

## INFORMATION: On arrival in Japan

### Language

Although most Japanese study English for many years at school, few have frequent opportunities to use it. It is therefore unwise to assume that you will be able to communicate in English at all times. However, airport officials and staff in major hotels will almost certainly speak English: mercifully, there is no need to force your jet-lagged brain to struggle with the intricacies of the Japanese language after a long-haul flight.

### Telephones

It is possible to phone the U.K. using a telephone card (or many ¥100 coins!) from special international telephone boxes (usually bright green). It is also possible to make calls using a credit card from a limited number of public telephones.

Japan is 9 hours ahead of G.M.T. (and therefore 8 hours ahead during British summer time).

Telephone cards (known as **terehon kādo**) are sold by machines near public telephones. They tend to work out cheaper than using coins, and are generally more convenient. Since telephoning in a foreign language is always slightly stressful, anything which makes life easier is probably a good thing! Japanese telephone cards are much thinner than British ones and come in a variety of attractive designs. You can have personalized ones made which make excellent small presents.

### Taxi vouchers

You may well be given a taxi voucher during the course of your business calls. This is a voucher to be given to a taxi driver who will then charge whomever (or whichever institution) gave you the voucher.

### Crossing the road

The Japanese drive on the left-hand side, but traffic rules seem a little different from in the U.K.: there are times when cars may still cross the pedestrian crossing, even if the pedestrians have a green light.

### Electricity

Mains voltage in Japan is 100v a.c., although shaver sockets often also provide 220v a.c. Small, two-pinned plugs are used.

## UNIT FOUR

Now we learn how to say 'and', 'before', 'after' and 'so'; how to describe continuous actions and indicate the results of an action; how to ask people to do things for you; and how to express ability. We also look at the Plain past.

### Structure 31: (verb)-te (linking sentences)

**Depāto ni itte, kaimono shimashita.**

I went to the department store and did the shopping.

**Kuroda-san ni denwa o kakete, yakusoku o shimashita.**

I phoned Mr Kuroda and made an appointment.

### CHECKNOTES 31

a) The **-te** form of a verb has various uses. One of the most common is to link two sentences. In this use, it often translates as 'and' in English. The **-te** form does not change for tense, so it may be translated by a present, future or past verb, according to context, in English.

b) To make the **-te** form, remove **masu** and add **te** to the remaining stem. Note that, over the centuries, various sound changes have occurred:

No change:

**hanaS.u** ('speak')

**tabE.ru** ('eat')

**mi.ru** ('see')

**hanaSH.i.masu**

**tabE.masu**

**mi.masu**

becomes **hanaSH.i.te**

becomes **tabE.te**

becomes **mi.te**

**CH.i.te, (W).i.te, R.i.te** change to **tte**:

**maTS.u** ('wait')

**wara(W).u** ('laugh')

**okuR.u** ('send')

**maCHI.i.masu**

**wara(W).i.masu**

**okuR.i.masu**

becomes **matte**

becomes **waratte**

becomes **okutte**

**G.i.te** changes to **ide**:

**oyoG.u** ('swim')

**ki-te** changes to **ite**:

**kaku** ('write')

becomes **oyoido**

becomes **kaite**

B.i.te, M.i.te, N.i.te change to nde:

yoB.u ('call') yoB.i.masu  
yoM.u ('read') yoM.i.masu  
shIN.u ('die') shIN.i.masu

becomes yonde  
becomes yonde  
becomes shinde

Irregular:

da ('be')  
iku ('go')  
suru ('do')  
kuru ('come')

desu  
iku.masu  
shimasu  
kimasu

becomes de  
becomes itte  
becomes shite  
becomes kite

- c) The verbs **hairu** ('enter') (Consonant verb) and **noru** ('get on'), which you will meet in the Fluency Practice sentences, take **ni** where one might have expected **o**. For example: **heya ni hairu** ('enter a room') and **densha ni noru** ('get on a train').

