

UNIT FIVE

Here we meet the first of two sorts of Japanese adjectives; the Plain negative forms of verbs; and how to say 'I want to ...' and 'probably'.

Structure 40: I adjectives

Kono kompyūta wa atarashii desu.
This computer is new.

Sono heya wa hiroi desu ka. Hai, kanari hiroi desu.

Is that room big? Yes, it is quite big.

Nihon-go wa yasashii desu ka.
Is Japanese easy?

CHECKNOTES 40

- a) There are two sorts of adjectives in Japanese: 'I adjectives' and 'Na adjectives' (see Unit Six). I adjectives are so called because their Plain present forms end in **-ai**, **-ii**, **-ui** or **-oi**. Adjectives ending in anything else (including **-ei** or **consonant + i**) are **Na** adjectives.
- b) As with verbs, adjectives also have Plain and Polite forms. The Polite present of I adjectives is made from the Plain present by adding **desu**. For example, **shiroi** (Plain present for 'is/are white') becomes **shiroi desu** in the Polite present.

Checklist 40

aoi	blue
hazukashii	embarrassed
hidoi	awful
hiroi	wide; big (of rooms, etc.)
ii	good, nice
isogashii	busy; Hon. o-isogashii
kiroi	yellow

kuroi	black
shiroi	white
tanoshii	enjoyable
ureshii	happy
yasashii	easy; nice (of people)
hana	flower
kanari	quite

FLUENCY PRACTICE 40

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Kuroi desu.
 - 2 Watashi wa ureshii desu.
 - 3 Kono hana wa akai desu.
 - 4 Hazukashii desu ka.
 - 5 Sono hito wa hidoi desu.
- Translate the following sentences into Japanese:
- 6 It is white.
 - 7 These books are yellow.
 - 8 Are those flowers blue?
 - 9 It is very enjoyable.
 - 10 Are [you] busy now? (Use **o-isogashii**.)

Structure 41: The position of adjectives

Kore wa semai heya desu.

This is a small room.

Sore wa kuroi jidō-sha desu ka. Iie, shiroi jidō-sha desu.

Is that a black car? No, it is a white car.

Ii o-tenki desu ne.

Nice weather, isn't it?

CHECKNOTES 41

- a) Adjectives precede the nouns which they describe, as in English. For example, **ii o-tenki** ('nice weather').

Checklist 41

chiisai	small
furui	old
kibishii	strict
ōkii	big
semai	narrow, small (of room, etc.)
warui	bad
biru	building (short for <i>birudingu</i>)
hanashi	story (from <i>hanasu</i> , 'speak')
kangae	idea (from <i>kangaeru</i> , 'think')
o-tenki	Polite form of <i>tenki</i> weather
motto	more

FLUENCY PRACTICE 41

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 *Ii kangae desu.*
- 2 *Kanojo wa omoshiroi hito desu.*
- 3 *Ōkii kaisha desu ka. Iie, chiisai kaisha desu.*
- 4 *Soko wa furui kaisha desu.*
- 5 *Motto omoshiroi eiga wa arimasen ka.*

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 That is a new building.
- 7 Is that a red car?
- 8 That's a really interesting story.
- 9 He isn't a bad person.
- 10 She isn't a strict teacher.

Structure 42: Adverbs

Watashi-tachi wa hayaku okimashita.
We got up early.
Samuku narimashita.
It's got cold.
Osoku natte mōshiwake arimasen.
Sorry for being (literally, 'getting') late.

CHECKNOTES 42

- a) Adverbs are formed from I adjectives by replacing the -i with -ku. We will call this the adverbial form.
- b) Note that with **naru** ('become', 'get'), one needs to use an adverb in Japanese, for example: **ataakaku naru** ('get/become warm(er)'; literally, 'warmly').
- c) Note that when an adjective ending in -shii is made into an adverb, it will then end in -shiku, with a silent 'i'.

Checklist 42

ataakai	warm
atsui	hot
hayai	quick; early
kurai	dark
osoi	late
samui	cold
yasui	cheap
yoku	well (irregular adverbial form of <i>ii</i> , 'good', 'fine')
fu-keiki	recession
mōshi-wake	I'm sorry (literally, 'there is/I have no excuse')
arimasen	
nedan	price
saikin	recently
shiru	know (Consonant verb). For example, Shitte imasu ('I, etc. know', literally, 'am knowing') but Shirimasen ('I, etc. don't know').

