

## 1. Situation

This is a conversation between Aki and Mai, who have recently become close.

## Dialogue

アキ： <sup>ひとり</sup>一人で<sup>せいかつ</sup>生活してるの？

Aki: Do you live on your own?

- <sup>ひとり</sup>一人 one person; alone
- ～で in; at; from; by: indicates means (methods) or places; フォークで<sup>た</sup>食べる to eat with a fork; <sup>いえ</sup>家で<sup>た</sup>食べる to eat at home; may make a noun adverbial: <sup>みじか</sup>短い<sup>じかん</sup>時間で<sup>た</sup>食べる eating fast; indicates a choice: じゃあビールで。Then, I choose beer.
- <sup>せいかつ</sup>生活して te-form of <sup>せいかつ</sup>生活する; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; <sup>た</sup>食べて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: <sup>きのう</sup>昨日<sup>がっこう</sup>学校行って、<sup>べんきょう</sup>勉強して。。。 I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- <sup>せいかつ</sup>生活 life; <sup>せいかつ</sup>生活する to live
- ～ている、～てる verb form to express continuation; <sup>た</sup>食べる + ている = <sup>た</sup>食べている eating; てる is a colloquial version of ている; some verbs such as <sup>し</sup>知る uses this form to express the present situation <sup>し</sup>知っている (I know) but uses the present native form to say the opposite: <sup>し</sup>知らない (I don't know); often てん in spoken Japanese: それ、<sup>し</sup>知ってるの? Do you know that?
- ～の emphasises a sentence or question: <sup>ほんとう</sup>本当に<sup>し</sup>できるの? Can you really do it?; <sup>し</sup>できるの! I can do it!; may sound feminine in some cases; <sup>わたし</sup>私、<sup>し</sup>できるの。 sounds feminine.

マイ： ううん、<sup>ともだち</sup>友達と<sup>いっしょ</sup>一緒。

Mai: No, with a friend.

- ううん nuh-uh; no
- <sup>ともだち</sup>友達 friend
- ～と and; or; with; if; <sup>ともだち</sup>友達と<sup>わたし</sup>私 my friends and I

- <sup>いっしょ</sup> 一緒 together; with

アキ： <sup>ふたり</sup>二人で？

Aki: Just the two of you?

- <sup>ふたり</sup>二人 two people

マイ： うん、 <sup>ふたり</sup>二人で <sup>す</sup>住んでる。

Mai: Yeah, the two of us live together.

- うん (casual, non-keigo) yes; yeah
- <sup>す</sup>住んで te-form of <sup>す</sup>住む; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; <sup>た</sup>食べて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: <sup>きのうがっこうい</sup>昨日学校行って、 <sup>べんきょう</sup>勉強して。。。 I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- <sup>す</sup>住む to live

アキ： <sup>ひとり</sup>一人よりいい？

Aki: Is it better than living alone?

- ～より than; from; <sup>にほん</sup>カナダは <sup>おお</sup>日本より大きい。 Canada is bigger than Japan.
- いい good; <sup>えいが</sup>映画よかった! The film was great!; you may use this to indicate your preference or choice; <sup>わたし</sup>私、ラーメンがいい。 I'd like to choose ramen; いいね is the Japanese version of "like" on social media.

マイ： うん。 <sup>たと</sup>例えば <sup>はなし</sup>話 <sup>た</sup>ができるし。 <sup>いっしょ</sup>ごはんも <sup>た</sup>一緒に食べれるから。

Mai: Yeah. For example, we can talk. We can also eat together.

- <sup>たと</sup>例えば for example; such as
- <sup>はなし</sup>話 story; talk
- できる to be able to do; to be ready; to be made; to be good at; e.g. <sup>かのじよ</sup>彼女ができる=to find a girlfriend、 <sup>ともだち</sup>友達 <sup>た</sup>ができる=to make a friend

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- し and; besides; because, since; 雨<sup>あめ</sup>だし行<sup>い</sup>かない。 / 行<sup>い</sup>かない、雨<sup>あめ</sup>だし。 I won't go. Besides, it's raining.
- ごはん rice; meal
- ～も too; also; 私<sup>わたし</sup>も行<sup>い</sup>く！ I'll go too!
- 食<sup>た</sup>べ(ら)れる potential form of 食<sup>た</sup>べる; ～(ら)れる expresses possibility; can; can be; some people consider ～られる is a correct form, however, many people use ～れる in spoken Japanese
- 食<sup>た</sup>べる to eat
- ～から because; since: 雨<sup>あめ</sup>だから行<sup>い</sup>きません。 I won't go because it's raining.; use だから with nouns and na-adjectives.

## 2. Situation

Tanaka-san is placing the painting on the wall and is having Sato-san look at its position.

### Dialogue

たなか  
田中：どうですか？

Tanaka: How is it?

- どう how; what; どう<sup>おも</sup>思う? What do you think?; how about: ラーメン<sup>どう</sup>? How about (eating) ramen?
- ～です polite ending; use this polite form, called "keigo," when you talk to strangers, people who are older than you, and in business situations.
- ～か? makes a sentence a question; usually used with keigo sentences in spoken Japanese; textbooks often drop the question mark, but it's common to use a question mark in real-life situations

さとう すこ うえ あ  
佐藤：少し上に上げて。

Sato: Lift it up a little bit.

