が新しい経験の連続で、見たり聞いたりしたことをゆっくり消化する時間もありませんでした。これから留学中に興味を持ち始めた問題点なども整理してみたいと考えています。正君には学会その他で近いうちに会う機会が必ずあると思いますが、皆様もイギリスへおいでの節はどうぞお立ち寄り下さい。両親と共に歓迎いたします。今は両親の家におりますが、新しい住所が決まりましたらお知らせいたします。実君、国子さんにもどうぞよろしくお伝え下さい。皆様の御健康をお祈りしております。

1991年 4月 16日

ジョン

山川 一 様
信子 様

The same letter in handwritten form

皆様その後お変わりありませんか。十日前に東京を發つてアメリカへ渡り、そこで
大學時代の友達に会ったり、いところを訪ねたりして一週間ほど過しました。イギリス
へはおともどつてきたばかりです。前々から母にはイリスターまでには帰ると言つてあ
たので、約束通りイリスターの前日に帰ってきた私を見て両親は大喜びでした。日本は
もうすっかり春らしい陽気になっていることと思います。こちらも色とりどりの花が咲き、
乱れています。四月末から五月にかけてはイギリスの一番美しい季節かもしれません。
朝夕はまだ冷え込みますが、日中はコートなしで歩く人のすがたも見られます。

出發前には私のためにあのように盛大な送別会を開いていただき、ありがとう
ございました。それにプレゼントまでいただき、どのようにお礼を申し上げたらよいのか
分かりません。思い起こしてみますと、私の日本到着の日からまる三年の間、何かにつ
けて本当にお世話になりました。下宿が見つかるまでは一ヶ月以上も泊めていただき、
ましたし、その後もことあるごとにお宅に伺わせていただき、ました。まるで家族の一員
のように受け入れていただけたことは、この上もなく幸せなことだったと思っております。
改めて心からのお礼を申し上げます。

新しい仕事が始まるまでにはまだ五ヶ月以上もありますので、少し落ち着いて医

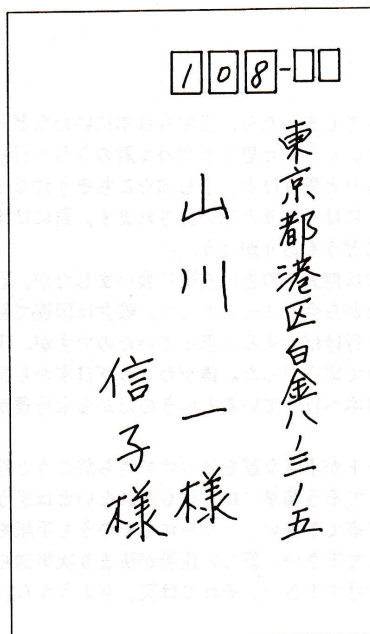
学雑誌などを読んで暮らしたいと思っております。日本にいた間は毎日毎日が新しい経験の連続で、見たり聞いたりしたことをゆくり消化する時間もありませんでした。これから留学中に興味を持ち始めた問題点なども整理してみたいと考えています。正君には学会その他で近いうちに会う機会が必ずあると思いますが、皆様もイギリスへおいでの際はどうかお立ち寄り下さい。両親と共に歓迎いたします。今は両親の家におりますが、新しい住所が決まりましたらお知らせいたします。実君や国子さんにもどうぞよろしくお伝え下さい。皆様の御健康をお祈りしております。

一九九一年四月十六日

ジョン

山川一様

信子様



There are a few important things to note about this letter and the envelope. Although introductory formulae are common, one does not mention the addressee by name at the beginning, as in English. All the important information is listed at the end. The date comes first, near the top. Next comes your own name at the bottom, to reflect your humble stance. Then comes the name(s) of the addressee, at the top, with the polite 様 (さま) added.

The envelope is written vertically, right to left. If at all possible, the whole address is written in one line and the order is always from 'large' to 'small': Tōkyō-to, Minato-ku, Shirogane 8-3-5. The number at the top is the post code or 郵便番号. The name of the addressee should come as far as possible in the middle and should be written in larger *kanji*, as here. There will be a small space on the back at the bottom left for your own return address. The visual balance and calligraphy on an envelope is important.