FLUENCY PRACTICE 42

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Totemo atatakaku narimashita.
- 2 Hikō-ki wa osoku tsukimashita.
- 3 Sono kaisha no kabu wa saikin takaku narimashita.
- 4 Nihon-go wa yoku wakarimasu ga, hanasu koto wa dekimasen.
- 5 Sono shōhin no nedan wa fu-keiki de yasuku narimashita.

Checklist 43

mushi-atsui	humid (from musu, 'steam', and atsui, 'hot')
okashii	funny
suzushii	cool
tadashi	correct
happyō	presentation
kinō	yesterday
natsu	summer
pāfī	party

FLUENCY PRACTICE 43

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Suzuki-san no happyō wa omoshirokatta desu ka.
- 2 Hakata Denki no kabu wa yasukatta desu.
- 3 Watashi wa isogashikatta desu.
- 4 Sono hoteru wa yokatta desu.
- 5 Pāfī wa totemo tanoshikatta desu.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 I was embarrassed.
- 7 Yesterday was cool.
- 8 Was that translation expensive?
- 9 That product (over there) was very cheap.
- 10 The Japanese summer last year (kyonen no Nihon no natsu) was humid.

Structure 44: Negative I adjectives

Omoshiroi desu ka. Iie, omoshiroku arimasen.

Is it interesting? No, it isn't interesting.

Suzushii desu ka. Iie, zenzen suzushiku arimasen.

Is it cool? No, it isn't cool at all.

Isogashii desu ka. Iie, amari isogashiku arimasen.

Are you busy? No, I'm not very busy.

Tenki wa yoku nai desu.

The weather is bad (literally, 'not good').

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 We arrived late.
- 7 [It]'s gone dark.
- 8 [It]'s got very hot.
- 9 I know (literally, 'am knowing') that person well.
- 10 Mr Kaneko bought a watch cheaply.

Structure 43: The past of I adjectives

Samukatta desu ka.

Was it cold?

Sore wa sugokatta/hidokatta desu.

That was amazing/awful.

Kinō wa atsukatta/atatakakatta/suzushikatta/samukatta desu.

It was hot/warm/cool/cold yesterday.

CHECKNOTES 43

- a) The Plain past of I adjectives is formed by replacing the -i with -katta. For example, takai ('high', 'expensive') becomes takakatta ('was high/expensive').

The Polite past is formed by adding desu: -katta desu. The correct Polite past for 'it was funny' is Okashikatta desu. Even advanced learners of Japanese often translate from English and produce incorrect forms like 'Okashii deshita'. Such forms do NOT exist.

- b) Note that the Plain past form of an adjective ending in -shii will end in -shikatta with a devoiced 'i'.
- c) Note that ii ('good', 'all right') has an irregular Plain past form: yokatta. In fact, the stem of ii is yo- in all forms except ii itself (which has a formal/old alternative, yoi).

CHECKNOTES 44

a) The Plain present negative of I adjectives is made by replacing -i with -ku nai. Adjectives ending in -shii have the form -shiku nai with a devoiced 'i'.

The Polite present negative is then formed by replacing nai with arimasen.

Alternatively, the Polite present negative may be formed by replacing -i with -ku nai desu. This latter form is considered substandard, but is common and sounds less abrupt than the form with -ku arimasen.

b) Amari ('very') and zenzen ('at all') are always used with a negative adjective or verb. Colloquially, amari is often pronounced 'anmari'.

c) Sonna ni ('such a'; 'so') is usually used with a negative adjective or verb, for example: Kare wa sonna ni kibishii sensei de wa arimasen ('He isn't such a strict teacher').

Checklist 44

oishii	tasty, delicious
urayamashii	envious
bunpō	grammar
jōdan	joke
kanji	Chinese characters (as used in Japanese)
ryōri	cooking

FLUENCY PRACTICE 44

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Urayamashii desu ka. Iie, urayamashiku arimasen.
- 2 Nihon-go no bunpō wa muzukashii desu ka. Iie, sonna ni muzukashiku arimasen.
- 3 Sono jōdan wa okashii desu ka. Iie, zenzen okashiku arimasen.
- 4 Kono ryōri wa amari oishiku arimasen.
- 5 Sono shōhin wa takaku arimasen.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 [It]'s not cheap.
- 7 Is [it] hot? No, [it] isn't hot. [It]'s cool.
- 8 Is [it] expensive? No, [it] isn't at all expensive.
- 9 Are kanji difficult? No, [they] aren't at all difficult.
- 10 Is that story interesting? No, [it]'s not very interesting.

Structure 45: Plain past negative I adjectives

Samukatta desu ka. Iie, zenzen samuku arimasen deshita.

