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せかい
また、世界をすくったぞ!



#38 April 2021

Jokes • Grammar • Beginner & Intermediate Readers • Culture • JLPT N5 Kanji



this month's reader:

にほん

くだもの

日本の果物

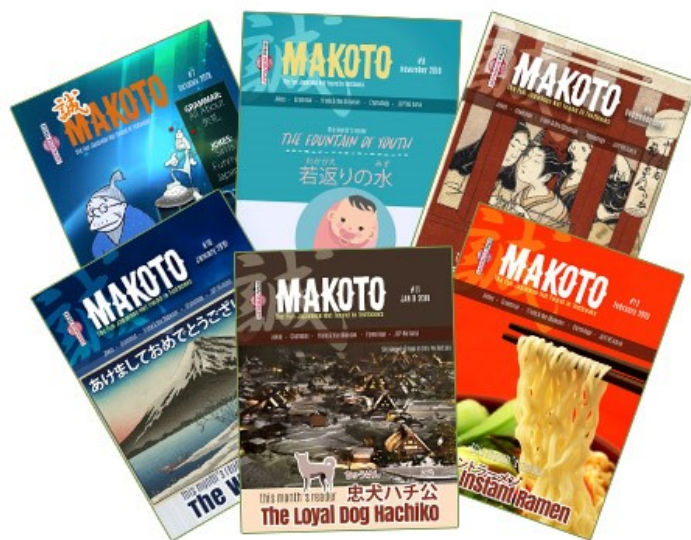
JAPANESE FRUITS

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for your purchase!



In this issue, we finally wrap up Frank and the Obaasan Season 2. Will Frank and the Obaasan once again save the universe? Well, I'll just tell you. Yes. Yes, they will. But you'll have to read to find out how.

If you like Frank, please let us know. Starting next month, we'll go back to our regular beginner-level stand-alone essays, but if we hear Frank's name whispered enough, we'll eventually do a third season.

Or, on the other hand, if you wish the silliness would just stop, let us know that too.

Thank you!
Clay & Yumi

P.S. Here's the site. Check out Makoto+!

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The cover says, また世界をすくったぞ! *mata sekai o sukutta zo!*, which means, "(I) have saved the world again!"

WHO ARE WE?

Nearly two decades ago, Clay & Yumi began **TheJapanesePage.com**, one of the Internet's oldest and largest **free** Japanese instructional sites with hundreds of free articles for beginners of Japanese.

They also maintain **TheJapanShop.com**, a webstore specializing in materials to help learners of Japanese.

Have any questions or comments?

Contact Clay directly at

clay@thejapanshop.com

In this Issue:

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- ◆ Vocabulary: Idiom
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LAUGHS, JOKEs, RIDDLES, AND PUNS

はなし き はな なん
いつも話を聞してくれる花は何でしょう？

What is the flower that always listens?

こた きく
答え、きく(菊)

Answer: Kiku (Chrysanthemum) [sounds like 聞く (to listen; to hear)]



Vocabulary:

いつも *itsumo*—at all times; each and every time

話 *hanashi*—speech; story; tale; talk

を *o*—(indicates direct object of action)

花 *hana*—flower

話を聞してくれる花 *hanashi o kiite kureru hana*—a listening flower; a flower that listens to (me) [from 話を聞く (hear a story; listen to (someone)); ~てくれる is used to express that something was done for you. How to use: Verb (て form) + くれる/ くれます (polite). Also, the 聞してくれる is used to modify the noun 花 (flower). To modify a noun with a verb, we need to use the standard form of the verb before the noun which we want to modify.]

は *wa*—(topic marker particle)

何でしょう *nan deshō*—what is/are ~? [polite way of asking question]

答え *kotae*—answer; reply

きく (菊) *kiku (kiku)*—chrysanthemum



VOCABULARY

Learn Useful Words, Phrases, and Sayings

くち

口がかたい

kuchi ga katai

tight-lipped; able to keep a secret; lips are sealed

i If someone never carelessly discloses information, they can be said to have a "hard" mouth. The antonym of this expression is 口が軽い *kuchi ga karui*. One's mouth is light (not heavy).

Literally, "mouth is hard." Because a tight/hard mouth isn't likely to open, secrets are kept safe.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

かれ くち ひみつ はな だいじょうぶ
彼は、口がかたいので、秘密を話しても大丈夫だ。

kare wa, kuchi ga katai node, himitsu o hanashitemo daijoubu da.

He is tight-lipped, so it's safe to tell him secrets.

VOCABULARY:

彼 *kare*—he

は *wa*—(topic marker particle)

口がかたい *kuchi ga katai*—tight-lipped; able to keep a secret; lips are sealed [口 (mouth) + が (subject marker) + かたい (hard)]

ので *node*—therefore; because

秘密 *himitsu*—secret

を *o*—(direct object marker)

話しても *hanashitemo*—even if (you) speak [話して *te*-form of 話す (to tell) + も (even if)]

大丈夫 *daijoubu*—OK; fine

だ *da*—plain form of です (be; is; a word that links subjects and predicates)

口がかたい

PREFECTURE SPOTLIGHT

ひょうご

Hyogo 兵庫

Japanese: 兵庫県 *Hyōgo ken*

Capital: 神戸 Kobe

Population: 5,582,978 (November 1, 2011)



DID YOU KNOW?

Hyogo prefecture borders two seas: the Sea of Japan to the north and the Inland Sea to the south. In 1180, the emperor moved the imperial court to what is now the city of Kobe, but for only five months!



PLACES TO SEE:

- **Himeji Castle**—built with traditional wooden architecture and stone walls. Originally built in 1333 and expanded through the years, Himeji Castle remains intact even through typhoons, earthquakes, and bombings. It is one of the very few Japanese castles that is not a reconstruction.
- **Kinosaki Onsen**—this old-fashioned onsen town has been well known for its hot springs since the 8th century.
- **Kobe**—historic port for foreign trade in the 19th century that has gardens, shopping, museums, and the Kobe Port Tower with an observation deck.
- **Kitano Ijinkan**—a historical district containing Meiji-era foreign residences.

FAMOUS FOR:

- **Metal and medical industries.**
- The World Heritage Site, **Himeji Castle**.
- The **1995 magnitude 7.2 Great Hanshin earthquake** which destroyed major parts of Kobe and killed 6,500 people.
- **Takarazuka**—famous for the all-female Broadway-esque theater productions.
- **Kobe beef**—beef from the Wagyu cattle raised according to tradition in Hyogo.