A letter from John to Tadashi

正君

イギリスへもどってきてしまったら、三年も日本にいたなどということが夢のような気がします。そうかと思うと初めて君のうちへ行った時に、確かあれは一月の末だったと思うけど、干し柿をごちそうになったことなどがきのうのこのようにはっきりと思い出されます。君にはずいぶん世話になりました。本当にどうもありがとうございます。

帰国の途中アメリカでは何人かの古い友達に会いましたが、君も知っているスーザンには残念ながら会えませんでした。彼女は国連で働いているので、ニューヨークへ行けば会えると思っていたのですが、丁度出張で中国・日本へ出かけていて留守でした。僕がわざわざ日本から出かけていった時に限って彼女は日本へ行っているというのだから余程運が悪いんですね。

出来るだけ早くアパートか小さな家を見つけて落ち着こうと思っています。君も仕事の方が忙しくてそう簡単には休暇もとれないとは思いますが、是非近いうちに遊びに来て下さい。マリーにもそのうち手紙を書くつもりですが、よろしく伝えて下さい。新しい住所が決まり次第知らせます。体にはくれぐれも気を付けて下さい。それでは又、さようなら。

ジョン

Comment

You have reached the last lesson of this course. Whether you have completed it in one year or two, you should now be well equipped to handle most situations and you will have a solid basis in grammar, vocabulary and *kanji*. There are, of course, many more patterns and subtleties to be mastered and each style of writing and speaking has its own peculiarities, but these will now be more a matter of familiarity and practice.

We have decided to end with two letters from John, written when he is back in England. Partly because the written language can differ so much from the spoken, letter writing is an art that demands considerable practice and almost every Japanese home has at least one reference book devoted to this subject. One of the more troublesome aspects is that of tone. How formal should you be? There are many gradations: from business letters and invitations, with

their rows of polite and somewhat empty formulae, to the odd postcard to a friend. The two examples here, one written to the Yamakawas and the other to Tadashi, are quite different in tone, and yet they both lie near the informal pole. The first example does contain a few set phrases that you will find useful in any letter, at the beginning and at the end for instance, which you should learn; but most people have a whole stock of these phrases that refer to the particular season and that are often used to give a letter formality and design. A few of these are given at the end of this lesson for reference.

You will note that the handwritten example to Mr and Mrs Yamakawa is written vertically. There are various conventions about how you should set out your letters. Thank you letters of this type should be handwritten in this style; business letters on the other hand are now usually word-processed and may well be written horizontally. Be on the look-out for different formats.

52.1 ことと思う

すっかり春らしい陽気になっていることと思います。

Here is our first example of a phrase that will only really occur in a letter. 'I expect' is expressed as ことと思う rather than the と思う that you might normally expect.

52.2 にかけて

四月末から五月にかけて

The phrase から...にかけて has a different nuance from the simpler から...まで. It stresses the total aspect: 'from...right through to'. Study the following:

三月上旬から四月にかけて天気のよい日が続いた。

Through early March right into April we had good weather.

東北地方は今晚から明日の朝にかけて風が強まるでしょう。

In the Tōhoku region the wind will increase in strength from this evening through to tomorrow morning.

肩から腰にかけて痛むんですが。

I have a pain from my shoulder all the way down to my waist.

52.3 More on のように

あのように盛大な送別会
どのようにお礼を申しあげたらよいのか分かりません。

(a) Take note of the following phrases that use のように:

どのように	how, in what way
このように	like this
そのように	like that
あのように	like that

このような問題はアジアだけではなく世界各地で討議されているのでは
ありませんか。

But surely questions like these are being discussed all over the world, not
only in Asia.

自分の気持ちをどのように説明したらよいのか分かりませんでした。

I didn't know how I should have explained my own feelings.

With regard to the second sentence in the box, note that, as we explained in 41.2,
reported questions tend to have a の placed before the か, as here. This must be
present in a letter, but you will find it omitted occasionally in conversational
Japanese.

(b) ように can also be found coming immediately after the plain verb:

おこったように出て行った。

He went out, as if he were angry.

52.4 Two written expressions

何かにつけて
ことあるごとに

Both of these will only be found in written Japanese:

何かにつけて (て) means 'in all sorts of ways', 'no matter what'

ことあるごとに means 'whenever the occasion allowed'

原先生には何かにつけてお世話になった。

Professor Hara was a help to me in all sorts of ways.

原先生にはことあるごとに相談にのっていただいた。

Professor Hara gave me good advice whenever I needed it.

52.5 Causatives as independent verbs

お知らせいたします。

You were introduced to the verb 知らせる 'tell', 'inform' in 27.4 and we dealt with causatives in 37.2. Note the following list of verbs, the causative forms of which have effectively become independent verbs.

知る	知らせる	inform
会う	会わせる	introduce
合う	合わせる	fit together
見る	見せる	show

みんなで調子を合わせて歌いましょう。

Let's all sing together in tune.

明日旅の写真を見せましょう。

I'll show you the pictures of our trip tomorrow.