Was it cold? No, it wasn't at all cold.

Ototoi no tenki wa dō deshita ka. Amari yoku arimasen deshita.

How was the weather the day before yesterday? It wasn't very good.

CHECKNOTES 45

a) The Plain past negative of I adjectives is formed by putting the nai of the -ku nai structure (Structure 44, note a) into the past form: -ku nakatta.

The Polite past negative is then formed by replacing nakatta with arimasen deshita.

It is also possible to form the Polite past negative by putting -ku nai desu into the past: -ku nakatta desu. Beware! Learners of Japanese often produce forms like 'ata takaku nai deshita' instead of atatakaku arimasen deshita. This does not work!

Checklist 45

dō how (not as polite as ikaga)

FLUENCY PRACTICE 45

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Amari muzukashiku arimasen deshita.
- 2 Zenzen isogashiku arimasen deshita.
- 3 Sono resutoran no ryōri wa amari oishiku arimasen deshita.
- 4 Kinō pasokon o kaimashita ga, yasuku arimasen deshita.
- 5 Suzuki-san no supīchi wa amari omoshiroku arimasen deshita.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 The present wasn't so expensive.
- 7 The exam wasn't at all easy.
- 8 The conference wasn't very interesting.
- 9 The consultant's presentation wasn't at all interesting.
- 10 Was the party enjoyable? No, it wasn't at all enjoyable.

Structure 46: -te form of I adjectives

Kono shina-mono wa yasukute ii desu.

These goods are cheap and good.

Sono hon wa nagakute tsumaranai desu.

That book is long and boring.

CHECKNOTES 46

- a) Like verbs (see Structure 31), adjectives also have **-te** forms. The basic meaning is 'and', although, especially with adjective **-te** forms, there is often the sense that the first clause caused the second.
- b) The **-te** form of I adjectives is formed by adding **-te** to the adverbial form (which ends in **-ku**; see Structure 42): **-kite**. Note that the 'u' becomes silent in the process.
- c) Like the **-te** form of verbs, the **-te** form of adjectives does not change for tense, so it may mean 'is', 'will be' or 'was (adj.) and ...'.

Checklist 46

yameru	give up
aburappoi	oily (from abura , 'oil', and -ppoi , '-ish')
katai	hard
kitanai	dirty
mazui	unpleasant (to eat)
nagai	long
suppai	sour
tsumaranai	boring
tsumetai	cold (drinks; people in their relations with others); samui is used for 'cold', of weather or people feeling physically cold
fuyu	winter
ringo	apple
shina-mono	goods (mono means 'thing')

FLUENCY PRACTICE 46

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Ringo wa katakite suppakatta desu.
- 2 Muzukashikute yamemashita.
- 3 Isogashikute kaigi ni ikimasen deshita.
- 4 Kono apāto wa hirokute ii desu ne.
- 5 Atsikute benkyō dekimasen deshita. (**Suru koto ga** is omitted).

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 This beer is deliciously cold (literally, 'cold and delicious').
- 7 The room was cramped and dirty.
- 8 The British winter is long and cold.
- 9 That shop's cooking is oily and unpleasant.
- 10 That café is expensive and [the food] isn't tasty.

Structure 47: Plain negative forms of verbs

Ikanai?

Aren't you going?

Kaeranakatta.

He, etc. did not go home.

Nanimo shinakatta.

He, etc. did nothing.

Basu ga konakute komarimashita.

I was in a fix, as the bus didn't come.

Kore wa enpitsu de wa nakute, bōrupen desu.

This isn't a pencil, (and) it's a ballpoint pen.

CHECKNOTES 47

a) Plain present negative and Plain past negative verb forms end in **-nai** and **-nakatta** respectively. You will notice that these forms look rather like I adjectives, and they do, in fact, behave like them in many respects. The stems to which these endings are added are as follows:

Consonant verbs replace **-u** with **-a.nai** and **-a.nakatta**.

For example, **hanaS.u** → **hanaS.a.nai**.

Vowel verbs replace **-ru** with **-nai** and **-nakatta**.

For example, **tabE.ru** → **tabE.nai**.

b) **Da** has the forms **de wa nai** and **de wa nakatta**.

Suru has the forms **shi.nai** and **shi.nakatta**.

Kuru has the forms **konai** and **konakatta**.

c) The negative **-te** form is made by replacing **-nai** with **-nakute**.