### Checklist 31

kaette kuru	come back (from <b>kaeru</b> , 'return', and <b>kuru</b> , 'come')
kaimono suru	do the shopping (from <b>kau</b> , 'buy', and <b>mono</b> , 'thing')
kakunin suru	confirm
nakusuru	lose
yakusoku o suru	make an appointment
e-hagaki	picture postcard (from <b>e</b> , 'picture', and <b>hagaki</b> , 'postcard')
kitte	stamp
mise	shop (from <b>miseru</b> , 'show')
omiyage	souvenir
taishi-kan	embassy; <b>Igirisu Taishi-kan</b> the British Embassy
terehon kādo	telephone card
yoyaku	reservation

### FLUENCY PRACTICE 31

Translate the following sentences into English:

- Asakusa ni itte, omiyage o kaimashita.
- Yokohama e itte, Nissan no Suzuki-san ni aimashita.
- Watashi wa ashita Shizuoka ni itte, asatte kaette kimasu.
- Genkan ni haitte, denwa o kakemashita.
- Chika-tetsu ni notte, hōteru ni kaerimashita.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- I went to the shop and bought a telephone card.
- I bought the stamps and sent the postcard.
- I phoned and confirmed the hotel reservation.
- I used the database and collected the information (use **shiryō**).
- I lost my passport and went to the British Embassy.

### Structure 32: (verb)-te iru (continuous actions)

Satō-san wa nani o shite imasu ka.

What is Mr Satō doing?

Andō-kachō wa ima shigoto o shite imasu.

Mr Andō, the section head, is working now.

Ikebukuro ni sunde imasu.

I am living in Ikebukuro.

### CHECKNOTES 32

- a) The (verb)-te iru structure has two main usages. The first is to express continuous action: 'be (verb)-ing'. The other main usage is dealt with in Structure 33.
- b) Like **aru** and **iru**, **sumu** ('live') takes **ni**, not **de**, to indicate place.

### Checklist 32

sagasu	look for
anyuaru repōto = nenpō	annual report
kachō	section head
tori-hiki	dealings; <b>tori-hiki o suru</b> trade

### FLUENCY PRACTICE 32

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Kanojo wa ganbatte imasu.
  - 2 Kare wa ima denwa o kakete imasu.
  - 3 Ito-buchō (Mr Itoh, the department head) wa Tōkyō de tori-hiki o shite imasu.
  - 4 Sumimassen ga, Roiyaru Fānichā no Eigo no anyuaru repōto o sagashite imasu.
  - 5 Ima Rondon ni sunde imasu.
- Translate the following sentences into Japanese:
- 6 Mr Saitō is reading the newspaper.
  - 7 She's writing a report today.
  - 8 Mr Andō is working in the factory in Kobe (use **Kōbe no kōjō**).
  - 9 The section head is having (literally, 'eating') [his] lunch now.
  - 10 The reporter was writing an article.

### Structure 33: (verb)-te iru (results of an action)

**Konpyūta ga koshō shite imasu.**

The computer is broken/has broken down.

**Denki ga tsuite/kiete imasu.**

The light is on/off.

**Poketto ni kagi ga haitte imasu.**

There is a key in the pocket.

**Komatte imasu.**

I'm in a fix.

### CHECKNOTES 33

- a) In addition to the use explained in Structure 32, (verb)-te iru is used to indicate states which are the result of some action. In English, it is sometimes equivalent to an adjective and sometimes to a verb in the perfect tense.
- b) Note that the subject is usually marked by **ga** in this structure. But if the subject is something or somebody known to the speakers, i.e. a topic, it is indicated by **wa**.

### Checklist 33

aku	(something) opens
gaishutsu suru	go out
haitte iru	have entered, be (put) (from hairu, 'enter'); 'in' is ni
kekkon suru	get married
kieru	go out (of electrical device)
komaru	be in a fix; be a nuisance
komu	crowd
koshō suru	break down
kowareru	(something) breaks
shimaru	(something) closes
tsukareru	get tired
tsuku	come on (of electrical device)
hontō ni	really (from hontō (no), 'true')
mada	still, yet
denki	electricity; denki ga tsuku a light comes on; denki ga kieru a light goes out
doa	door
dokushin	single (person)
kabin	vase
michi	road

### FLUENCY PRACTICE 33

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Hontō ni tsukarete imasu.
  - 2 Doa ga aite imasu.
  - 3 Kachō wa gaishutsu shite imasu.
  - 4 Densha wa mada kite imasen.
  - 5 Kare wa kekkon shite imasu ka.
- Translate the following sentences into Japanese:
- 6 Are [you] married? No, I'm still single (literally, 'single person').
  - 7 This window is shut.
  - 8 The light is off.
  - 9 This road is crowded.
  - 10 The vase is broken.