ごげん
語源

ETYMOLOGY

言葉の語源 kotoba no gogen - The origin of words:

た おうじょう
立ち往生

gridlock; being brought to a standstill

おおゆき でんしゃ うご じゅうたい くるま うご た おうじょう
大雪で電車が動けなくなったり、渋滞で車が動けなくなること「立ち往生」
い おうじょう し いみ た おうじょう
と言います。「往生」というのは、「死ぬ」という意味ですから、「立ち往生」
た し いみ かまくらじだい みなものよしつね つか
とは、立ったまま死ぬという意味になります。鎌倉時代、源義経に仕えていた
けらい べんけい しゅじん まも てき や むすう う たお た し
家来、弁慶が主人を守るため、敵の矢を無数に受けても倒れず、立ったまま死んだ
た おうじょう ことば う みうご と
ことから、立ち往生という言葉が生まれました。これが、身動きが取れなくな
い いみ べんけい
る、どこへも行けなくなるという意味でつかわれるようになりました。弁慶の
ちゅうせいしん
忠誠心は、すごかったのですね。

When a train gets stuck due to heavy snow or cars get stuck due to a traffic jam, it is called "*tachi oujou* (gridlock)". "*oujou*" means "to die", so "*tachi oujou*" means "to die standing up". In the Kamakura period (1185-1333), Benkei, a retainer who served Minamoto no Yoshitsune, died standing up to protect his master, even though he was hit by countless arrows from the enemy. With this story, the word *tachi oujou* (standing death) was born. This word has come to be used in the sense that someone is unable to move or go anywhere. Benkei's loyalty was amazing, wasn't it?

Etymology Continued

Vocabulary:

語源 etymology; origin of a word

立ち往生 gridlock; being brought to a standstill

大雪 heavy snow

で due to; because of [is used to indicate a causal reason for an action or occurrence]

電車 train; electric train

が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

動けなくなったり (train) gets stuck or [from 動けなくなる (to become unable to move); formation: change the い at the end of a negative verb (動けない (plain present negative form of 動く (to move) which means “can’t move”) with く and then add なる (to become). ~り is used as parallel markers for lists of verbs. This is the counterpart to the parallel marker や which is for nouns. The function is to list multiple actions or states but implies that there are other unspoken actions or states. How to form: make the verb (plain form) into past tense form and add り. Ex. 動けなくなる → 動けなくなった + り → 動けなくなったり]

渋滞 traffic jam; traffic congestion

車 car; vehicle

動けなくなる to become unable to move [from 動けない (can’t move) which is the plain present negative form of 動く (to move). In order to attach なる (to become), we have to change the い at the end of the negative verb, into く then add なる.]

こと (verb nominalizer) [It allows you to use the preceding verb as noun. How to form: Verb (casual, non-past) + こと]

を (indicates direct object of action)

と言います it is called; it is said that [と (quote marker) + 言います (to call; to say)]

往生 death [往 (journey; travel; going) + 生 (life)]

というのは this means; the meaning of ... is [how to form: Noun/phrase + というのは + reason/explanation/definition]

死ぬ to die; to pass away

意味 meaning; sense; significance

ですから so; therefore

とは (indicates word or phrase being defined)

Etymology Continued

立ったまま standing up [~まま is a suffix which means “as it is” or “without changing”; how to form: Verb (た-form) + まま]

という意味になります means; it means that; which means [という (that) + 意味 (meaning) + になります (become; turns out)]

鎌倉時代 Kamakura period (1185-1333)

源義経 Minamoto no Yoshitsune [was a military commander of the Minamoto clan of Japan in the late Heian and early Kamakura periods.]

に仕えていた served for (Minamoto no Yoshitsune); attended on [に (for; on) + 仕えていた (served)]

家来 retainer; servant

弁慶 Benkei [was a Japanese warrior monk who came to respect and serve the famous warrior Minamoto no Yoshitsune. He is commonly depicted as a man of great strength and loyalty.]

主人 (one's) master

守る to protect; to guard; to defend

ため in order to; for the purpose of

敵の矢 arrows from the enemy; enemy's arrows [敵 (opponent; enemy) + の (‘s; indicates possession) + 矢 (arrow)]

無数に countless; innumerably; numerous

受けても even though (he) was struck by (countless arrows) [from 受ける (to be struck by); ~ても means “even though” or “although”; how to form: Verb (て form) + も]

倒れず without falling [from 倒れる (to collapse; to fall down); ~ず means “without doing something”; how to form: Verb ~~ない~~ + ず and for irregular: する (to do), instead of saying しず, you say せず (without doing)]

死んだ died [casual past form of 死ぬ (to die)]

ことから from the fact that...

という言葉 the word called ~ [という (called) + 言葉 (word)]

生まれました was/were born [polite past tense form of 生まれる (to be born)]

これが this is

身動き moving about

Etymology Continued

身動きが取れなくなる become unable to move [from 身動きが取れない (unable to move). To attach なる (to become), we have to change the い at the end of the negative verb, into く then add なる.]

どこへも nowhere; not anywhere

行けなくなる become unable to go; cannot go [from 行けない (can't go) which is the potential plain present indicative negative form of 行く (to go). To attach なる (to become), we have to change the い at the end of the negative verb into く then add なる.]

という意味でつかわれる be used in the sense that [という (that) + 意味 (meaning; sense) + で (in the) + つかわれる (be used; plain passive present form of つかう (to use))]

ようになりました has come to be (used); reached the point that [polite past form of ようになる (to come to be that); by combining ように with なる, you can express the change of state of the situation.]

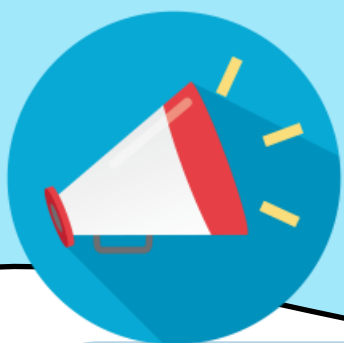
弁慶の忠誠心 Benkei's loyalty [弁慶 (Benkei) + の ('s) + 忠誠心 (loyalty)]

は (topic marker particle)

すごかった was amazing [past form of すごい (amazing)]

のです (to explain something; show emphasis)

ね isn't it?; right? [sentence ender; it is used when prompting someone for agreement or when you want to share the same kind of feelings with others]

LEVEL
N4UPPER
BEGINNER+

ANIME / MANGA PHRASE

Surprise your Japanese friends with these phrases

Please see the sound files for the pronunciation

ドラゴンボール

おら だれ
「俺がやらなきゃ、誰がやる」

そんごくう
孫悟空

doragon bo-ru

['ora ga yaranakya, dare ga yaru]

Son Gokuu

Dragon Ball

“If I don’t do it, who will?”

Son Gokū

VOCABULARY

ドラゴンボール *doragon bo-ru*—dragon ball

俺 *ora*—I; me [male term or language]

が *ga*—(indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

やらなきゃ *yanakya*—if one does not do it; unless (I) do it [from やる (to do); ~なきゃ is a contraction of なければ which means “unless one ...” or “if one does not ...”. It is often used in casual conversation. How to use: Verb ない-stem + なきゃ]

誰 *dare*—who

やる *yaru*—to do

孫悟空 *son gokuu*—[is based on Sun Wukong, as attested by his monkey tail, staff, and name which is simply the Japanese reading of the same name in Chinese: 孫悟空]



LEVEL N4

UPPER BEGINNER+

よ さ ぶ そ ん

みの　かさ

harusame ya / monogatari yuku / mino to kasa

12



HAIKU

Condensed Japanese Language and Culture

LEVEL
N4

UPPER
BEGINNER+

Continued

ものがたり story; tale

ゆく to come and go; to pass through

蓑 straw raincoat

と and

傘 umbrella; something shaped like an umbrella or a conical hat

春の雨 Spring rain [春 (spring; springtime) + の (modifier) + 雨 (rain)]

が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

静かに quietly; gently; peacefully

ふっています falling [from ふる (to fall (of rain, snow, etc.)); Verb て-form + います (polite form) expresses an ongoing action, continuous action that is happening in the present]

その that; the

中を while; in the midst of; in

傘をさしている holding an umbrella up [from 傘をさす (to hold an opened umbrella); ~ Verb て-form + いる is used to describe an ongoing action]

傘をさしている人 a person holding an umbrella [傘をさしている (holding an opened umbrella) + 人 (person); 傘をさしている is used to modify the noun 人. To modify a noun with a verb, we need to use the standard form of the verb before the noun which we want to modify.]

