

Situation 1

The teacher and Kato-kun are talking during a social studies class at school.

Dialogue

せんせい：じゃあ、今日は「平成」についてかんがえたいと思います。どんな時代だったのか。振り返ってみましょう。

Teacher: Well, I would like us to think about the "Heisei" period today. What kind of period was it?

Let us try looking back on it.

- へいせい 平成 Heisei era
- ふ かえ 振り返る to turn one's head; to look back

かとう せんせい か こ ふ かえ だいじ
加藤：先生！過去を振り返るより、大事なものはこれからですよ！

Kato: Sensei! What happens going forward is more important than looking back on the past, isn't it?

- か こ 過去 past

せんせい：なるほど、かとう くん。それも悪くないかんがえ方だね。けれど、か こ から べんきょう
大事なかんがえ方ですよ。

Teacher: I see what you mean, Kato-kun. That's not a bad way of thinking about it too. However, learning from the past is also an important attitude to have.

- なるほど I see (you use this especially when you initially didn't understand something.)
- かんがえ方 way of thinking; attitude

かとう
加藤：へー。そうなんですか。

Kato: Hmm. I see.

せんせい
先生：よし、じゃあ加藤くん。平成になって、これまでと変わったこと。どんなことがあるとおもいますか？

Teacher: Well then, Kato-kun, what do you think are some of the things that have changed ever since the Heisei period?

- よし All right; OK; Good; Fine

かとう か
加藤：変わったことですか！？うーん…。

Kato: Things that have changed?! Umm...

せんせい たと わたしたち せいかつ めん
先生：例えば、私達の生活の面とか。どうなりましたか？

Teacher: Think about our daily life, for example. What has happened to it?

- めん side, aspect; page; surface

かとう
加藤：うーん…。昔より、いろいろと便利になったとおもいます。

Kato: Hmm... It has become more convenient in various ways than in the past.

- べんり
便利 n. convenience; na-adj. useful, convenient

先生：そうですね。私達の生活も、様々な面で便利になりましたね。例えば、どんな物が便利になったと思いますか？

Teacher: That's right. Our lives have become more convenient in various aspects. What kind of things do you think have come in handy, for instance?

- 様々な various; all kinds of

加藤：あ、スマホです！スマホがあれば、様々なことができるようになりました！

Kato: Oh, smartphones! We can now do various things when we have a smartphone!

- スマホ smartphone
- ~ば if: 行けば分かる。You'll understand if you go; why don't you?: だったら行けば。Then, why don't you go.

先生：たしかにそうですね。いいところに気づきましたね。じゃあ誰か、他に何かありますか？

Teacher: You're certainly right. That's a good point you made (You noticed a good point). Well, can someone tell me if there is anything else?

- 確か adj. sure, certain, reliable; adv. maybe, probably, if I remember rightly, it's my understanding that;
- 確かに surely, certainly; you're right: 確かに天気が悪いね。The weather is certainly bad.
- 気づく to notice; to become aware

Situation 2

Takako and Minami are talking at the university.

Dialogue

タカコ：ねえ、知ってる？学校のパソコン、また利用できなくなるんだって。しばらくの間。

Takako: Hey, do you know? They said the school computer can't be used again for a while.

- パソコン personal computer
- 利用 use, utilization; 利用する to use, to utilize
- しばらく for a while; for a minute; for a long time
- 間 distance, space (between), period; 間に during, while: 寝てる間に電話があった。I had a call while I was asleep.

ミナミ：えー、なんで？やっと昨日から、利用できるようになったのに。

Minami: Huh, why? It had finally been available for use again since yesterday.

- やっと at last; finally
- 昨日 yesterday
- ~のに although; even though: 頑張ったのに出来なかった。I couldn't do it even though I did my best.

タカコ：昨日、誰かがなんか悪いことしたんだって。学校のパソコン使ってさ。

Takako: I heard that someone did something bad yesterday, using the school computer.

- ~さ filler word: 明日さ、暇だったらさ、ラーメン食べない？ Do you want to eat ramen if you are free tomorrow?

ミナミ：なにそれ？^{なに}何をやったの？

Minami: What? What did he do?

タカコ：ごめん。^{わたし}私も、そこまでは知らないんだ。

Takako: Sorry. I don't actually know that much either.

ミナミ：そっか。えー、けどどうしよう。^{こま}困ったな。^{あしたつか}明日使おうと思っただのに。

Minami: I see. Hmm, what should I do though? This is annoying. I was thinking of using it tomorrow.

- ^{こま} 困る to have difficulty; to be in trouble

タカコ：^{わたし}私も。うちのパソコン、^{おやしごと}親が仕事で使っててしばらく^{つか}使えないんだよ。^{こま}困るよね。

Takako: Me too. I can't use the computer at home for a while because my parents have been using it for work. This is such a hassle.

ミナミ：ほんとやめてほしい。^{だれ}誰のせいかわからないけどさ。

Minami: I really wish they would stop doing that, even though I don't know whose fault it is.

- ~てほしい to want/ask someone to do: ごはん^{つく}作ってほしいの？ Do you want me to make some food?
- せい fault; cause for blame; because of
- ~か[どうか] whether... or..., if... : 行くかどうか^いわからない。/行くかどうか^いわからない。 I don't know whether I go or not.

タカコ：なんでそんなやつのせいで、みんなが^{こま}困らないといけないんだよ。

Takako: Why is it that everyone has to be inconvenienced because of something that guy did?

- やつ guy, fellow; thing

ミナミ：そうだよね。私^{わたしたち}達、何^{なに}も関係^{かんけい}ないのにね。

Minami: Exactly. (We will be troubled) Even though we have nothing to do with it.