

1. Situation

Aiko and Takashi are looking at a photo.

Dialogue

ハル：^{おんがく す}音楽好き？

リョウ：うん、好きだよ。

ハル：どんな^{おんがく す}音楽が好き？

リョウ：ジャズとか。

ハル：よく^き聞いているの？

リョウ：ううん、そんなに。でも、^す好き。

Breakdown

ハル：^{おんがく す}音楽好き？

Haru: Do you like music?

- ^{おんがく} 音楽 music
- ^す 好き favorite; to like; to love

リョウ：うん、^す好きだよ。

Ryo: Yeah, I like it.

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

ハル：どんな^{おんがく す}音楽が好き？

Haru: What kind of music do you like?

- どんな what kind of: ^{おんがく す}どんな音楽が好き? What kind of music do you like?

リョウ：ジャズとか。

Ryo: Jazz and so on.

- ジャズ jazz
- ~とか such as; or something; and so on; something like: 家^{いえ}とか車^{くるま}とか買^かいたい。I want to buy things like cars or houses; people often add とか to soften a word: 車^{くるま}とか買^かいたい。I want to buy a car (とか here doesn't always have a lot of meaning depending on the context).

ハル：よく聞^きいてるの？

Haru: Do you often listen to it?

- よく good; well; often: 日本^{にほん}によく行^いきます。 I go to Japan often.
- 聞^きいて te-form of 聞^きく; 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...
- 聞^きく、聴^きく to hear; to listen; to ask; to obey
- ~ている、てる 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?
- ~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.

リョウ：ううん、そんなに。でも、好^すき。

Ryo: No. Not that much. But I like it.

- ううん nuh-uh; no (non keigo)
- そんな that; such: そんな^{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.
- でも but; however: でも、日本^{にほん}に行^いきたい。But, I want to go to Japan; even: プロでも出^で出来ない。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^{ちゃ}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?

2. Situation

Haru and Ryo are talking about jazz.

Dialogue

ハル：ジャズってなんかいいね。

リョウ：夜、^{よる}聞くの^きがいいんだよね。

ハル：^わ分かる。仕事^{しごと}から帰^{かえ}った後^{あと}なんか^{かん}にね。

リョウ：うん、^{ひとり}一人で^き聞きたい^{かん}感じ。

Breakdown

ハル：ジャズってなんかいいね。

Haru: Jazz is kind of nice.

- ~って (は) about; as for: ^{なまえ}名前^{なん}って何ですか? What's your name?; in spoken Japanese, people use ^すって very often instead of ^はは: ラーメン^すって好きですか? Do you like ramen? (instead of ラーメン^はは好きですか?)
- ^{なに}何か、^{なに}なんか something; things like ..., or something like that ...; conversation filler: ^{なん}何か、^{さむ}寒い。Well, it's cold; emphasises noun, often in a deprecating way: ^{さかな}魚^{きら}なんか嫌い。I don't like something like fish.
- よい、いい good: ^{えいが}映画よかった! The film was great!; you may use this to indicate your preference or choice: ^{わたし}私、ラーメン^ががいい。I'd like to choose ramen; いいね is the Japanese version of "like" on social media.
- ~ね shares information or experiences; softens a sentence; expects an agreement; isn't it?, don't you?: ^{あめ}雨だね。Oh, it's raining (as you can see).

リョウ：夜、^{よる}聞くの^きがいいんだよね。

Ryo: It's nice to listen to it at night, isn't it?

- ^{よる}夜 night; evening

- ~の の can make other words, such as verbs or adjectives, function like a noun: 食べるのはやめる。I will stop eating; 欲しいのはどれ? Which is the one you want?
- ~のです、~んです、~のだ、~んだ actually, as a matter of fact: 明日、映画見たいんですよね/だよ。I actually want to watch a movie tomorrow; often used with けど: すいません、トイレに行きたいんですけど/だけど。。。Excuse me, I'd like to go to the bathroom; used to ask for a reason: 明日、会社来ないんですか/来ないの? Why are you not coming to work tomorrow?; used to confirm or react to your observation: もう帰るんですか/帰るの? Are you going home already?; emphasizes discontentment or anger: 何言ってるんだよ/んですか。What the heck are you talking about?; ~なんだ with nouns, na-adjectives, and adverbs: 明日雨なんだ。It will rain tomorrow.
- ~よね、よな 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.