と and

蓑をきた wore a straw raincoat [casual past form of 蓑をきる (to wear a straw raincoat)]



HAIKU

Condensed Japanese Language and Culture

LEVEL
N4

UPPER
BEGINNER+

Continued

蓑をきた人 the person who wore a straw raincoat [蓑をきた (wore a straw raincoat) + 人 (person); 蓑をきた modifies the noun 人]

二人 two persons; two people [二 (two) + 人 (person)]

何か something; some; any

話をしながら while talking [from 話をする (to have a talk); ~ながら means “while doing something” or “to do two actions at the same time”; how to form: Verb ます (stem form) + ながら]

歩いていきます to go by walking [歩いて is the て form of 歩く (to walk) which is used to connect to the second verb いきます (to go; polite form of いく); ~ていきます expresses physical movement]

静かで平和な quiet and peaceful [静か (quiet) + で (and) + 平和な (peaceful)]

情景 scene; spectacle; sight

思い浮かびます come to mind; come across

KANJI SPOTLIGHT

Learning kanji one character at a time.



LEVEL

BEGINNER
JLPT N5

JLPT N5 Kanji

好

On: コウ

Kun: この.お す.く よ.い い.い

Meaning : fond; pleasing; to like something

Hint: Women 女 *like* children 子.

Stroke Order:

好 好 好 好 好 好 好

Examples:

だいす
大好き love; love very much

なか よ
仲好く on good terms with; get along with; peacefully

す きら
好き嫌い likes and dislikes; pickiness (usually about food); choosy

かれ おんがく この すば
彼の音楽の好みは素晴らしい。

kare no ongaku no konomi wa subarashii.

His tastes in music is superb.

VOCABULARY:

彼の *kare no*—his [彼 (he) + の ('s)]

音楽 *ongaku*—music

の *no*—(modifier) [shows relationship between
音楽 and 好み, in which the first noun (音楽)
modifies the second noun (好み) to give an ex-

planation]

好み *konomi*—taste; choice

は *wa*—(topic marker particle)

素晴らしい *subarashii*—wonderful;
splendid; magnificent

文法の時間 GRAMMAR TIME

を o (particle)

ABOUT:

■ This is the direct object marker. It is usually spoken as "o" in modern Japanese although originally it was "wo." Some native speakers do sometimes voice the "w" today. But as a rule, pronounce it the same as お.

It is not, however, a substitute for お. を is only used (in modern Japanese) for the direct object marker.

HOW TO USE:

■ **Marks the Direct Object:** In English, we don't have a particle that shows the direct object. A direct object is the object that a transitive verb acts upon.

A transitive verb is simply a verb that has an object. For example: I carried a book. ("Carried" is a transitive verb which requires an object to be carried)

わたし ほん よ
私は、本を読みました。 I read a book.

ほん
[本 (book) is the direct object which was read]

STUDY NOTES:

■ This particle is pretty straightforward. Just put it after the direct object. The main exception is with some verbs, が or に replaces を after what would be the direct object in English.

わたし す
私は、あなたが好きです。 I like you.

[Here, あなた (you) is the object which 私 (I) likes. But as mentioned previously, が is used with
好き.]

文法の時間

GRAMMAR TIME



Continued

^{わたし}私は、^ああなたに会いたいです。 I want to see you.

[^{わたし}あなた (you) is the object which the topic, 私 (I), wants to see. Normally, the object uses を, but ^あに is used with 会う]

MAIN POINTS:

- を is almost always pronounced "o" in modern Japanese. But to type it on the keyboard, you'll need to press "wo".
- を is replaced with が or に with certain verbs.

VOCABULARY:

私 *watashi*—I; me

は *wa*—(topic marker particle)

本 *hon*—book

読みました *yomimashita*—read [polite past tense form of 読む (to read)]

あなた *anata*—you (referring to someone of equal or lower status)

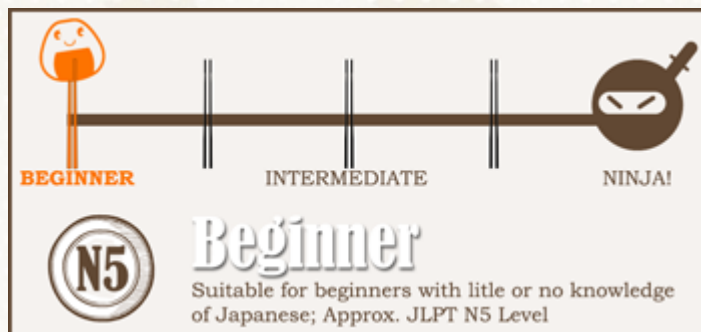
好き *suki*—like; favorite; well-liked

です *desu*—be; is

会いたい *aitai*—want to see [from 会う (to see; to meet). たい is used to express a desire to do something. Formation: Verb-ます stem + たい]

よんでみよう LET'S READ!

Learn through reading for (very) beginners of Japanese



Have you only recently learned hiragana and need practice? Or perhaps, your hiragana is no problem, but you want to build your reading comprehension?

Frank and the Obaasan is here to the rescue!

Previously, Frank, an alien, crash landed into Japan and met Obaasan. With Obaasan's help, Frank learned much of the Japanese language and culture.

Following their intergalactic adventures from the first season, Frank and the Obaasan must now protect Japan from the Oresama menace. Oresama (aka Kitichan) intends to destroy the most *kawaii* thing in the universe. That, of course, is found in Japan...



Makoto+ members can access this in a more interactive format. To learn more:

<http://thejapanesepage.com/makoto>

And now...

