

## 1. Situation

Haru and Mari received some information on a high school class gathering.

## Dialogue

ハル：どうする？行く？

Haru: What are you doing about this? Are you going?

- どう how; what; どう思う？What do you think?; how about; ラーメンどう？How about (eating) ramen?
- する to do; to make; to decide on; to choose
- 行く to go

マリ：考えてるところ。ハルはどうするの？

Mari: I'm still considering it. What about you, Haru?

- 考えて te-form of 考える; 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...
- 考える to think
- ~ている、~てる verb form to express continuation; 食べる + ている = 食べている eating; てる is a colloquial version of ている; some verbs such as 知る uses this form to express the present situation 知っている (I know) but uses the present native form to say the opposite: 知らない (I don't know); often てん in spoken Japanese: それ、知ってるの? Do you know that?
- ところ、ところ place: 広い所 a big place; point: わからない所ある? Is there anything you don't understand?; part; aspect: どんなところが好き? What part do you like?; area; explains the current situation: 食べているところ I'm in the middle of eating; 食べたところ I just finished eating (= at the point where I finished eating.)

ハル：私も考えてる。どうしよう。

Haru: I'm still considering it too. What should we do?

- ~も too; also; 私<sup>わたし</sup>も行<sup>い</sup>く！ I'll go too!; but: 頑<sup>がんば</sup>張<sup>ば</sup>っても出<sup>で</sup>来<sup>き</sup>なかつた。I tried my best, but I couldn't do it.
- どうしよう what should I do?

マリ: ユタカは行<sup>い</sup>くのかな？

Mari: I wonder if Yutaka is going.

- ~の emphasises a sentence or question: 本<sup>ほん</sup>当<sup>とう</sup>にできるの? Can you really do it?; できるの! I can do it!; may sound feminine in some cases; 私<sup>わたし</sup>、できるの。 sounds feminine.
- ~かな indicates uncertainty; softens a sentence; ちよつと寒<sup>さむ</sup>いかな。 I think it's a bit cold.

ハル: 分<sup>わ</sup>からない。聞<sup>き</sup>いてみる。

Haru: I don't know. I'll try asking him.

- 分<sup>わ</sup>からない negative form of 分<sup>わ</sup>かる
- 分<sup>わ</sup>かる to understand; to see
- 聞<sup>き</sup>いて te-form of 聞<sup>き</sup>く; 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<sup>きのう</sup>日<sup>が</sup>学<sup>が</sup>校<sup>こう</sup>行<sup>い</sup>つて、勉<sup>べん</sup>強<sup>きやう</sup>して。。。 I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- 聞<sup>き</sup>く to hear; to listen; to ask; to obey
- ~てみる to try and \_\_\_; to try something; to attempt to do something; 食<sup>た</sup>べてみる。 I'll try eating.

## 2. Situation

Haru and Yutaka are talking about whether they are attending the high school class gathering.

### Dialogue

ハル：行く？

Haru: Are you going?

ユタカ：あー、あのパーティー？

Yutaka: Oh, that party?

- あの that; those
- パーティー party

ハル：うん。私、この前から考えてるんだけど。

Haru: Yeah. I've been considering it for some time.

- うん (casual, non-keigo) yes; yeah
- この前 some time ago; recently; lately; the other day; この前車買ったよ。I bought a car the other day.
- ～から from; after: 日本から来ました。I'm from Japan.
- けど but; however; although; though; a lot of people finish a sentence with (だ)けど because it makes the sentence less direct.

ユタカ：僕、その日、仕事だから行けないんだよ。

Yutaka: I can't go because I have work on that day.

- 僕 I (used by male speakers)
- その that
- 日 day; the sun
- 仕事 work, job; 仕事する to work
- ～から because; since: 雨だから行きません。I won't go because it's raining.; use だから with nouns and na-adjectives.

- 行けない negative form of 行ける
- 行ける potential form of 行く
- ～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!

ハル：あー、そうなんだね。

Haru: Oh, I see.

- そう so (as in "I think so"); そう思う。 I think so. ; そうなんだ。 I see.
- ～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 met his teacher for the first time in a long time at the high school class gathering.

#### Dialogue

ハル：<sup>せんせい</sup>先生、こんにちは。

Haru: Hello, Sensei.

- <sup>せんせい</sup>先生 teacher; professor; doctor
- こんにちは hello; good afternoon

<sup>せんせい</sup>先生：えーと、<sup>だれ</sup>誰だったかな？

Teacher: Umm, who are you again?

- <sup>だれ</sup>誰 who
- だった past tense of nouns and na-adjectives; <sup>あめ</sup>雨だった。 It was raining.

ハル：<sup>わ</sup>分かりませんか？

Haru: Don't you recognize me?

- <sup>わ</sup>分かりません negative form of <sup>わ</sup>わかります
- <sup>わ</sup>わかります ます form of <sup>わ</sup>分かる; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- ~か makes a sentence a question: <sup>にほんじん</sup>日本人ですか? Are you Japanese?; 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; making a remark to yourself: <sup>あめ</sup>雨か。。。 It's raining...

<sup>せんせい</sup>先生：いや、ジョークだよ。

Teacher: Nah, I was joking.

- いや no; oh
- ジョーク joke

ハル：<sup>ほんとう</sup>本当ですか？

Haru: Really?

- <sup>ほんとう</sup>本当 truth; right; really
- ~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.

<sup>せんせい</sup>先生: <sup>ほんとう</sup>本当だよ。ハルさんだよね。

Teacher: I was really just joking. Haru-san, right?

## 4. Situation

Mari, who is attending the high school class gathering, came over to her teacher's side.

### Dialogue

先生：あー、マリさんかな？

Teacher: Oh, you're Mari-san, right?

マリ：はい。先生、すぐ分かりましたか？

Mari: Yes. Sensei, did you recognize me immediately?

- はい yes
- すぐ immediately; right away; soon
- 分かりました past tense of 分かります

先生：ほとんど変わってないからね。

Teacher: Because you haven't changed much at all.

- ほとんど almost; nearly; mostly; usually used with a negative form: ほとんど人がいない。There are almost nobody.
- 変わって te-form of 変わる; 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...
- 変わる to change
- ~てない negative form of ~てる

マリ：えー、そう見えますか？

Mari: Oh, do I look like I haven't?

- えー expresses surprise or disappointment; えー、本当？ What? Really?
- 見えます ます form of 見える; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence

## 2021年1月4日 Level 1 先生、すぐ分かりましたか？

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- 見える <sup>み</sup> to be seen, to be able to be seen, to be in sight; to look, to seem, to appear

せんせい <sup>かお</sup> <sup>み</sup> <sup>わ</sup>  
先生：顔を見て、すぐ分かったよ。

Teacher: I saw your face and recognized you immediately.

- <sup>かお</sup> 顔 face
- <sup>み</sup> 見る to see; to look; to watch; to check; we use <sup>み</sup> 観る for things like sports or TV shows
- <sup>わ</sup> 分かった past tense of <sup>わ</sup> 分かる