

Lesson 16

Tadashi and John meet again after John's trip to Kyōto

- 正 今晚は。
- ジョン やあ、正さん、今晚は。おととい京都からもどりました。
- 正 そうですか。お天気はどうでしたか。
- ジョン 最後の一日は雨でしたがあとはいいお天気でした。
正さんは相変わらず週末も仕事をしていましたか。
- 正 僕もこの週末は仕事がなかったのから久しぶりに山登りに行きました。
- ジョン 山はもう寒くありませんでしたか。
- 正 いや、すばらしい秋晴れだったのでいい週末を過ごしました。
- ジョン 正さんの弟さんにも京都で会いましたよ。
- 正 それはよかった。よく勉強していましたか。
- ジョン さあ…。でもとても元気でした。
- 正 そうですか。ジョンさん、夕食はまだですか。
- ジョン ええ、これからです。
- 正 きょうはめずらしくたくさんお金を持っているので私が
ごちそうします。
- ジョン ありがとうございます。それは嬉しいですね。
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16.1 'Good evening/night'

今晚は。

Unlike its English equivalent, this phrase is only used for greeting people in the evening; it is not used when parting. It is complementary in usage to the phrase 今日、'hello'.

16.2 The ～て form

To obtain this form simply replace the perfective ～た by ～て.

<i>Group I</i>	<i>plain citation</i> ending in <i>-u, -ru, -tsu</i>	<i>～て form</i> ends in <i>-tte</i>
	言う say	言って
	買う buy	買って
	会う meet	会って
	使う use	使って
	ある exist	あって
	入る enter	入って
	乗る ride	乗って
	待つ wait	待って
	 ending in <i>-ku</i>	 ends in <i>-ite</i>
	書く write	書いて
	歩く walk	歩いて
	聞く listen, ask	聞いて
	 ending in <i>-mu, -nu</i>	 ends in <i>-nde</i>
	飲む drink	飲んで
	読む read	読んで
	死ぬ die	死んで
	 ending in <i>-su</i>	 ends in <i>-shite</i>
	話す talk	話して
	貸す lend	貸して
	 ending in <i>-gu</i>	 ends in <i>-ide</i>
	泳ぐ swim	泳いで
	かぐ smell, sniff	かいで
<i>exception:</i>	行く go	行って

	<i>plain citation</i>		<i>～て form</i>
<i>Group II</i>	ending in <i>-ru</i>		ends in <i>-te</i>
	いる	exist	いて
	出る	go out	出て
	かける	hang	かけて
	見る	see	見て
	寝る	go to bed	寝て
	起きる	get up	起きて
	食べる	eat	食べて
	<i>plain citation</i>		<i>～て form</i>
<i>irregular</i>	来る	to come	来(き)て
	する	to do	して

16.3 Meaning and uses of the ～て form

週末も仕事をしていましたか。

As you will discover, the ～て form is used in a wide range of constructions. In this lesson we shall investigate the form ～て + いる. The meaning of ～ている depends on the nature and semantic properties of the verb and so we shall first have to analyse the verbal system in more detail. Japanese verbs can be divided into two major categories: stative and dynamic.

16.4 Stative verbs

Stative verbs; refer to states rather than actions. They include all potential forms (which you will meet later), most descriptive verbs, and the following:

ある	be (existential, inanimate)
いる	be (existential, animate)

要る	be in need of, be necessary
ちがう	be different, differ
分かる	understand
出来る	be capable of

These verbs are not found in the *～ている* form when they are used in a stative sense, because their simple imperfective form indicates present situation. You will see later, however, that in certain circumstances a few of them can be used in dynamic senses too.

16.5 Dynamic verbs

Dynamic verbs refer to actions or processes and they comprise the majority of Japanese verbs. Their imperfective form indicates either future or generic action, but never present situation, which is expressed with *～ている*. Dynamic verbs can in turn be subdivided into two sets: *durative* and *punctual*. Only durative verbs will be dealt with in this lesson.

16.6 Durative verbs

When durative verbs are in the *～ている* form they express progressive action, and when in the *～ていた* form they express progressive action in the past. This set includes such verbs as 待つ, 読む, 書く, and 話す. The point about these verbs is that the action they describe in their basic form is seen as taking place over a period of time. Waiting, reading, writing and talking all take some time to complete, so that when the verb *いる*, which has the basic meaning of 'being', is added to the *～て* form the progressive nature of the verb is highlighted.