FRANK AND THE OBAASAN

EPISODE TEN:

れい お礼にパンケーキ

Try to read the Japanese first. If you need the rōmaji version, use it sparingly. Lastly, read the English to cement understanding. The pages following this section will break down each line and explain grammar, kanji, and culture. Please look for the MP3s of the stories. And now, **Episode Ten: Pancakes as a Reward**

[ORESAMA]: おい、おばあさん、なんで笑っているんだ？ この猫カフェ
を破壊するぞ。

[OBAASAN]: (ニコニコしながら) 周りをよく見て。何か気づかない？

[ORESAMA]: うん？なんだ？ あれ？おかしいな。猫は動かない。あ、紙
に書いてあるだけだ。だましたな？

[OBAASAN]: 今よ、檻、お願い。【檻が急にオレサマの周りに下りてくる。】

[ORESAMA]: なんなんだ。これは？

[OBAASAN]: うふふ、これは私の罠よ。あなたを捕まえるための、わ・な。

[ORESAMA]: どうして俺サマが「オレサマ」とわかったんだ？

[OBAASAN]: まず、こんなにかっこいいおじいさんは地球にはいない
わ。それから、ちょっと頭からアンテナが見えてるわよ。さ、エンペラー

さん、この人^{ひと}を逮捕^{たいほ}してちょうだい。

(オレサマは逮捕^{たいほ}される)

[ORESAMA]： く、くそ～。うえ～ん、うえ～ん。(泣^なく)

[EMPERORS]： おばあさん、ありがとうございます。おかげで全宇宙^{ぜんうちゅう}が
救^{すく}われました。

[FRANK]： お礼^{れい}にパンケーキを食^たべに行きましよう。おごりますよ。

[OBAASAN]： あら、全宇宙^{ぜんうちゅう}を救^{すく}ったのに、それだけ？ま、いいか。パン
ケーキが食^たべたかったのよ。

その後、しばらくの間、全宇宙^{あいた ぜんうちゅう}は平和^{へいわ}になりました。しばらくだけ。

おしまい。

Try to read the Japanese first. If you need the rōmaji version, use it sparingly. Lastly, read the English to cement understanding. The following pages will break down each line and explain grammar, kanji, and culture. Please look for the MP3s of the stories. And now, **Episode Ten: Pancakes as a Reward**

Oresama: *oi, obaasan, nande waratte iru n da? kono neko kafe o hakai suru zo.*

Obaasan: *(nikoniko shinagara) mawari o yoku mite. nanika kizukanai?*

Oresama: *un? nan da? are? okashii na. neko wa ugokanai. a, kami ni kaitearu dake da. damashita na?*

Obaasan: *ima yo, ori, onegai. [ori ga kyuu ni oresama no mawari ni orite kuru.]*

Oresama: *nan nan da. kore wa?*

Obaasan: *ufufu, kore wa watashi no wana yo. anata o tsukamaeru tame no, wa • na.*

Oresama: *doushite oresama ga 「oresama」 to wakatta n da?*

Obaasan: *mazu, konnani kakkoii ojiisan wa chikyuu ni wa inai wa. sorekara, chotto atama kara antena ga mieteru wa yo. sa, enpera-san, kono hito o taiho shite choudai.*

(oresama wa taiho sareru.)

Oresama: *ku, kuso~. ue~n, ue~n. (naku).*

Emperors: *obaasan, arigatou gozaimasu. okage de zenuchuu ga sukuwaremashita.*

Frank: *orei ni panke-ki o tabe ni ikimashou. ogorimasu yo.*

Obaasan: *ara, zenuchuu o sukutta noni, sore dake? ma, ii ka. panke-ki ga tabe-takatta no yo.*

sono ato, shibaraku no aida, zenuchuu wa heiwa ni narimashita. shibaraku dake. oshimai.

Oresama: Hey, Obaasan, why are you smiling? I'm going to destroy this cat cafe.

Obaasan: (While smiling) Look around carefully. Don't you notice anything?

Oresama: Hmm? What? That? That's weird. The cats aren't moving. Oh, it's just a drawing on a piece of paper. You tricked me, didn't you?

Obaasan: Now, cage, please. [The cage suddenly comes down around Oresama.]

Oresama: What's going on? What's this?

Obaasan: Heh-heh. This is my trap. It's a t-r-a-p to catch you.

Oresama: How did you know that I was "Ore-sama"?

Obaasan: First, there's no way such a cool Ojiisan could exist on earth. On top of that, I can see a little bit of your antenna sticking out of your head. Now, Emperor, I need you to arrest this person.

(Oresama is put under arrest.)

Oresama: Darn! Drat! Unn~, unn~.
(Weeping)

Emperors: Thank you, Obaasan. Thanks to you, the whole universe has been saved.

Frank: For your reward, let's go out for pancakes. I'll buy!

Obaasan: Oh, I saved the entire universe, and yet that's all I got? Eh..., whatever. I wanted pancakes anyway.

For a while after that, peace reigned throughout the universe. Only for a while.

The end.

Now, let's break down each line for better understanding.

おい、おばあさん、^{わら}なんで笑っているんだ？ ^{ねこ}この猫カフェを
^{はかい}破壊するぞ。

Hey, Obaasan, why are you smiling? I'm going to destroy this cat cafe.

VOCABULARY

おい hey!; oi!; ahoy!

おばあさん obaasan; old woman;
senior citizen

なんで why

笑っている smiling [from 笑う (to
smile; to laugh)]

んだ (is casual for のです which is
used when asking for a reason)

この this

猫カフェ cat café [猫 (cat) + カフェ
(café)]

を (indicates direct object of action)

破壊する destroy; abolish

ぞ (male term or language, used at
sentence end to add force)

NOTES

笑っている [is the Verb て-form + いる of 笑う (to
smile). ~ている is a progressive form of the verb
which expresses an ongoing action, continuous
action that is happening in the present. How to
form: Verb て-form + いる]

んだ [when used to ask a question, it begs a deeper
explanation over a superficial reply]

Now, let's break down each line for better understanding.



まわ み なに き
(ニコニコしながら) 周りをよく見て。何か気づかない？

(While smiling) Look around carefully. Don't you notice anything?

VOCABULARY

ニコニコしながら while smiling

周り surrounding; vicinity; around

を (indicates direct object of action)

よく見て look carefully

何か something; some; any

気づかない not notice [from 気づく
(to notice; to recognize)]

NOTES

ニコニコしながら [from ニコニコする (to smile);
~ながら means “while doing something” or “to
do two actions at the same time”; how to form:
Verb ます (stem form) + ながら]

よく見て [よく (well; carefully) + 見て (look). よ
く is an adverb form of いい / よい (good; well).
見て is the て-form of 見る (to look) which is
used to request or command someone else to do
something.]

気づかない is a ない-form of 気づく (to notice; to
recognize). ~ない on the end of the verb indi-
cates a negative plain form of a verb which has a
similar function as “not”.

うん？なんだ？ あれ？おかしいな。猫は動かない。あ、紙に書いてあるだけだ。だましたな？

Hmm? What? That? That's weird. The cat doesn't move. Oh, it's just a drawing on a piece of paper. You tricked me, didn't you?

VOCABULARY

うん hmm; hum; erm

なんだ what?; oh

あれ that

おかしいな that's weird

猫 cat

は (topic marker particle)

動かない doesn't/don't move [from
動く (to move)]

あ ah; oh

紙 paper

に on; in

書いてある writing [from 書く (to
write)]

だけ only; just; merely

だ be; is [casual form of the polite
copula です]

だましたな (you) tricked (me), didn't
you? [from だます (to trick; to
cheat)]

NOTES

おかしいな [おかしい (strange; weird) + な
(casual suffix which is generally considered to be
“male speech”). ~な is used when you express
what you feel or think. Sometimes you are just
talking to yourself so it doesn't matter whether
you have a listener or not. How to form: い-
adjective + な]

動かない is a ない-form of 動く (to move). ~ない
on the end of the verb indicates a negative plain
form of a verb which has a similar function as
“not”.