### Structure 34: (verb)-te kudasai ('please ...')

Nihon-go de tegami o kaite kudasai.

Please write the letter in Japanese.

Sō shite kudasaimasen ka.

Wouldn't you do that for me?

### CHECKNOTES 34

a) (Verb)-te kudasai means 'Please (verb)'.

b) The negative -masen ka ('won't you?' – see Structure 15) is also used as a slightly politer form: (verb)-te kudasaimasen ka.

### Checklist 34

hon'yaku suru	translate; 'into' is ni
honbu	main branch (of a company)
keiyaku	contract
shōsai	details
yoku	well
yukkuri	slowly

### FLUENCY PRACTICE 34

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Asatte denwa o kakete kudasai.
- 2 Yoshioka-san ni fakkusu o okutte kudasai.
- 3 Chotto matte kudasai.
- 4 Kore o Eigo ni hon'yaku shite kudasaimasen ka.
- 5 Shachō no setsumei o yoku kiite kudasai.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 Please speak in English.
- 7 Please take a photo. (Use -te kudasaimasen ka.)
- 8 Please read the contract well.
- 9 Please send the details by fax (... o ... de).
- 10 Please send this parcel to the main branch (... o ... ni).

### Structure 35: (verb)-te kara ('after ...-ing')

Ueno eki ni itte kara, kippu o kaimashita.

After going to Ueno station, I bought the tickets.

Kūkō de chekku in shite kara, kissa-ten de kōhī o nomimashita.

After checking in at the airport, we had a coffee in a café.

### CHECKNOTES 35

a) (Verb)-te kara gives the sense of 'after doing' something.

### Checklist 35

to	with (follows the noun)
chekku in suru	check in
shiraberu	look up, check; jisho de shiraberu look up in a dictionary
sōdan suru	discuss
sotsugyō suru	graduate
bā	bar
ban-gohan	dinner (from ban, 'evening', and gohan, 'rice', 'meal')
jikoku-hyō	timetable
jisho	dictionary
kabu	share, stock
kanarazu	without fail, definitely
keikaku	plan
uchi	home

### FLUENCY PRACTICE 35

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Igrisu ni kaette kara, kanarazu tegami o kakimashi.
- 2 Sotsugyō shite kara, Nihon ni ikimashita.
- 3 Ban-gohan o tabete kara, bā ni ikimashita.
- 4 Keikaku o mite kara, Yoshida-san to sōdan shimashi.
- 5 Jikoku-hyō de densha o shirabete kara, kippu o kaimashita.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 After drinking the coffee, he read the newspaper.
- 7 After reading the annual report of the company, I bought the shares.
- 8 After sending the fax, she went home.
- 9 We looked for a hotel after arriving in Nagoya.
- 10 I set out after (eating) breakfast.

### Structure 36: (verb)-u mae ni ('before ...-ing')

**Nihon ni iku mae ni, shiryō o atsumemashita.**  
I collected the information before going to Japan.

**Keiyaku o musubu mae ni, naiyō o kakunin shimashō.**  
Let's confirm the contents before entering into the contract.

### CHECKNOTES 36

- a) (Verb)-u mae ni means 'before doing' something. This structure consists of the Plain present of a verb followed by mae ni.

### Checklist 36

<b>musubu</b>	tie; <b>keiyaku o musubu</b> enter into a contract
<b>kawase-ritsu</b>	exchange rate
<b>manyuaru</b>	manual
<b>mazu</b>	first
<b>naiyō</b>	contents

### FLUENCY PRACTICE 36

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Konpyūtā o tsukau mae ni, mazu manyuaru o yomimashita.
- 2 Himeno-san ni au mae ni, ginkō ni ikimashita.
- 3 Kaigi ni deru mae ni, denwa o kakemashita.
- 4 Igrisu ni kaeru mae ni, hikō-ki o kakunin shite kudasai.
- 5 Kijūjito kōdo o tsukau mae ni, kawase-ritsu o shirabemashō.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 We bought the Japanese Yen before going to Japan.
- 7 Please pay the bill before [you] go.
- 8 I read the annual report before meeting the president.
- 9 Please confirm the hotel reservation before going to Japan.
- 10 Before I go back to Britain, let's have a drink. (Use **ga** after **watashi**, not **wa**, as clauses with **mae ni** count as relative clauses – see Structure 61.)

