

1. Situation

Aki sees her elder sister, Haru, writing something on a Sunday morning and asks her about it.

Dialogue

アキ：^{なに}か書いているの？

ハル：^{きょう}今日すること。

アキ：^{たと}例えば？

ハル：^{じぶん}自分の^{へや}部屋きれいに^ねするとか、はやく寝るとか。

アキ：^{あたま}へー。でも、^{おぼ}頭で覚えられるじゃん。

Breakdown

アキ：^{なに}か書いているの？

Aki: What are you writing?

- ^{なに}何 what
- ^か書いて te-form of ^か書く; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; ^た食べて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: ^{きのうがっこうい}昨日学校行って、^{べんきょう}勉強して。。。 I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- ^か書く to write
- ~ている、~てる verb form to express continuation; ^た食べる + ている = ^た食べている eating; てる is a colloquial version of ている; some verbs such as ^し知る uses this form to express the present situation ^し知っている (I know) but uses the present native form to say the opposite: ^し知らない (I don't know); often てん in spoken Japanese: ^しそれ、知ってるの? Do you know that?
- ~の emphasises a sentence or question: ^{ほんとう}本当にできるの? Can you really do it?; ^しできるの! I can do it!; may sound feminine in some cases; ^{わたし}私、できるの。 sounds feminine.

ハル：^{きょう}今日すること。

Haru: Things to do today.

- ^{きょう}今日 today
- する to do; to make; to decide on; to choose
- こと thing: ^{だいじ}大事なこと an important thing; こと converts a sentence into a massive noun: ^{あした}明日、^{にほん}日本に行くことは ^{むずか}難しい。It's difficult to go to Japan tomorrow. (“^{あした}明日、^{にほん}日本に行くこと” works like a big chunk of noun)

アキ：^{たと}例えは？

Aki: For example?

- ^{たと}例えは for example; such as

ハル：^{じぶん}自分の^{へや}部屋きれいにするとか、^ねはやく寝るとか。

Haru: Clean up my room, go to bed early, and so on.

- ^{じぶん}自分 oneself
- ^{へや}部屋 room
- きれい beautiful; pretty; clean
- ~とか such as; or something; and so on; something like; ^{いえ}家とか ^{くるま}車とか ^か買いたい。I want to buy things like cars or houses; people often add to soften a word: ^{くるま}車とか ^か買いたい。I want to buy a car (とか doesn't have a lot of meaning.)
- ^{はや}早い early; soon; ^{はや}速い fast
- ^ね寝る to sleep; to lie down; to go to bed

アキ：^{あたま}へー。でも、^{おぼ}頭で覚えられるじゃん。

Aki: Hmm. Can't you just remember them in your head, though?

- へー oh, yes?; really?
- ても but; however: ^{にほん}でも、日本に行きたい。But, I want to go to Japan; even: ^{でき}プロでも出来ない。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: ^{ちや}お茶でもどう? How about tea?; ^たラーメンでも食べる? Do you want to eat (things like) ramen?
- ^{あたま}頭 head; ^{あたま}頭がいい smart; ^{あたま}頭が悪い stupid

- 覚え(ら)れる potential form of 覚える; ~ (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
- 覚える to learn; to remember; to memorize
- じゃん じゃん: common way of ending a sentence mainly in Kanto region, a colloquial form of じゃない; isn't it; 今日寒いじゃん。だから出かけない。It's cold today, right? So I won't go out; You know I don't have money, right?; 鈴木さん、会社来たじゃないですか? 何ですか? Suzuki-san came to work, right? Why?; expresses a slight surprise or emphasizes a remark: へえ、歌、うまいじゃん。Wow, you are a good singer.

2. Situation

Haru writes down the things she must not forget on a piece of paper, but Aki does not appear to.

Dialogue

アキ：^{わたし} ^か私は書かないな。

ハル：^か ^{いちばんたし}書くのが一番確かだよ。

アキ：^か ^{じかん} ^{ひつよう}でも、書く時間、必要じゃん。

ハル：^{じかん} ^おそんなに時間かかんないよ。すぐに終わっちゃうよ。

Breakdown

アキ：^{わたし} ^か私は書かないな。

Aki: I don't write these things down.

- ^か書かない negative form of ^か書く
- ~な expresses emotions; emphasises the emotion; softens the sentence; often なー：^{にほん} ^い日本へ行きたいな。I want to go to Japan; ^かかわいいなー。It's so cute.

ハル：^か ^{いちばんたし}書くのが一番確かだよ。

Haru: Writing them down is the safest way (the most certain way).

- ~の の can make other words, such as verbs or adjectives, function like a noun: ^た食べるのはやめる。I will stop eating. ^ほ欲しいのはどれ? Which is the one you want?
- ^{いちばん}一番 number one; first; most
- ^{たし}確か adj. sure, certain, reliable; adv maybe, probably, if I remember rightly, it's my understanding that; ^{たし} ^{たし} ^{てんき} ^{わる}確かに surely, certainly; you're right: ^{たし} ^{てんき} ^{わる}確かに天気が悪いね。The weather is certainly bad.
- ~よ introduces new information; emphasises a sentence: ^{あさ}朝だよ! It's morning!