父はタイムスを読む。

My father reads *The Times* (as a habit).

父はタイムスを読んでいる。

My father is reading a newspaper (actual action going on).

父は新聞を読んでいた。

My father was reading a newspaper.

あしたシェフィールド大学で日本の政治について話します。

I will talk on Japanese politics tomorrow at Sheffield University.

今ラジオでドイツの首相が貿易について話しています。

The German Prime Minister is talking on foreign trade on the radio now.

16.7 Use of *ので* and *から*

この週末は仕事が多かったから久しぶりに山登りに行きました。

きょうはめずらしくたくさんお金を持っているので私がごちそうします。

ので and *から* are sentence particles denoting causal relation. *ので* is used either following verbs directly or following nouns and adjectival nouns with *な*. Note this use of *な*. Do *not* use *だ* in this construction.

高かったのでその洋服は買わなかった。

I did not buy that dress because it was expensive.

とてもよいお天気なので散歩に行きます。

As the weather is fine I am going for a walk.

音楽が好きなのでよくレコードを聞きます。

As I like music I often listen to records.

から is used either following verbs directly or following noun + *だ*.

この洋服は安かったから買った。

I bought this dress because it was cheap.

今日は土曜日だから町はかなり混んでいる。

The town is rather crowded because it is Saturday today.

このワープロはとても便利だから毎日使う。

This word processor is very convenient and so I use it every day.

Both *ので* and *から* can be translated 'because', but there are differences, differences which have to do more with style than anything else. In general *から* is less formal and is much used in conversation. *ので* is far more common in written Japanese and its use in conversation imparts a slight formal stiffness. It is for this reason that *から* can be said to carry with it a slightly more assertive tone, as if the connection is being made crystal clear. It may help you to catch the difference in nuance if you remind yourself that *ので* literally means 'with the fact of...' and *から* '(starting out) from the fact that...'

Key to conversation

Romanisation

- Tadashi Konban wa.
- Jon Ya, Tadashi-san, konban wa. Ototoi Kyōto kara modorimashita.
- Tadashi Sō desu ka. O-tenki wa dō deshita ka.
- Jon Saigo no ichinichi wa ame deshita ga, ato wa ii o-tenki deshita. Tadashi-san wa aikawarazu shūmatsu mo shigoto o shite imashita ka.
- Tadashi Boku mo kono shūmatsu wa shigoto ga nakatta kara hisashiburi ni yamanobori ni ikimashita.
- Jon Yama wa mo samuku arimasen deshita ka.
- Tadashi Iya, subarashii akibare datta no de ii shūmatsu o sugoshimashita.
- Jon Tadashi-san no otōto-san ni mo Kyōto de aimashita yo.
- Tadashi Sore wa yokatta. Yoku benkyō shite imashita ka.
- Jon Saa...Demo totemo genki deshita.
- Tadashi Sō desu ka. Jon-san, yūshoku wa mada desu ka.
- Jon Ē, kore kara desu.
- Tadashi Kyō wa mezurashiku takusan o-kane o motte iru no de watashi ga gochisō shimasu.
- Jon Arigatō gozaimasu. Sore wa ureshii desu ne.
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Translation

Tadashi Good evening.

John Hello Tadashi, good evening. I got back from Kyoto the day before yesterday.

Tadashi Really? How was the weather?

John It rained the last day but apart from that it was good weather. Were you working over the weekend as usual?

Tadashi I didn't have any work this weekend either, so I went hiking in the mountains, which I haven't done for a long time.

John Wasn't it already cold in the mountains?

Tadashi Not at all. It was marvellous fine autumn weather and so I had a great weekend.

John Tadashi, I also met your younger brother in Kyoto, you know.

Tadashi That's good. Was he studying hard?

John Hm/He was very well though.

Tadashi I see. John, have you eaten dinner yet?

John No, not yet.

Tadashi I've got an unusually large amount of money with me today, so I'll buy you dinner.

John Thank you very much. That sounds wonderful.