### Structure 37: kara ('so', 'because')

**Wakarimasen kara, mō ichido itte kudasai.**  
I don't understand, so please say it again.

**Nihon-go wa dekimasen kara, tsūyaku o sagashite imashū.**  
I can't speak Japanese, so I'm looking for an interpreter.

**Mō jikan desū kara, sorosoro kaerimashō.**  
Since it's already time, let's go home.

### CHECKNOTES 37

- a) Putting **kara** at the end of the first of two clauses adds the idea of 'so'. This can also be pressed into service for 'because', 'since' and 'as'. The translation of the second example above could be 'I'm looking for an interpreter because I can't speak Japanese'.
- b) Note that, in the second example above, **Nihon-go** ('Japanese') is the topic of the sentence. It is as if the Japanese say 'Japanese? I can't speak it'.
- c) (Verb)-te miru means '(verb) and see' or 'try (verb)-ing': **Akai botan o oshite mimashō** ('Let's try pushing the red button'). It is uncertain whether the action results in success.

### Checklist 37

<b>dasu.</b>	take out; post, send (a letter); hand in
<b>dekiru</b>	be able (to speak)
<b>osu</b>	push
<b>shitsurei suru</b>	be rude; say goodbye, leave
<b>unten suru</b>	drive

akai	red
bejitarian	vegetarian
botan	button
kesa	this morning
kuruma	car
mō ichi-do	again (literally, 'one more time')
o-niku	meat
o-saki ni	before you, etc.
totemo	very
tsūyaku	interpreter

### FLUENCY PRACTICE 37

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Tsukarete imashita kara, sugu yasumimashita.
- 2 Shigoto ga owarimashita kara, o-saki ni shitsurei shimasu.
- 3 Nan de mo ii desu (idiom meaning 'it doesn't matter what') kara, itte mite kudasai.
- 4 Isoide (i)masu kara, sugu repōto o dashite kudasai. (Note that the 'i' of **-te** (or **-de**) **iru** is commonly dropped here and elsewhere in colloquial speech.)
- 5 O-sake o nomimashita kara, kuruma o unten shimasen.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 I'm a vegetarian, so I don't eat meat. (Use 'contrasting' wa in the second clause, not o, to hint that you do eat other things.)
- 7 I'm very tired because I arrived in Japan this morning. (Use **tsuita bakari desu**, 'have just arrived'.)
- 8 He doesn't understand Japanese, so let's speak English.
- 9 We have time, so let's go into a café and have (drink) a (Japanese) tea or something.
- 10 The (company) president is not in (use **oru**, rather than **iru**, as he belongs to your humble company) now, so please wait a moment (use **o-machi kudasai**).

### Structure 38: (verb)-u + koto ga dekiru (expressing ability)

Nihon-go de denwa o kakeru koto ga dekimasu ka.

Can you make a phone call in Japanese?

Nihon-go wa dekimasu ka.

Can you speak Japanese?

### CHECKNOTES 38

- a) The Plain present of a verb plus **koto ga dekiru** expresses ability, 'can'.
- b) Sometimes, especially with **hanasu** ('speak'), (Plain present) **koto ga** is omitted. For example, 'Can you speak English?' is **Eigo wa dekimasu ka** (rather than **Eigo wa hanasu koto ga dekimasu ka**).  
Verbs ending in **suru** – for example, **yushutsu suru** ('export') – usually omit **suru koto ga**. So 'be able to export' is **yushutsu dekiru**.