However, note that it cannot be used before **kudasai** (see

Structure 55). It has the meaning 'it doesn't ...' (and) 'it ...'.

d) In colloquial speech, **desu** is often attached to the **-nai** and

-nakatta forms to make alternatives to **-masen** and **-masen**

deshita. For example, **ikanai desu ka** is used instead of

ikimassen ka ('Aren't you going?').

Checklist 47

suru do, make; ... **ni suru** make it ..., decide on ...;

have ...

tomaru stay (takes **ni**, not **de**, to indicate place)

boku I (Plain form of **watashi**; used only by men)

bōrupen ballpoint pen

ichi-man'en-satsu ¥10,000 note

FLUENCY PRACTICE 47

Translate the following sentences into English:

1 Wakaranai.

2 Issho ni ikanai?

3 Sore de wa nakute, kore ni shimasu.

4 Zenzen Nihon-go ga dekinai.

5 Jisho ga nakute, komatta.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese, using Plain forms:

6 This isn't a ¥10,000 note.

7 Won't you have a drink?

8 Won't you watch Japanese television?

9 He's not an accountant, (and) [he]'s a lawyer.

10 I (masculine) didn't stay in a good hotel.

Structure 48: Wanting to do something

Ōsaka ni ikitai desu.

I want to go to Osaka.

Takahashi-san ni meiwaku o kaketaku arimassen deshita.

I didn't want to be a nuisance to Mr Takahashi.

Kaigi ni detaku arimassen deshita.

I didn't want to attend the conference.

CHECKNOTES 48

- a) The idea of 'wanting to do something' is expressed by removing **-masu** from the verb and adding **-tai desu** to the **masu** stem thus formed. For example, **Osaka ni ikimasu** ('I'm going to Osaka') becomes **Osaka ni ikitai desu** ('I want to go to Osaka').
- b) Normally **-tai** is used only when the subject is 'I', so it is not necessary to use **watashi**, etc. When the subject is not 'I', (verb)-**tagaru** is sometimes used: **Uchi no shachō wa tasha to keiyaku o musubitagatte imasu** ('Our company president wants [literally, 'is wanting'] to enter into a contract with another company'). However, often it is best to avoid expressing such ideas, as it is felt to be presumptuous to draw attention to the desires of others!
- c) **-tai** behaves as if it were an I adjective. So, the past and negative forms are:
 Polite past: **ikitakatta desu** ('I wanted to go')
 Polite present negative: **ikitaku arimasen (or ikitaku nai desu)** ('I don't want to go')
 Polite past negative: **ikitaku arimasen deshita (or ikitaku nakatta desu)** ('I didn't want to go')
-te form: **ikitakute** ('I want[ed] to go and ...')
 negative **-te** form: **ikitaku nakute** ('I don't/didn't want to go and ...')
- d) Traditionally, the object in sentences with **-tai** was indicated by **ga**. Nowadays, one hears both **o** and **ga**.

Checklist 48

aruite iku	walk ('to' = made , not ni as you might expect)
meiwaku	nuisance; meiwaku o kakeru be a nuisance (to somebody)
koto	thing (abstract)
ni tsuite	about (follows noun)
tasha	another company
tenji-kai	trade fair
uchi	inside; uchi no our (literally, 'of/belonging to inside')

FLUENCY PRACTICE 48

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Ginza made aruite ikitai desu ne.
- 2 Ototoi Tōkyō no tenji-kai ni ikitakatta desu.
- 3 Nihon no omiyage o kattakatta desu.
- 4 Kawaguchi-san ni meiwaku o kaketaku arimasen deshita.
- 5 Tanaka-san wa sono koto ni tsuite hanashitaku arimasen deshita.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 [I] want to eat sushi.
- 7 [I] want to send a fax to the U.K.
- 8 [I] want to see that film.
- 9 [I] want to go to Japan.
- 10 [I] want to study Japanese.

Structure 49: ... **deshō** ('probably')

(Tabun) ame ga furu **deshō**.

It will probably rain.

Komaru **deshō**.

That must be a nuisance (for you).

Kyō wa kinō yori atatakai deshō.

Today is probably warmer than yesterday.

Nihon-go wa muzukashii deshō.

Japanese must be difficult for you.

CHECKNOTES 49

- a) Adding **deshō** (Polite form) or **darō** (Plain form) to Plain style verbs and adjectives expresses the idea of 'probably'. **Da** ('is', 'are', etc.) drops out before **deshō** and **darō**. **Tabun** ('probably') is often added, somewhat unnecessarily!
- b) **Deshō** is also used as a polite alternative to **desu**.
O-nomimono wa ikaga deshō ka ('Would you like something to drink?').
- c) To say that something or somebody is 'more (adjective) than' another, use **yori**. Its position is after the second noun and before the adjective.