だましたな [だました (tricked) + な (casual
suffix; male speech). だました is the casual
past tense form of だます (to trick). な is used to
ask agreement from the listener or to confirm
something. The speaker is sharing his feelings
with the listener.]



いま おり ねが おり きゅう まわ お
 今よ、檻、お願い。【檻が急にオレサマの周りに下りてくる。】

Now, cage, please. [The cage suddenly comes down around Oresama.]

VOCABULARY

今よ now [今 (now) + よ (emphasis)]

檻 cage

お願い please; request

が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

急に suddenly; swiftly; quickly

オレサマの周り around Oresama

に in

下りてくる come down

NOTES

オレサマの周り [オレサマ (Oresama) + の (modifier) + 周り (around; surrounding). オレサマ sounds like a self-centered 1st person pronoun.]

下りてくる [下りて (て-form of 下りる (to descend)) + くる (to come). て-form of 下りる is used to enable it to connect to the succeeding verb くる. ~てくる expresses physical movement.]

なんなんだ。これは？

What's going on? What's this?

VOCABULARY

なんなんだ what's going on?; what's happening?

これは what's this?

NOTES

なんなんだ expresses a surprising and shocked feeling.

これは [これ (this) + は (this hanging は implies an unspoken phrase)]



わたし わな

つか

うふふ、これは私の罠よ。あなたを捕まえるための、わ・な。

Heh-heh. This is my trap. It's a t-r-a-p to catch you.

VOCABULARY

うふふ heh-heh; chuckling; giggling

これは as for this; this is

私の罠 my trap [私の (my) + 罠
(trap; snare)]よ (sentence ender showing emphasis
and certainty)あなた you (referring to someone of
equal or lower status)

を (indicates direct object of action)

捕まえる to catch; to capture

ための something for ~

わ・な t-r-a-p (trap; snare)

NOTES

ための + noun = something for ~; modifying a
noun. Ex. ためのわな → trap for ~わ・な [the middle dot in Japanese forces the
reader to pause. The ・ isn't pronounced, you
just pause for a bit.]

おれ

どうして俺サマが「オレサマ」とわかったんだ？

How did you know that I was "Ore-sama"?

VOCABULARY

どうして how; by what means

俺サマ Oresama

が (indicates sentence subject
(occasionally object))とわかったんだ recognized that;
found out that; did know that

NOTES

とわかったんだ [と (that) + わかった (did
know) + んだ (casual for のです which is used
when asking for a reason). わかった is the casu-
al past form of わかる (know; find). When んだ
is used to ask a question, it begs a deeper expla-
nation over a superficial reply.]俺サマ or オレサマ Oresama [sounds like a self-
centered 1st person pronoun]



ちきゅう

まず、こんなにかっこいいおじいさんは地球にはいないわ。それ

あたま

み

から、ちょっと頭からアンテナが見えてるわよ。

First, there's no way such a cool Ojiisan could exist on earth. On top of that, I can see a little bit of your antenna sticking out of your head.

VOCABULARY

まず first (of all); to begin with

こんなに such a; like this; so; in this way

かっこいい good-looking; cool

おじいさん male senior-citizen

は (topic marker particle)

地球にはいない does not exist on earth

わ (feminine ender for emphasis)

それから and then; on top of that

ちょっと a little bit; slightly

頭から from (one's) head; of (one's) head [頭 (head) + から (from)]

アンテナ antenna

が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

見えてる can see; sticking out [from 見える (to be in sight; to be seen)]

わよ (emphatic sentence-ending particle)

NOTES

地球にはいない [地球 (earth) + には (on) + いない (be not in). いない is the negative form of いる (to be (of animate object)); to exist).]

見えてる is the Verb て-form + る of 見える (to be seen; to be able to see). Verb-てる is the casual form of Verb-ている to be used in conversation. In spoken conversation, it is common to drop the い and just use て-form plus る; this is called “い抜き言葉 (*inuki kotoba*)”. This form of a verb describes the actual state, condition, and appearance of the subject. How to form: Verb て-form + る



ひと たいほ
さ、エンペラーさん、この人を逮捕してちょうだい。(オレサマ
たいほ
は逮捕される。)

Now, Emperor, I need you to arrest this person. (Oresama is put under arrest.)

VOCABULARY

さ well; now; okay [an exclamation/
interjection expressing the speaker's
intention to invite or press the other
person to perform an action]

エンペラーさん Emperor [エンペ
ラー (emperor) + さん (Mr.; Mrs.;
Ms.); さん is a suffix which shows
respect and can be used with both
first and last names]

この人 this person [この (this) + 人
(person)]

を (indicates direct object of action)

逮捕してちょうだい need (you) to
arrest; please arrest [from 逮捕する
(make an arrest; catch)]

オレサマ Oresama [sounds like a self-
centered 1st person pronoun]

は (topic marker particle)

逮捕される to be arrested; is put un-
der arrest [from 逮捕する (make an
arrest; catch)]

NOTES

逮捕してちょうだい [~てちょうだい is a casual
alternative of ~てください (please do some-
thing; to command or request somebody to do
something). While it can be used by anyone, it
has a slightly feminine and childish nuance. How
to form: Verb て-form + ちょうだい]

逮捕される is the passive form of 逮捕する. This
form of a verb tells us that the verb is done to
someone. It takes the emphasis off of who does
the action and places it on who is affected by the
action. So, it is common to omit the doer of ac-
tion from a passive sentence. Conjugation rules:
the rules are same for both る-verbs and う-
verbs. All passive verbs become る-verbs. **For**
and う verbs: Change the last character from
an / u / vowel sound to an / a / vowel sound and
add れる. **For exception verbs:** する becomes
される and くる becomes こられる. **Examples:**

る-Verbs: 出る (to go out) → 出られる; う-

Verbs: 話す (to talk) → 話される; **Exception**
Verbs: する (to do) → される; くる (to come)
→ こられる. **Note:** For verbs ending with “tsu”

will end with “**tareru**” in passive form. Ex. 打つ
(to hit) → 打たれる. And with verbs ending
with just the vowel “u” will end with “**wareru**” in
passive form. Ex. 笑う (to laugh) → 笑われる

く、くそ〜。うえ〜ん、うえ〜ん。 (泣く)^な

Darn! Drat! Unn~, unn~. (Weeping)

VOCABULARY

く、くそ〜 Darn! Drat!

うえ〜ん、うえ〜ん Unn~, unn~

泣く to cry; to weep

NOTES

く、くそ〜 is an expression of disappointment or dismay.



おばあさん、ありがとうございます。おかげで全宇宙が救われました。^{ぜんうちゅう すく}

Thank you, Obaasan. Thanks to you, the whole universe has been saved.

VOCABULARY

おばあさん old woman; female senior citizen; obaasan

ありがとうございます thank you

おかげで thanks to ...; owing to ...

全宇宙 whole universe

が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

救われました has been saved [from 救う (to save; to rescue)]

NOTES

救われました is the polite passive positive past form of 救う (to save; to rescue). Passive form of a verb is used to say “action is done to object,” rather than “to do action to object.” It takes the emphasis off of who does the action and places it on who is affected by the action. 救う is a verb that ends with just the vowel “u”, so it will end with “**wareru**” in passive form. 救う→救われる (plain passive positive present form). Polite passive positive present form: 救われます; polite passive positive past form: 救われました



れい た い
お礼にパンケーキを食べに行きましょう。おごりますよ。

Let's go out for pancakes as your reward. I'll buy!