- 少し a little; a few
- 上 top; above; up; on
- ～に indicates a destination, place or point of attention: 日本<sup>にほん</sup>に行く to go to Japan; 友達<sup>ともだち</sup>に話す<sup>はな</sup> to talk to a friend; indicates the result or goal of an action: 大人<sup>おとな</sup>になる to become an adult; indicates an actor in a passive sentence: 先生<sup>せんせい</sup>に見<sup>み</sup>つかった。I was found by a teacher.
- 上げて te-form of 上げる; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command: 食べて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: 昨日<sup>きのう</sup>学校<sup>がっこう</sup>行って、勉強<sup>べんきょう</sup>して。。。I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- 上げる to raise; to lift

たなか  
田中：こうですか？

Tanaka: Like this?

- こう like this; this way; こうしよう。Let's do this way.

さとう 佐藤 : もう少し上。

Sato: A little higher.

- もう already; soon; again; more; strengthens expression of an emotion; filler word: なんか、もう、帰ろうよ: Like, let's go home already?

たなか 田中 : これくらいですか？

Tanaka: About this high?

- これ this
- くらい about; around; as ... as ...; like

さとう 佐藤 : いい感じ。そこがいいですね。

Sato: It looks good. That's a good position.

- 感じ feeling; impression; atmosphere; often used to express your impression: この部屋いい感じ  
This room looks good.
- そこ there
- ～ね shares information or experiences; softens a sentence; expects an agreement; isn't it?; don't you?; 雨だね。Oh, it's raining (as you can see).

### 3. Situation

Haru received a birthday present from Aki.

### Dialogue

ハル：ありがとう。何が<sup>なに</sup>入<sup>はい</sup>ってるのかな？

Haru: Thank you. What's inside?

- ありがとう thank you; ありがと is colloquial
- 何<sup>なに</sup> what
- 入<sup>はい</sup>って te-form of 入<sup>はい</sup>; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; 食<sup>た</sup>べて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: 昨日<sup>きのう</sup>学校<sup>がっこう</sup>行<sup>い</sup>って、勉強<sup>べんきょう</sup>して。。。 I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- 入<sup>はい</sup>る to enter; to come in; to go in
- ~かな indicates uncertainty; softens a sentence; ちょっと<sup>さむ</sup>寒いかな。 I think it's a bit cold.

アキ：分<sup>わ</sup>かる？

Aki: Can you guess?

- 分<sup>わ</sup>かる to understand; to see

ハル：分<sup>わ</sup>かんない。

Haru: I've no idea.

- 分<sup>わ</sup>かんない negative form of 分<sup>わ</sup>かる

アキ：結構<sup>けっこう</sup>考<sup>かん</sup>えたんだよ、買<sup>か</sup>う物<sup>もの</sup>。

Aki: I thought about what I'm going to buy quite a bit.

- 結構<sup>けっこう</sup> adv. quite, fairly; na-adj. good
- 考<sup>かん</sup>えた past tense of 考<sup>かん</sup>える

- かんが 考える to think
- ～んだ often used in spoken Japanese as a colloquial ending; 食べるんだ (I'll eat) is more colloquial than 食べる (I'll eat); also can be used to express realisation: えっ、それ食べるんだ! What? You eat that?
- ～よ introduces new information; emphasises a sentence; 朝だよ! It's morning!
- か 買う to buy
- もの 物 thing; object; stuff

ハル：中、見ていい？

Haru: Can I have a look inside?

- なか 中 inside; in; into
- みて te-form of 見る; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command: 食べて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: 昨日学校行って、勉強して。。。 I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- み 見る to see; to look; to watch; to check; we use 観る for things like sports or TV shows

アキ：うん、見て。

Aki: Yeah, go ahead and look.

## 4. Situation

Tanaka-san is asking Sato-san how to commute to the office.

## Dialogue

田中：家から会社まで、時間かかりますか？

Tanaka: Does it take you a long time to get from your house to the office?

- 家 house; home
- ～から from; 日本から来ました。I'm from Japan.
- 会社 company; firm
- ～まで to, as far as: 日本まで行った。I went to (as far as) Japan. till; until; 朝まで仕事した。I worked until morning.
- 時間 time
- かかります ます form of かかる; ～ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- かかる to take (time, resource); to cost; to hang

佐藤：そんなにかかりませんよ。

Sato: It doesn't take much time.

- そんなに so much; so; like that; often そんなに～ない: そんなに食べられない。I can't eat that much.
- かかりません negative form of かかります

田中：何で来ていますか？

Tanaka: How do you commute?

- 来て te-form of 来る; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; 食べて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: 昨日学校行って、勉強して。。。I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- 来る to come
- ～ています ます form of ～ている; ～ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence

さとう  
佐藤：バスです。

Sato: By bus.

- バス bus

たなか  
田中：バスはすぐ来ますか？

Tanaka: Does the bus come quickly?

- すぐ immediately; right away; soon
- 来ます ます form of 来る; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence

さとう けっこうき  
佐藤：結構来ますよ。

Sato: They come quite quickly.