

1. Situation

Scaffolding for construction has been put up in a corner of a shopping street.

Dialogue

ハル：ここ、^{まえ}前、^{なに}何があった？

アキ：えー、^{なに}何があったかな？

ハル：この^{まえ}前、あれ、なかったよね？

アキ：うん、なかったよ。

ハル：そうだよね。^{なに}何ができるのかな？

Breakdown

ハル：ここ、^{まえ}前、^{なに}何があった？

Haru: What was here previously?

- ここ here
- ^{まえ}前 forward; front; before
- ^{なに}何 what
- あった past form of ある
- ある to be (existence); to have (possession); to happen; use ある for objects and いる for people and animals

アキ：えー、^{なに}何があったかな？

Aki: Uh, I wonder what was here.

- えー expresses surprise or disappointment: えー、^{ほんとう}本当？ What? Really?
- ～かな indicates uncertainty; softens a sentence: ちょっと^{さむ}寒いかな。I think it's a bit cold.

ハル：この^{まえ}前、あれ、なかったよね？

Haru: Previously, huh? That wasn't here, was it?

- この^{まえ}前 some time ago; recently; lately; the other day; この^{まえ}前^{くるま}車買ったよ。I bought a car the other day.
- あれ that
- なかった past form of ない
- ない There is no . . . ; no . . .
- ~よね shares mutual sentiments; confirms some information: 寒い^{さむ}よね。It's cold, right?; よな is sometimes used by male speakers; かわいいよ。may imply she might not know that she's cute, かわいいね。may imply you expect her to notice it too, and かわいいよね。implies that the speaker is fairly certain about the statement and expect the other person to agree

アキ：うん、なかったよ。

Aki: No, that wasn't here.

- うん (casual, non-keigo) yes; yeah
- ~よ introduces new information; emphasises a sentence; 朝^{あさ}だよ! It's morning!

ハル：そう^{なに}だよね。何が^{なに}できるのかな？

Haru: That's right, isn't it? I wonder what is going to be built.

- そう so (as in "I think so"): そう^{おも}思う。I think so. ; そうなんだ。I see.; that is so, that's right
- できる to be able to do; to be ready; to be made; to be good at; e.g. 彼女^{かのじよ}ができる=to find a girlfriend、友達^{ともだち}ができる=to make a friend
- ~の emphasises a sentence or question: 本当^{ほんとう}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^{わたし}、できるの。 sounds feminine.

2. Situation

Haru and Aki are unable to remember what was previously at the location where a new building is being constructed.

Dialogue

ハル：^{みせ}お店だったかな？

アキ：たぶん。

ハル：でも、^{なん}何の^{みせ}お店？

アキ：^{ぜんぜん}全然わかんない。^{おぼ}覚えてない。

ハル：^{わたし}私も。ここ、よく^{ある}歩いてるけど。

アキ：そうだよな。

Breakdown

ハル：^{みせ}お店だったかな？

Haru: Was it a store?

- ^{みせ}店 store; shop; restaurant
- だった past form of nouns and na-adjectives; ^{あめ}雨だった。 It was raining.

アキ：たぶん。

Aki: Probably.

- たぶん probably; perhaps; maybe

ハル：^{なん}でも、何の^{みせ}お店？

Haru: But what store was it?

- でも but; however: でも、^{にほん}日本に行きたい。 But, I want to go to Japan; even: プロでも^{でき}出来ない。 Even professionals can't do it.; or something; things like; how about; often used to soften a word and

doesn't have a lot of meanings: お茶^{ちや}でもどう? How about tea?; ラーメンでも食^たべる? Do you want to eat (things like) ramen?

アキ: 全然^{ぜんぜん}わかんない。覚えて^{おぼ}てない。

Aki: I have no idea. I can't remember.

- 全然^{ぜんぜん} (not) at all; utterly; completely; usually used with a negative form: 全然^{ぜんぜんわ}分^わからない。I don't understand at all; (a lot of people use it with affirmative forms lately): 全然^{ぜんぜん}できるよ。I can easily do it.
- わかんない、分^わからない negative form of 分^わかる
- 分^わかる to understand; to see
- 覚えて^{おぼ}て te-form of 覚^{おぼ}える; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; 食^たべて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: 昨日^{きのう}学校^{がっこう}行^いって、勉強^{べんきょう}して。。。I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- 覚^{おぼ}える to learn; to remember; to memorize
- ~てない negative form of ~てる
- ~てる、~ている verb form to express continuation; 食^たべる + ている = 食^たべている eating; てる is a colloquial version of ている; some verbs such as 知^しる uses this form to express the present situation 知^しっている (I know) but uses the present native form to say the opposite: 知^しらない (I don't know); often てん in spoken Japanese: それ、知^しってんの? Do you know that?