VOCABULARY

お礼に as a reward; as a token of
one's gratitude

パンケーキ pancake; hot cake

を (indicates direct object of action)

食べに行きましょう let's go out to
eat [from 食べに行く (go to eat)]

おごります to give (someone) a treat

よ (sentence ender showing emphasis
and certainty)

NOTES

食べに行きましょう is the polite volitional form of 食べに行く (go to eat). This verb form is used to make a suggestion to one or more people which includes oneself ("let's" / "shall we"). How to form: ~ます → ~ましょう; Ex. 食べに行きます → 食べに行きましょう. Also, 食べ (ます stem of 食べる (to eat)) + に行く (to go), means "to go in order to eat". Verb-ます stem + に行く / に行きます means "to go in order to do something".



ぜんうちゅう すく
あら、全宇宙を救ったのに、それだけ？ま、いいか。

Oh, I saved the entire universe, and yet that's all I got? Eh..., whatever.

VOCABULARY

あら oh; ah

全宇宙 entire universe

を (indicates direct object of action)

救った saved [from 救う (to save)]

のに although; despite; and yet

それだけ? only that? that's all?

ま、いいか whatever; never mind;
oh, well

NOTES

救った is the た form of 救う (to save; to rescue). Unlike the ました form, it does not show politeness. You'll probably use it with friends and toward people who are younger than you.



パンケーキが^た食べたかったのよ。

I wanted pancakes anyway.

VOCABULARY

パンケーキ pancake; hot cake

が (indicates sentence subject
(occasionally object))

食べたかった wanted to eat [from 食
べる (to eat)]

のよ (sentence ender for emphasis)

NOTES

食べたかった is the casual past form of 食べたい (want to eat). ~たい is a verb suffix that adds a meaning of desire. It is used to express your inner desire to do something. Use it to say “I want to do [this verb].” How to form: Verb ます (stem form) + たい. ~たかった (wanted to do ~) is the past form ~たい.

その後、しばらくの^{あと}間、^{あいだ}全宇宙は^{ぜんうちゅう}平和^{へいわ}になりました。

しばらくだけ。おしまい。

For a while after that, peace reigned throughout the universe. Only for a while. The end.

VOCABULARY

その後 after that (time); thereafter

しばらくの間 for a short while; for a
while; for the time being

全宇宙 entire universe

は (topic marker particle)

平和 peace; harmony

になりました became; turned out to

しばらく for a moment; for a while

だけ only; just

おしまい the end

NOTES

になりました is the polite past form of になる (become; turn out to). Noun + ~になる implies a natural change.

JAPANESE READER



Intermediate

Mastered basic grammar, hundreds of kanji, and conversational Japanese; Approx. JLPT N3 Level

にほん　くだもの　こうきゅう
日本の果物、なぜ高級？
Why are Japanese fruits so expensive?



にほん　　くだもの　　こうきゅうひん　　しかく　　だま

なんまんえん じつ にほん

ぶんか かんけい にほん むかし くだもの た

33

果物は「水菓子」と呼ばれる特別の食べ物でした。贈り物とし

あつか おお せ わ かた あ

て扱われることが多く、お世話になった方にさし上げるもので

いま

した。今もそうです。

果物 fruit; edible fruit

は (topic marker particle)

「水菓子」“fruits” [水 (water) + 菓子 (sweets; snacks); in the past, all light foods such as fruits were called “kashi”. Among them, especially succulent fruits such as watermelons or pears came to be called “mizugashi”.]

呼ばれる to be called; to be referred to [plain passive present indicative form of 呼ぶ (to call)]

と呼ばれる called [と (is required when the verb 呼ぶ (to call) is used to indicate how something is called or named) + 呼ばれる (to be called)]

特別の食べ物 special food [特別 (special) + の (modifier) + 食べ物 (food)]

でした was; were [past form of です (be; is); is a polite past tense marker, typically used with nouns and な-adjectives]

贈り物 present; gift

として as; for

扱われる to be treated [plain passive present indicative form of 扱う (to treat; to deal with)]

として扱われる to be treated as [として (as) + 扱われる (to be treated)]

ことが多く often and [from ことが多い (often; there are often times when ~). How to form: Verb (plain form) + が多い; 多く is the く form

(continuative form) of 多い (often; frequent), which allows the い-adjective to continue on and connect to other elements, forming new words and meanings. How to form: remove the い at the end of い-adjective and then replace with く]

お世話になった (to those who) had been kind (to them); (to those) whose care (I) have been in [from お世話になる (to receive favor; to be indebted; to be much obliged to someone)]

方に to person [方 (person) + に (to)]

さし上げる to give; to offer

もの (indicates tangible things)

ものでした (is used to introduce a well-known fact) [from ものです (indicates an obvious fact); how to form: Verb-casual, non-past + ものです]

今も still; even now

そうです that is so; it seems that

今は、生産量が増えて普通のスーパーにたくさん売っています

おく ものよう くだもの とくべつ みせ ぞうとうようひん あつか みせ

が、贈り物用の果物は、特別なお店、贈答用品を扱うお店にあります。そこにあるのは、とてもきれいな、

今は at the present time; nowadays	贈答用品 gift items; giftware
生産量 amount of production; production volume	を (indicates direct object of action)
が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))	扱うお店 stores that deal with [扱う (to deal with) + お店 (store); 扱う is used to modify the noun お店; To modify a noun with a verb, we need to use the standard form of the verb before the noun which we want to modify.]
増えて increase and [て form of 増える (to increase; to multiply); this て form of the verb is used as a conjunction, expressing the sequential order and joining clauses, creating the meaning of "and"]	にあります is located in; is found in
普通のスーパー ordinary supermarket [普通 (ordinary; common) + の (modifier) + スーパー (supermarket; grocery store)]	そこに there; in there
に in	ある to be; to exist
たくさん a lot; a large number; many; plenty	のは (nominalizer which makes the preceding phrase into a noun equivalent; it often refers to a subject (placed in front of のは) and turns the subject (preceding phrase) into a subject of the sentence.)
売っています are sold [from 売る (to sell); ~ています (polite) is a progressive form of the verb which expresses an ongoing action, continuous action that is happening in the present; How to form: Verb て-form + いる / います]	とても very; exceedingly
が but; however	きれいな beautiful; nice-looking
贈り物用の果物 fruits for gifts [贈り物 (gift; present) + 用の (for) + 果物 (fruit)]	
は (topic marker particle)	
特別な special	
お店 store; shop [お (honorific prefix)]	

まるで宝石のようなフルーツばかりです。どうしてこんなにき

ねだん たか

ひんしゅかいりょう

れいで、しかも値段が高いのでしょうか？それは、品種改良と

そだ かた ひみつ

にほんじん

ひんしゅかいりょう

じょうず

育て方に秘密があります。日本人は、品種改良がとても上手です。

まる round; circle

と and

で and

育て方 growing method; method of bringing up;
method of raising

宝石 gem; jewel

に in

のような as; like

秘密 secret; confidentiality

フルーツ fruits

があります there is [used to say there is or some-
thing is for non-living things]