ハル: 分かる。仕事から帰った後なんかだね。

Haru: I get it. Like after you get home from work, right?

- 分かる to understand; to see
- 仕事 work, job; 仕事する to work
- ~から from; after: 日本から来ました。I'm from Japan.
- 帰った past form of 帰る
- 帰る to return; to go home; to go back
- 後 after; later; the rest; also; in addition; from now: あと三分あります。We have 3 minutes left (from now).

リョウ: うん、一人で聞きたい感じ。

Ryo: Yeah, (jazz is something) I feel like listening (to it) alone.

- 一人 one person; alone
- 聞きたい たい form of 聞く; ~たい expresses desire; I want to __

- 感じ ^{かん} feeling; impression; atmosphere; often used to express your impression: この部屋 ^{へや} ^{かん} いい感じ。

This room looks good.

3. Situation

Today is the day that the trash collection vehicle comes.

Dialogue

やまだ
山田：おはようございます。

かとう
加藤：もう車行っちゃいましたよ。

やまだ
山田：えー、今日は早いですね。

かとう
加藤：ほんと。私が来たのも、車が行った後でした。

Breakdown

やまだ
山田：おはようございます。
Yamada: Good morning.

かとう
加藤：もう車行っちゃいましたよ。
Kato: The vehicle has already gone.

- 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?
- 車 car; wheel
- 行く to go
- ~ちゃいました past form of ~ちゃいます
- ~ちゃいます ます form of ~ちゃう; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- ~てしまう、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 past form: 食べちゃう to end up eating

やまだ
山田：えー、今日は早いですね。
Yamada: What? It was early (the vehicle came early) today, wasn't it?

- えー、え expresses surprise or disappointment: えー、本当? What? Really?
- 今日 today

- ^{はや}早い early; soon; ^{はや}速い fast

かとう わたし き くるま い あと
加藤：ほんと。私が来たのも、車が行った後でした。

Kato: It really was. I also came after the vehicle was gone.

- ^{ほんとう}本当、ほんと truth; right; really
- ^き来た past form of ^く来る
- ^く来る to come
- ^い行った past form of ^い行く

4. Situation

This is a conversation at a supermarket.

Dialogue

きゃく
客：レタスはありますか？

てんいん きょう
店員：今日はもうなくなりました。

きゃく
客：えー、もう、ないんですか？

てんいん すこ まえ
店員：はい。少し前まであったんですけど。

Breakdown

きゃく
客：レタスはありますか？
Customer: Is there lettuce?

- レタス lettuce
- あります ます form of ある; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- ある to be (existence); to have (possession); to happen; use ある for objects and いる for people and animals

てんいん きょう
店員：今日はもうなくなりました。
Staff: We've run out of it (It's gone) for today.

- なくなりました past form of なくなります
- なくなります ます form of なくなる; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- なくなる to disappear; to be gone

きゃく
客：えー、もう、ないんですか？
Customer: What? You don't have them anymore?

- な
無い There is no . . . ; no . . .

てんいん すこ まえ
店員：はい。少し前まであったんですけど。
Staff: No. Although we had some until a little while ago.

- 少^{すこ}し a little; a few
- 前^{まえ} forward; front; before
- ~まで to, as far as: 日本^{にほん}まで行^いった。I went to (as far as) Japan; till, until: 朝^{あさ}まで仕事^{しごと}した。I worked until morning.
- あった past form of ある
- けれど、けど but; however; although; though; a lot of people finish a sentence with (だ)けど because it makes the sentence less direct.