### Checklist 38

<b>kotaeru</b>	answer; <b>shitsumon ni kotaeru</b> answer a question
<b>chokusetsu</b>	directly
<b>den'atsu</b>	voltage
<b>made ni</b>	by (a deadline) (follows noun)
<b>yūbin-kyoku</b>	post office

### FLUENCY PRACTICE 38

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Koko de chiketto o kau koto ga dekimasu ka.
- 2 Raishū no moku-yōbi made ni shōsai o kakunin (suru koto ga) dekimasu ka.
- 3 Den'atsu no mondai ga arimasu kara, Nihon de kono kikai o tsukau koto ga dekimasen.
- 4 Kaikai-shi wa sono shitsumon ni kotaeru koto ga dekimasen.
- 5 Katō-san no hisho wa wāpuro o tsukau koto ga dekimasen.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 Can [you] play golf?
- 7 The lawyer can explain those problems.
- 8 Can [I] send a fax from the post office?
- 9 Can [you] go directly to Nagoya?
- 10 [My] wife was ill (use *byōki deshita*), so she couldn't go to the party.

### Structure 39: The Plain past

*Pari de Nihon-go o naratta.*

I learned Japanese in Paris.

*Kyōto kara Nagoya made basu de itta.*

I, etc. went from Kyoto to Nagoya by bus.

*Ano hi wa ii tenki datta?*

Was it good weather that day?

### CHECKNOTES 39

- a) The Plain past of a verb is formed by changing the final 'e' of the -te form to 'a'.
- b) *Da* has the irregular form *datta*.
- c) Note that *ka* is usually omitted when asking a question in the Plain style. Instead, use a rising, question intonation. A parallel in English would be the intonation used in 'Understand?' as opposed to 'Do you understand?'
- d) The Plain past is used in idioms such as the following:

**Komatta!**

What a nuisance! (Literally, 'I have got in a fix!')

**Shimatta!**

Bother!

**Bikkuri shita!** You/it surprised me! (The surprise is almost always unpleasant!)

### Checklist 39

**bikkuri suru**

be surprised

**narau**

learn

**atarashii**

new

**ban** evening; **kinō no ban** yesterday evening (television, etc.) programme

**bangumi**

**hi** day; sun; fire

**kazoku** (my, etc.) family

**kudamono** fruit

**no tame ni** for (literally, 'for the benefit of')

**omoshiroi** interesting

**ototoi** the day before yesterday

**pirezento** present

**senshū** last week

**tenki** weather

### FLUENCY PRACTICE 39

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Asa-gohan o tabeta.
- 2 Kyonen Rondon ni itta.
- 3 Kinō no ban terebi de omoshiroi bangumi o mita.
- 4 Kare-ra wa atarashii konpyūtā o katta.
- 5 Kono hon o yonda?

Translate the following sentences into Japanese using Plain forms:

- 6 The lawyer read the contract.
- 7 I bought a present for [my] family.
- 8 I arrived in Japan the day before yesterday.
- 9 Did [you] buy some fruit?
- 10 Did [you] meet Mr Yamaguchi last week?

**CONVERSATION 10: Hoteru no resepsiushon nite: Watashi-ate ni messēji wa haitte imasen ka.**  
 ('At the hotel reception: Have any messages come in for me?')

**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** 1012(Ichi zero ichi ni)-gōshitsu no Deibiddo Sūmisu desu ga, nanika messēji wa haitte imasen ka.

**Uketsuke no hito:** Hai, ikken haitte orimasu. Dōzo kochira de gozaimasu.

**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** Arigatō.

**David Smith:** I'm David Smith from room 1012. Are there any messages for me?

**Receptionist:** Yes, there is one for you. Here it is.

**David Smith:** Thank you.

#### Notes on Conversation 10

a) In **Nanika messēji wa haitte imasen ka** ('Have any messages come in for me?'), **nanika** ('something') is used to make the statement vaguer (and, therefore, politer). Negative questions ending in **-masen ka**, etc. are often more polite than questions ending in **-masu ka**. **Haitte imasu** means 'have come in' (see Structure 33) rather than 'are coming in'.

b) **-ken** is a counter for messages. Note: 1 **ikken**; 6 **rokken**; 8 **hakken**; and 10 **jikken** (or **jikken**).

c) **Haitte oru** is Hum. for **haitte iru**.

d) New words:

**arigatō** thank you (not as polite as **dōmo arigatō**)  
**-ate ni** for (somebody; used of letters, etc.)  
**dōzo** please; here you are (like 'bitte' in German)  
**messēji** message