ばかり only; nothing but

です be; is

日本人 Japanese person; Japanese [日本 (Japan) +
人 (person)]

どうして why; for what reason

は (topic marker particle)

こんなに so; like this

品種改良 breeding; breed improvement

きれいで beautiful and [きれい (beautiful) + で (and)]

とても very; exceedingly

しかも moreover; furthermore

上手 good (at); skillful

値段 price; cost

が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

高い expensive; high-priced

のでしょうか (ask a question in a polite way)

それは that is; it is

品種改良 breeding; breed improvement

甘さを高めるためにいろいろな品種を掛け合わせて、根気よく

ひんしゅ つく あ そだ かた ていねい

おいしい品種を作り上げます。そして、育て方がとても丁寧で

こうきゅう そだ いっぱんいっ か そだ かた

す。高級なフルーツを育てるとき、一本一果という育て方をすることがあります。

甘さ	sweetness; sugariness	です	be; is
を	(indicates direct object of action)	高級な	high-class; high quality; premium
高める	increase; to raise; to enhance	フルーツ	fruits
ために	in order to	育てる	grow; cultivate; rear
いろいろな	various; all sorts of	とき	when (occasion; case)
品種	breed; breed variety	一本一果	one fruit per (stem) [一 (one), 本 (counter for long, skinny things), 果 (fruit)]
掛け合わせて	to cross-breed and; to cross and [て form of 掛け合わせる (to cross; to cross-breed); this て form of the verb is used as a conjunction, expressing the sequential order and joining clauses, creating the meaning of "and"]	という	(a growing method) called
根気よく	patiently; with perseverance	育て方	growing method; method of bringing up; method of raising
おいしい	delicious; tasty; sweet	することがあります	sometimes ~; there are times when ~; occasionally ~ [used when you are talking about the possibilities, or when something happens regardless of one's will]
作り上げます	to create [polite form of 作り上げる (to create; to build up)]	する	to do; to carry out
そして	and then; and		
育て方	the way (they) grow (crops); method of bringing up; method of raising		
が	(indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))		
とても	very; exceedingly		
丁寧	careful; thorough		

一本の茎にたった一つしか実をつけないようにする方法です。

め つ

まいにちたんねん みず

おん どうかんり

よけいな芽は摘んでしまって、毎日丹念に水やり、温度管理な

ていねい そだ

どをして丁寧に着てます。

一本の茎 one stem [一本 (one) + の (modifier) + 茎 (plant stem; stalk); 本 (counter for long, skinny things)]

に per

たった only; merely; no more than

一つ one

しか only; nothing but [is only used in negative sentences]

実 fruit

一つしか実をつけない to produce one fruit only [つけない is the negative plain form of つける (bear; produce) and this verb form is required by the word しか; しか (placed after a noun phrase) + verb negative plain form means “nothing but” or “only”]

ようにする to ensure that ~; to make sure that ~; empower [how to use: verb (dictionary form / ない form) + ようにする]

方法 way; method

です be; is

よけいな unnecessary; excess

芽 shoot; sprout; bud

は (topic marker particle)

摘んでしまって cut off and; plucked and; trimmed and [from 摘んでしまう (to trim completely); しまって is the て form of しまう (to do something completely; to finish) which is used as a conjunction, expressing the sequential order and joining clauses, creating the meaning of “and”; Verb てしまう / Verb でしまう is used to express the meaning of “to finish doing something completely”]

毎日 every day

丹念に in a careful way (manner); patiently

水やり watering (plants)

温度管理 temperature control [温度 (temperature) + 管理 (control; management)]

温度管理をして controlling the temperature [て form (present progressive form) of 温度管理をする (to control the temperature); て form makes it clear that you’re doing the action right now or continuously]

など such as; and things like (temperature control, etc.); and so on; etc.

丁寧に carefully; in a careful way

育てます to nurture; to promote the growth [polite form of 育てる]

そうすると、そのたった一つの実は、水分と栄養を独り占めし

あま つち み

て、たいへん甘くおいしくなります。土に実がつくと、あとが

くうちゅう そだ ほうほう

ついてしまうため、空中で育てる方法もあります。

そうすると if that is done; having done that; if it is done in that way

その that; the

たった一つ single; solo; just one; only one

の (modifier)

実 fruit

は (topic marker particle)

水分 water

と and

栄養 nutrients; nourishment

を (indicates direct object of action)

独り占めして having all to oneself; monopolizing [て form of独り占めする (get ~ all to oneself; have ~ all to oneself); this て form is used to express a means or reason for a subsequent action or event.]

たいへん very; greatly

甘くおいしくなります become sweet and tasty [甘く is the く form of甘い (sweet-tasting) which allows it to combine with the wordおいしい (tasty; delicious). To string adjectives together using the く form, you just need to change the い at the end of the first い-adjective (甘い) into く then attach the second adjective (おいしい). Theく form of い-adjective

(combined two adjectives, 甘い and おいしい) + なります (polite form) conveys that something will become (sweet and tasty).]

土に in the soil [土 (soil) + に (in)]

実 fruit

が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

つく touch (the soil)

と if; when

あと dirt; mark; stain

ついてしまう to leave (some dirt on the fruit) [from つく (to stick; to stain); Verb てしまう is used to express an action that has taken place unintentionally, often with unsatisfactory results.]

ため because

空中で in the air [空中 (air) + で (in)]

育てる grow; cultivate; rear

方法 method

育てる方法 method of growing [育てる (to grow) is used to modify the noun 方法 (method). To modify a noun with a verb, we need to use the standard form of the verb before the noun which we want to modify.]

も also

あります to have; to exist; there is

つち つか みず そだ ほうほう み

土を使わず、水だけで育てる方法もあります。こうして、実に

きずひと あま くだもの で き あ に ほん こうきゅう くだもの

傷一つない甘い果物が出来上がるわけです。日本の高級な果物

た き い かいがい かねも

を食べて気に入った海外のお金持ちが

土 soil

を (indicates direct object of action)

使わず without using (soil) [from 使う (to use); ~ず means “without doing something”; how to form: verb ~~ない~~ + ず and for irregular: する (to do), instead of saying しず, you say せず (without doing)]

水 water

だけ only

で by; with (indicates means of action)

育てる grow; cultivate; rear

方法 way; method

も also

あります to have; to exist; there is

こうして thus; in this way

実 fruit

に in

傷一つない without a single blemish; there isn't a single stain

甘い果物 sweet fruit

が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

出来上がる to be finished; to complete; fulfill

わけです for that reason; no wonder; as you'd expect [conclusion from reasoning and judgment; how to use: Verb (casual) + わけです]

日本 Japan

の (modifier)

高級な high-class; high quality; premium

果物 fruits

食べて eat and [て form of 食べる (to eat); this て form of the verb is used as a conjunction, expressing the sequential order and joining clauses, creating the meaning of “and”]

気に入った liked [past of 気に入る (to like; to be delighted with)]

海外のお金持ち rich people from overseas [海外 (foreign; overseas) + の (modifier) + お金持ち (rich person)]