52.6 そうかと思うと

夢のような気がします。そうかと思うと

This phrase is used here to contradict something that has just been said. 'It feels just like a dream. But then...' Literally, of course, the structure is 'when I think "is that really the case"'. In the following sentence, however, the translation will have to be slightly different:

この赤ん坊は笑うかと思うと泣くし、泣くかと思うと笑う。

This child cries when I think it's going to laugh, and laughs when I think it's going to cry.

52.7 The verb 限る

日本から出かけていった時に限って彼女は日本へ行っている。

The verb 限る means 'limit'. It is used in various ways. Study the following examples to get some idea of how it operates:

この割引は六十歳以上の人に限って受けられます。

Only those who are over sixty can get this discount.

座席の数が限られていますので、どうぞ早目においで下さい。

The number of seats is limited so do please come early.

話を聞いている時はみんなうなずいていましたけれど、みんなが賛成するとは限りません。

Everybody was nodding while they were listening to the talk, but that does not necessarily mean they all agree.

52.8 Some useful phrases for letter writing

(a) Opening phrases, with some literal translations:

新緑の美しいさわやかな五月となりました。お元気でいらっしゃいますか。

Beautiful, fresh May with its new greenery has arrived. Are you well?

長いこと御無沙汰をしまして失礼いたしました。皆様お変わりなくお過ごしでいらっしゃいますか。

I'm sorry for not having written for so long. Is everyone as normal?

お手紙をありがとうございます。久しぶりの日本からのお便り楽しく読ませていただきました。

Thank you for your letter. It is some time since I have received news from Japan and I read it with great pleasure.

お元気ですか。この間いっしょに旅行をしてからもう一ヶ月以上になりますね。

How are you? It's already over a month since we went on holiday together.

(b) Closing remarks:

寒さに向かう折から一層の御自愛、お祈り申し上げます。

Now that we face the cold, I pray you will look after yourself all the more.

暑さの厳しい折、くれぐれもお大事に。
It being extremely hot, take great care.

また近いうちにお目にかかれることを楽しみにしています。
I look forward with great pleasure to meeting you again soon.

御家族の皆様にもどうぞよろしくお伝え下さい。
Please give my best to everyone in your family as well.

どうぞお体をお大切に。さようなら。
Please take care of yourself. Goodbye.

Key to letters

Romanisation

Mina-sama sono go o-kawari arimasen ka. Tōka mae ni Tōkyō o tatte Amerika e watari, soko de daigaku jidai no tomodachi ni attari, itoko o tazunetari shite issūkan hodo sugoshimashita. Igrisu e wa ototoi modotte kita bakari desu. Mae mae kara haha ni wa tsutā made ni wa kaeru to itte atta no de, yakusokudōri tsutā no mae no hi ni kaette kita watakushi o mite ryoshin wa ōyorokobi deshita. Nihon wa mo sukkari harurashii yoki ni natte iru koto to omoimasu. Kochira mo iro toridori no hana ga sakimidarete imasu. Shigatsu-matsu kara gogatsu ni kakete wa Igrisu no ichiban utsukushii kisetsu ka mo shiremasen. Asa yū wa mada hiekomimasu ga, nitchū wa koto nashi de aruku hito no sugata mo miraremasu.

Shuppatsu mae ni wa watakushi no tame ni ano yō ni seidai na sōbetsukai o hiraite itadaki arigatō gozaimashita. Sore ni purezento made itadaite dono yō ni o-rei o mōshiagetara yoi no ka wakarimasen. Omoiokoshite mimasu to watakushi no Nihon tōchaku no hi kara maru sannen no aida nanika ni tsukete hontō ni o-sewa ni narimashita. Geshuku ga mitsukaru made wa ikkagetsu ijō mo tomete itadakimashita shi, sono go mo koto aru tabi ni o-taku ni ukagawasete itadakimashita. Maru de kazoku no ichi'in no yō ni ukeirete itadaketa koto wa kono ue mo naku shiawase na koto datta to omotte orimasu. Aratamete kokoro kara no o-rei o mōshiagemasu.