**CONVERSATION 11: Hōmon jikan no kakunin**  
 ('Confirming the time of a visit')

**Kōkan-shu:** Nanbu Depāto de gozaimasu.

**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** Eigō 3(san)-ka no Suzuki-san o o-negai shimasu.

**Kōkan-shu:** Eigō 3-ka no Suzuki desu ne, shōshō o-machi kudasai.

**Suzuki:** Hai, Suzuki de gozaimasu.

**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** Moshimoshi, Royaru Fānichā no Deibiddo Sūmisu desu.

**Suzuki:** Domo o-sewa ni natte orimasu.

**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** Senjitsu o-tegami de o-negai itashimashita yō ni, ashita 10(jū)-ji ni o-ukagai shimasu ga, yoroshii deshō-ka.

**Suzuki:** Hai, o-machi itashite orimasu.

**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** De wa, ashita 10-ji ni o-ukagai shimasu.

**Switchboard:** Nanbu Department Store.

**David Smith:** Mr Suzuki in the 3rd sales section, please.

**Switchboard:** Mr Suzuki in the 3rd sales section? Please wait a moment.

**Suzuki:** Suzuki, here.

**David Smith:** Hello, it's David Smith from Royal Furniture.

**Suzuki:** You've been very helpful to me recently [set phrase; used more widely in Japanese].

**David Smith:** As I mentioned in my letter the other day, I'm coming to see you at ten o'clock tomorrow. Is that all right?

**Suzuki:** Yes. I'll be expecting you.

**David Smith:** I'll come at ten o'clock then.

#### Notes on Conversation 11

a) Note that **-san** is not used by the operator of somebody in his/her own humble company, or, of course, by Suzuki referring to himself.

b) **Dōmo o-sewa ni natte orimasu** is the Humble form of **O-sewa ni natte imasu**, a set phrase meaning 'Thank you for all your help'. **Dōmo** just adds a little emphasis here.



- c) **Yō ni** means 'as', but comes at the end of the Japanese clause, for example: **senjitsu o-tegami de o-negai itashimashita yō ni** ('as I requested in my recent letter').
- d) **O-ukagai suru** ('visit') is the Humble form of **ukagau**, which, in turn, is the Humble form of **tazuneru** ('visit'; 'ask').
- e) For **Yoroshii deshō ka** ('Would that be all right?'), see Structure 49. **Yoroshii** is politer than **ii** ('good').
- f) **O-machi itashite orimasu** ('I'll be waiting [for you]') is the Humble form of **O-machi shite orimasu**. Hum. of **O-machi shite imasu**, which in turn is Hum. of **Matte imasu**!
- g) New words:
  - eigyō 3(san)-ka** 3rd sales section
  - hōmon** visit
  - kōkan-shu** operator (from **kōkan**, 'exchange')
  - moshimoshi** hello (usually only used on the telephone)
  - o-tegami** letter (Hon. for **tegami**)

**CONVERSATION 12: Aite ga fuzai no bāi**  
 ('When the person you are calling is out')

**Kōkan-shu:** Nanbu Depāto de gozaimasu.  
**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** Eigyō 3(san)-ka no Suzuki-san o o-negai shimasu.

**Kōkan-shu:** Shibaraku o-machi kudasai.  
**Dōryō:** O-denwa kawarimashita. Ainiku Suzuki wa gaishutsu shite orimasu ga ...

**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** Nan-ji ni modotaremashu ka.  
**Dōryō:** 3(San)-ji ni modoru yotei desu.  
**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** Sore de wa, 3-ji ni mō ichi-do o-denwa itashimasu.

**Dōryō:** Kochira kara o-kake shimashō ka.  
**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** Ie, kore kara gaishutsu shimasu node, watashi kara o-denwa sashi-agemasu.

**Dōryō:** Wakarimashita. Sore de wa ...  
**Deibiddo Sūmisu:** De wa, shitsurei shimasu.

**Switchboard:** Nanbu Department Store.  
**David Smith:** Mr Suzuki in the 3rd sales section, please.  
**Switchboard:** Please wait a moment.  
**Colleague:** Hello. Can I help you? Unfortunately, Mr Suzuki has gone out.  
**David Smith:** What time is he coming back?  
**Colleague:** He's due back at three.  
**David Smith:** In that case, I'll phone again at three.  
**Colleague:** Shall I get him to call you? (Literally, 'Shall he call you?')  
**David Smith:** No, I'm just about to go out, so I'll phone him.  
**Colleague:** Fine, thank you. Goodbye.  
**David Smith:** Goodbye.