わざわざ自家用飛行機に乗って買いに来ることもあるそうで

まいにち た

たいきん はら た

す。毎日は食べられませんが、たまには大金を払って食べてみ

き

たい気もします。

わざわざ taking the trouble (to do); going out of one's way (to do)

自家用飛行機 private plane [自家用 (for private use) + 飛行機 (airplane)]

に乗って aboard (a private airplane); in a (private plane)

買いに来る come to buy [買い is the ます stem form of 買う (to buy); ~ verb stem + に + motion verb (来る (to come)) is used to say that a person comes in order to do something]

こともある sometimes do; takes place sometimes [how to use: verb (dictionary form / ない form) + こともある]

そうです it is said that; I hear that

毎日 every day

は (topic marker particle; adds emphasis)

食べられません can't eat [potential polite present negative form of 食べる (to eat)]

が but; however

たまには once in a while; occasionally

大金 large amount of money; great cost

を (indicates direct object of action)

払って pay and [て form of 払う (to pay); this て form of the verb is used as a conjunction, expressing the sequential order and joining clauses, creating the meaning of "and"]

食べてみたい want to try to eat [from 食べる (to eat); ~てみたい is used to express that you want to try to do something for the first time]

気もします have a feeling; (I) feel

Why are Japanese fruits so expensive?

English Summary

Please try to tackle the Japanese first and use this only as needed.

In Japan, fruit is a luxury item. There are square-shaped watermelons, melons, and apples that cost tens of thousands of yen a piece. Actually, these high prices have something to do with Japanese culture.

In the past, people in Japan did not eat much fruit. Fruit was a special food called "*mizugashi*." They were often given as gifts to those who had been kind to them. This is still the case today.

Nowadays, they are produced in larger quantities and are sold in many supermarkets, but the fruits for gifts are sold in special stores that deal with gift items. The fruits there are very beautiful and look like jewels. Why are they so beautiful and so expensive?

The secret lies in breeding and growing methods. The Japanese are very good at breeding. In order to increase the sweetness of the fruit, they cross many different varieties and patiently create delicious fruits. They are also very careful in the way they grow them.

When growing high quality fruits, they sometimes use a method called "Ippon Ikka" (one fruit per stem). This is a way to ensure that only one fruit is produced per stem. The unnecessary shoots are cut off and the plant is nurtured by carefully watering and controlling the temperature every day. This way, the single fruit will be very sweet and tasty, as it will have all the water and nutrients for itself.

There is also the method of growing the fruit in the air, because if the fruit touches the soil, it could leave some dirt on the fruit. There is also a way to grow them without soil, using only water. The result is a sweet fruit without a single blemish.

It is said that rich people from overseas, who have eaten and liked the high-class fruits of Japan, sometimes fly all the way to Japan to buy them.

I can't eat them every day, but I think I would like to pay a lot and try them once in a while.

Kanji in Focus

It is usually helpful to create a story based on the meanings of the kanji parts. Often, different kanji learning systems will use different “meanings” for the parts. We try to give the most common ones, but consistency is best. Choose one meaning per kanji part and stick with it.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">果</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p><u>カ</u>・はたす・はたす</p> <p>fruit; reward</p> <p>けっか 結果 result; consequence; outcome</p>	<p>田 field</p> <p>木 tree</p> <p>The field 田 is surrounded with huge <i>fruit trees</i> 木.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">物</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>ブツ・モツ・<u>もの</u></p> <p>thing; object; matter</p> <p>じんぶつ 人物 person; character; figure</p>	<p>牛 cow</p> <p>勿 not; must not [this may have originally represented blood on a knife]</p> <p>That <i>thing</i> is a cow 牛 must not 勿 be abused (with a bloody knife) but be treated with care and compassion.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">級</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p><u>キュウ</u></p> <p>class; rank; grade</p> <p>こうきゅう 高級 high class; high grade</p>	<p>糸 thread; yarn; string</p> <p>及 reach out [looks like someone reaching out to another person]</p> <p>The granny who is knitting her scarf reaches out 及 for the high <i>class</i> yarn 糸.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">菓</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p><u>カ</u></p> <p>candy; cakes; fruit</p> <p>かし お菓子 sweets; candy; confections</p>	<p>艹 grass</p> <p>田 field</p> <p>木 tree</p> <p>He bought a field 田 full of <i>candy</i> that looked like dry grasses 艹 and tall trees 木.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">贈</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>ゾウ・ソウ・<u>おく</u></p> <p>send; give to; presents; award to</p> <p>おく もの 贈り物 gift; present</p>	<p>貝 shell; seashell; shellfish</p> <p>ㄨ sparks</p> <p>田 field</p> <p>日 sun; day</p> <p>The present was a golden shell 貝 in the field 田 sparks ㄨ brightly under the sun 日.</p>

Kanji in Focus

The following are a selection of the kanji found in this story. The underlined reading is probably the most used.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">扱</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>ソウ・キュウ・あつかい・<u>あつかう</u>・あつかる・こく</p> <p>handle; deal with</p> <p>と あつか 取り 扱 う to handle; to operate (machine)</p>	<p>𢇛 hand [radical form of 手]</p> <p>及 reach out [looks like someone reaching out to another person]</p> <p>You <i>deal</i> with people best by taking your 𢇛 hands and reaching out 及.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">種</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>シュ・<u>たね</u>・〜ぐさ</p> <p>Seed; variety; kind; species</p> <p>しゅるい 種類 variety; kind; type</p>	<p>禾 grain</p> <p>千 thousand</p> <p>田 field</p> <p>土 earth; dirt; soil</p> <p>The farmer earned hundreds of thousands 千 of dollars after planting <i>seeds</i> and harvesting the dirt 土 free grains 禾 in his field 田.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">温</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>オン・あたたか・<u>あたたかい</u>・あたたまる・あたためる・ぬく</p> <p>warm</p> <p>きおん 気温 atmospheric temperature</p>	<p>氺 water</p> <p>日 sun; day</p> <p>皿 plate</p> <p>The water 氺 on the plate 皿 gets <i>warm</i> under the sun 日.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">茎</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>ケイ・キョウ・<u>くき</u></p> <p>stalk; stem</p> <p>くき 茎 stalk; stem</p>	<p>艹 grass</p> <p>又 again; once more; once again</p> <p>土 earth; dirt; soil</p> <p>Once again 又, <i>stalks</i> of new grasses 艹 sprung up all over the earth 土.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">育</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>イク・<u>そだつ</u>・そだち・そだてる</p> <p>bring up; grow up; raise</p> <p>きょういく 教育 education</p>	<p>宀 lid</p> <p>厶 private; katakana mu; elbow</p> <p>月 moon -or- meat ; part of the body</p> <p>The little girl covered the moon 月 cakes with a lid 宀 and hid them inside her private 厶 room.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MAKOTO E-ZINE #38</p>

MAKOTO

JAPANESE E-ZINE

Do you have any questions? Anything confusing? Feel free to email me (Clay) at clay@thejapanshop.com with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Do you have ideas to make *Makoto* better? We'd love to hear from you. Did something particularly help you? Love to hear that as well.

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Clay & Yumi