Atarashii shigoto ga hajimaru made ni wa mada gokagetsu ijō mo arimasu no de sukoshi ochitsuete igaku zasshi nado o yonde kurashitai to omotte orimasu. Nihon ni ita aida wa mainichi mainichi ga atarashii keiken no renzoku de mitari kiitari shita koto o yukkuri shōka suru jikan mo arimasen deshita. Kore kara ryūgaku-chū ni kyōmi o mochihajimeta mondaiten

nado mo seiri shite mitai to kangaete imasu. Tadashi-kun ni wa gakkai sono ta de chikai uchi ni au kikai ga kanarazu aru to omoimasu ga, mina-sama mo Igirisu e o-ide no setsu wa dōzo o-tachiyori kudasai. Ryōshin to tomo ni kangei itashimasu. Ima wa ryōshin no ie ni orimasu ga, atarashii jūsho ga kimarimashitara o-shirase itashimasu. Minoru-kun ya Kuniko-san ni mo dōzo yoroshiku o-tsutae kudasai. Mina-sama no go-kenkō o o-inori shite orimasu.

Jon

Yamakawa Hajime sama

Yamakawa Nobuko sama

Igirisu e modotte kite shimattara, sannen mo Nihon ni ita nado to iu koto ga yume no yō na ki ga shimasu. Sō ka to omou to hajime ni kimi no uchi e itta toki ni, tashika are wa ichigatsu no sue datta to omou kedo, hoshigaki o go-chisō ni natta koto nado ga kinō no koto no yō ni hakkiri to omoidasaremasu. Kimi ni wa zuibun sewa ni narimashita. Hontō ni dōmo arigatō.

Kikoku no tochū Amerika de wa nannin ka no furui tomodachi ni aimashita ga, kimi mo shitte iru Sūzan ni wa zannen-nagara aemasen deshita. Kanojo wa kokuren de hataraite iru no de Nyūyōku e ikeba aeru to omotte ita no desu ga, chodo shutchō de Chūgoku Nihon e dekakete ite rusu deshita. Boku ga waza waza Nihon kara dekakete itta toki ni kagitte kanojo wa Nihon e itte iru to iu no dakara yohodo un ga waruin desu ne.

Dekiru dake hayaku apāto ka chiisana ie o mitsukete ochitsukō to omotte imasu. Kimi mo shigoto no hō ga isogashikute sō kantan ni wa kyūka mo torenai to wa omou keredo, zehi chikai uchi ni asobi ni kite kudasai. Marī ni mo sono uchi tegami o kaku tsumori desu ga, yoroshiku tsutaete kudasai. Atarashii jūsho ga kimari shidai shirasemasu. Karada ni wa kuregure mo ki o tsukete kudasai. Sore de wa mata sayōnara.

Jon

Translation

I hope you are all well. Ten days ago I left Tōkyō and went to America, where I spent about a week seeing friends from my university days and visiting my cousin. I have just arrived back in England the day before yesterday. I had promised my mother for some time that I would be back before Easter, so my parents were very pleased to see me when I arrived back as promised the day before Easter. I expect Japan is already having warm and springlike weather. Here too everything is blossoming in profusion. From the end of April right through to May is probably the most beautiful season in England. It is still fairly chilly in the evenings and early in the

mornings, but during the day you can see people walking about without coats.

Thank you so much for arranging such a marvellous farewell party for me before my departure. You even gave me presents and I don't know how to thank you for everything. When I cast my mind back, you have been such a great help to me for all the three years I have been in Japan. You put me up for over a month until I found lodgings, and invited me to your home on every occasion. I cannot imagine a greater pleasure than being welcomed as one of the family. Please accept my humblest thanks.

I still have about five months before my new job starts and so I intend to settle down a little and spend the time reading medical journals. While I was in Japan I had no time to digest everything I saw and heard at my leisure; a succession of new experiences every day. Now I would like to put some order into all those questions that piqued my interest during my time abroad. I am sure that I will have the chance to meet Tadashi quite soon at a conference or some such, but if you happen to come to England yourselves, do please come and see me. My parents and I would love to welcome you. I am now at my parents' home, but I will send you my new address once it's fixed. Please give my best to Minoru and Kuniko. I hope you both remain in the best of health.

John

Mr and Mrs H. Yamakawa

Now that I am back in England, the fact that I was in Japan for three years seems like a bit of a dream. But then, I can remember clearly as though it were yesterday the first time I visited your home. I think it must have been near the end of January, when you treated me to those dried persimmon. You have been such a tremendous help to me. Thank you for all you have done.

On the way home I met a number of old friends in America, but didn't manage to see Susan, whom you also know. She is working for the United Nations and so I thought I would be able to see her if I went to New York, but she had just gone to China and Japan on business and was not there. What rotten luck that she goes to Japan on the one occasion that I had left Japan to see her.

I would like to find a flat or a small house and settle down here as soon as possible. I know that you will also be very busy and will not be able to take leave that easily, but do please come for a holiday soon. I'm going to write to Marie soon, but in the meantime please give her my best. I'll send my new address as soon as it's fixed. Look after yourself. See you soon.

John