**Notes on Conversation 12**

- a) In **Aite ga fuzai no bāi** (literally, 'occasion of other person absent'), **ga** indicates the subject of **fuzai** ('absent'). **Aite ga fuzai** ('other person's absence') describes **bāi** ('occasion') and so is linked to **bāi** with **no**.
- b) **Shibaraku o-machi kudasai** is an Honorific form of **Chotto matte kudasai** ('Please wait a moment'). It is less polite than **Shōshō o-machi kudasai**.
- c) **O-denwa kawarimashita** (literally, 'The phone has changed') is a set phrase used when a call has been transferred.
- d) **3(San)-ji ni modoru yotei desu** means 'He is scheduled (to be back) at three o'clock'. **Yotei da** after the Plain present adds the meaning 'be scheduled to'.
- e) **O-denwa sashi-ageru** ('make a phone call') is Hum. of **denwa o kakeru**. **Watashi kara** (literally, 'from me') is best translated as 'from here' in this case.  
 Note that there are two other less polite Humble expressions meaning 'to make a phone call' in the conversation: **o-kake suru** and **o-denwa itasu**.
- f) **Shitsurei shimasu** ('Goodbye') means literally, 'I will be rude (and go)'.

## g) New words:

<b>ainiku</b>	unfortunately
<b>aite</b>	other person, partner
<b>bāi</b>	occasion; when
<b>denwa suru =</b>	
<b>denwa o kakeru</b>	phone
<b>dōryō</b>	colleague
<b>fuzai</b>	being out/absent
<b>modorareru</b>	return (Passive of <b>modoru</b> used as Hon.)
<b>node = kara</b>	so (see Structure 37)
<b>shibaraku</b>	a short while
<b>yotei</b>	schedule

**INFORMATION: The Japanese transport system****Getting to Tokyo from Narita Airport**

Certain hotels are served by an airport bus ('Limousine Bus'). If you are not sure whether your hotel is one of these, check with airport information, or, in advance, with JNTO. Limousine Buses run from outside the terminal building and are convenient if somewhat expensive. The bus may be rather slow in the rush-hour (from 7.00 to 9.00 in the morning and from 5.00 to 6.00 in the evening).

Alternatively, Keisei and JR run trains to central Tokyo. The JR trains (called 'N'EX' for 'Narita Express') are generally more expensive, but may be more convenient, as there are trains to Tōkyō, Ikebukuro, Shinjuku and Yokohama. Keisei express trains ('Skyliners') only run to Ueno, although slow trains run to stations on the Toei Asakūsa line.

**The hazards of taking taxis**

Do not take a taxi from Narita to central Tokyo, unless you have money to burn. Because of traffic congestion, it is best to avoid taking taxis long distance in the Tokyo area. Moreover, because of the greater complexity of the Japanese address system (houses are numbered according to the order in which they were built on a particular plot of land, so number 1 could be between number 7 and number 43!), there is no guarantee that the driver will be able

to find your destination address without some help, unless it is a well-known building. The fare could easily amount to several hundred pounds in the rush-hour.

**The Tokyo transport system**

Tokyo has 3 basic railway systems, JR, Eidan (Rapid Transit Authority) and Toei (Tokyo Municipal Authority). There are also private railways which terminate at Tokyo stations such as Shinjuku and Shibuya.

It is cheapest to use only one system for a trip, as every time you change system, you will have to pay a basic fare again. You may be able to buy a ticket for a through trip on two systems, changing at a certain station.

Station names are always labelled clearly in English on the platforms and on destination boards of trains. Many trains have electronic panels in the carriages giving information in English.

Buses are punctual, as their routes are usually short, serving to link stations.

**Internal flights**

Try to avoid having to transfer to Haneda Airport which is right on the other side of Tokyo. It is worth stressing Tokyo Narita when booking an internal flight. However, it is often more convenient to travel by train, particularly if your destination is served by the Bullet Train.