ハル: 私^{わたし}も。ここ、よく歩^{ある}いてるけど。

Haru: Me too. Even though I passed by (walk) here often.

- ここ here
- よく good; well; often: 日本^{にほん}によく行^いきます。I go to Japan often
- 歩^{ある}いて te-form of 歩^{ある}く; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; 食^たべて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: 昨日^{きのう}学校^{がっこう}行^いって、勉強^{べんきょう}して。。。I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- 歩^{ある}く to walk

2021年2月22日 Level 1 今日、クロワッサンないんですか？

- けど but; however; although; though; a lot of people finish a sentence with (だ)けど because it makes the sentence less direct.

アキ：そうだよね。

Aki: Yeah.

3. Situation

In the evening, Aki went to a bakery.

Dialogue

アキ：今日^{きょう}、クロワッサンないんですか？

店員^{てんいん}：ごめんなさい。もう、ありません。

アキ：買う人^{かひと}、多い^{おお}んですね。

店員^{てんいん}：はい、二時^{にじ}には全部^{ぜんぶ}なかったんですよ。

Breakdown

アキ：今日^{きょう}、クロワッサンないんですか？

Aki: Do you not have any croissants today?

- 今日^{きょう} today
- クロワッサン croissant
- ～んです actually, as a matter of fact: 明日^{あした}、映画^{えいがみ}見たいんですよ。I actually want to watch a movie tomorrow; often used with けど: すいません、トイレ^いに行きたいんですけど。。。Excuse me, I'd like to go to the bathroom; used to ask for a reason: なんて明日^{あした}、会社^{かいしゃ}来ないんですか? Why are you not coming to work tomorrow?; used to confirm or react to your observation: もう帰^{かえ}るんですか? Are you going home already?; emphasizes discontentment or anger

店員^{てんいん}：ごめんなさい。もう、ありません。

Employee: I'm sorry. There are none left.

- もう already; soon; again; more; strengthens expression of an emotion; filler word: なんか、もう、帰^{かえ}ろうよ: Like, let's go home already?
- ありません negative form of あります
- あります ます form of ある; ～ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence

アキ：買う^か人^{ひと}、多い^{おお}んですね。

Aki: There are many people who buy them, aren't there?

- 買う^か to buy
- 人^{ひと} person; people; human being
- 多い^{おお} many; much; a lot of
- ~ね shares information or experiences; softens a sentence; expects an agreement; isn't it?; don't you?: 雨^{あめ}だね。Oh, it's raining (as you can see).

店員^{てんいん}：はい、二時^{にじ}には全部^{ぜんぶ}なかったんですよ。

Employee: Yes, by two o'clock, we had sold them all.

- 時^{とき} time, when: 子供^{こども}の時^{とき} when I was a child; 時^じ o'clock
- 全部^{ぜんぶ} all; whole; entire

4. Situation

Aki's favorite popular bread is sold out for today.

Dialogue

アキ：この前はあったんですけど。この時間に。

店員：今日は特にはやかったんです。なくなるの。

アキ：そうなんです。今度はもう少し早い時間に来ます。

Breakdown

アキ：この前はあったんですけど。この時間に。

Aki: But the last time I came, you still had them. At this time.

- この this, these (possesive): この車 this car
- 時間 time

店員：今日は特にはやかったんです。なくなるの。

Employee: It was particularly quick today. They were all snapped up.

- 特に especially; particularly
- はやかった past form of はやい
- 早い early; soon; 速い fast
- なくなる to disappear; to be gone
- ~の の can make other words, such as verbs, function like a noun: 食べるのはやめる。I will stop eating.

アキ：そうなんです。今度はもう少し早い時間に来ます。

Aki: I see. Next time, I'll come a little earlier.

- 今度 next time; sometime; this time
- 少し a little; a few

2021年2月22日 Level 1 今日、クロワッサンないんですか？

- 来^きます ます form of 来^くる; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- 来^くる to come