アキ：でも、書^かく時間^{じかん}、必要^{ひつよう}じゃん。

Aki: Don't you need time to write them down, though?

- でも but; however: 日本^{にほん}に行きたい。But, I want to go to Japan; even: プロでも出来^{でき}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?
- 時間^{じかん} time; hour: 一時間^{いちじかん} one hour, 二時間^{にじかん} two hours
- 必要^{ひつよう} necessary

ハル：そんなに時間^{じかん}かか^かんないよ。すぐ^おに終わ^おっちゃうよ。

Haru: It doesn't take that much time. I'll be done soon.

- そんな that; such: そんな事^{こと}はできない。I can't do such a thing; そんなに so much; so; like that; often そんなに～ない: そんなに食^たべれない。I can't eat that much.
- かか^かんない negative form of かか^かる
- かか^かる to take (time, resource); to cost; to hang
- すぐ immediately; right away; soon
- 終わ^おる to end; to finish
- ～ちゃう to end up doing; to do accidentally; to do without meaning to; to happen to do; to connect a verb to ちゃう, simply remove た from the paste form: 食^たべちゃう to end up eating

3. Situation

Yamamoto-san takes a call for Sato-san. Sato-san's desk is a bit far from Yamamoto-san's desk.

Dialogue

やまもと さとう でんわ
山本：佐藤さん、電話です。

さとう でんわ いちばん
佐藤：はい、どの電話ですか？ 一番ですか？

やまもと にばん
山本：いえ、二番です。

さとう わ にばん
佐藤：はい、分かりました。二番とります。ありがとう。

Breakdown

やまもと さとう でんわ
山本：佐藤さん、電話です。

Yamamoto: Sato-san, you have a call.

- 電話 ^{でんわ} telephone, call; 電話する ^{でんわ} to call (on the phone)

さとう でんわ いちばん
佐藤：はい、どの電話ですか？ 一番ですか？

Sato: Okay, which line is it? Line 1?

- どの ^{えいがみ} which; what; どの映画見る? What (which) film are we going to watch?

やまもと にばん
山本：いえ、二番です。

Yamamoto: No, it's Line 2.

- いえ no; colloquial version of いいえ

さとう わ にばん
佐藤：はい、分かりました。二番とります。ありがとう。

Sato: Okay, got it. I'll take Line 2. Thanks.

- 分かりました ^わ past form of 分かります ^わ
- 分かります ^わ ます form of 分かる; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- 分かる ^わ to understand; to see
- とります ^わ ます form of とる; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence

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- 取る to take; to get; to have; to pass; 撮る to take (pictures, movies, etc.)

4. Situation

Sato-san and Tanaka-san are talking at work.

Dialogue

さとう きょう でんわおお
佐藤：今日、なんか電話多いですね。

たなか わたし おも
田中：はい、私もそう思います。

さとう あさ
佐藤：朝からよくかかってくるよ。

たなか
田中：なんでですかね。

さとう わ
佐藤：よく分かりませんね。

Breakdown

さとう きょう でんわおお
佐藤：今日、なんか電話多いですね。

Sato: Well, there are so many phone calls today.

- なんか something; things like ..., or something like that ...; conversation filler: なんか、寒^{さむ}い。Well, it's cold; emphasises noun, often in a deprecating way: 魚^{さかな}なんか嫌^{きら}い。I don't like something like fish.
- 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).

たなか わたし おも
田中：はい、私もそう思います。

Tanaka: Yes, I think so too.

- 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
- 思います^{おも}ます form of 思^{おも}う; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- 思^{おも}う to think; to believe; to feel; to expect; ~と^{おも}思^{おも}う to think that: 明日^{あした}、行^いくと思^{おも}う。I think I will go tomorrow.

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さとう あさ
佐藤：朝からよくかかっていますよ。

Sato: The phone has been ringing since the morning.

- 朝 morning
- ~から from; after: 日本から来ました。I'm from Japan.
- よく good; well; often: 日本によく行きます。I go to Japan often.
- かかって te-form of かかる; 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..
- ~てきます ます form of ~てくる; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- ~てくる [1] go and __; indicates that you will do something and come back to the original place; indicates you are doing something in addition to coming to a place: 学校に行ってくる。I'll go to school (and come back.) [2] indicates a gradual process: 空が赤くなってくる。The sky is becoming red. [3] indicates something you've been doing in the past. 今まで一人で仕事してきました。I've been working alone up until now.
- ~よね shares mutual sentiments; confirms some information: 寒いよね。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.

たなか
田中：なんでですかね。

Tanaka: I wonder why.

- なんで why; how come

さとう わ
佐藤：よく分かりませんね。

Sato: I'm not sure.

- 分かりません negative form of 分かります