Checklist 49

ame	rain; ame ga furu to rain
mō	already; more
Roshia-go	Russian (language)
shisha	branch (of a company)
yuki	snow; yuki ga furu to snow

FLUENCY PRACTICE 49

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Tabun Ōsaka no shisha ni wa ikanai deshō.
- 2 Shinbun kisha wa tabun kiji o kaite iru deshō.
- 3 Ocha wa ikaga deshō ka.
- 4 Tanaka-san wa mō Nihon ni tsuita deshō.
- 5 Roshia-go wa Eigo yori muzukashii deshō.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 [It] will probably snow tomorrow.
- 7 Japanese must be very difficult.
- 8 [You] probably don't want to meet Mr Kawasaki.
- 9 The hotel was probably expensive.
- 10 I've already posted the report, so it will probably be all right.
(Use **daijōbu da** for 'be all right' – see Unit Six – rather than **ii**, which would sound negligent here!)

CONVERSATION 13: O-tenki
(‘The weather’)

Contrary to popular belief, the British are not the only people who enjoy talking about the weather! It is also a popular ‘safe subject’ in Japan.

Yoshioka: Totemo samuku narimashita ne.

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Ē, demo narete imasu kara ... Igrisu no fuyu mo konna kanji desu.

Yoshioka: It has gone very cold, hasn't it?

David Smith: Yes, but I'm used to it. British winter is also like this.

Notes on Conversation 13

a) **Ē, demo narete imasu kara** means literally ‘Yes, but I'm used to (it), so ...’. The Japanese have a love of incomplete sentences, as they are vaguer and, therefore, more polite.

b) **Konna kanji desu** means literally ‘is this sort of feeling’.

c) New words:
nareru get used; **narete iru** be used (‘to’ is **ni**)

demo but

kanji feeling

konna this sort of, such

CONVERSATION 14: O-hisashi-buri desu ne! (‘I haven’t seen you for ages!’)

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Yā, Itō-san! O-hisashi-buri desu ne! O-genki deshita ka.

Itō: Hai, o-kage-sama de totemo genki desu.
Sūmisu-san mo o-genki desu ka.

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Hai, o-kage-sama de ... Senjitsu, Makuhari Messe no tenji-kai de Sūmisu shōkai no Kaneko-san ni aimashita yo.

Itō: Sō desu ka. Kaneko-san mo o-isogashii yo desu ne.

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Ē, tsugi no tenji-kai ni mo deru to itte imashita kara, Itō-san mo chikai uchi ni o-ai dekiru deshō.

David Smith: Oh, Mr Itoh! I haven't seen you for ages! How have you been?

Itoh: I've been fine, thanks. How are you?

David Smith: Fine, thanks. I met Mr Kaneko from Smith and Co. at an exhibition at Makuhari Messe the other day.

Itoh: Really? (Literally, 'Is it so?') Mr Kaneko seems to be busy too, doesn't he?

David Smith: Yes, he was saying that he'd go to the next exhibition too, so you'll probably be seeing him in the near future.

Notes on Conversation 14

- Yā** ('Oh!') is an exclamation used to attract somebody's attention.
- O-hisashi-buri desu ne** is a set phrase meaning 'It's been a long time since I've seen you.'
- Genki** means 'well', if you are talking about yourself. If referring to other people, remember to use the Honorific **o-genki**.
- O-kage-sama de** means literally 'thanks to you'. It can be used on its own in reply to **O-genki desu ka**, or together with a phrase like **genki desu**.

e) In ... **Kaneko-san ni aimashita yo** ('I met Mr Kaneko ...'), **yo** adds an assertive, friendly tone. It is best not to use it too much to superiors.

f) (Plain style adjective) **yō desu** means 'seems (adjective)'. **Yō desu** is used when one has evidence, usually visual, of something. (See Structure 73.)

g) ... **to itte imashita** is used for 'was saying that ...'. See Structure 60.

h) **O-ai dekiru** ('be able to meet') is the Honorific form of **au koto ga dekiru**.

i) New words:
chikai uchi ni soon, in the near future
senjitsu the other day (Polite form of **kono aida**)
shōkai and Co.

CONVERSATION 15: Yakusoku no jikan henkō (‘Changing the time of one’s appointment’)

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Moshimoshi, eigyō 3(san)-ka no Suzuki-san o o-negai shimasu.

Uketsuke no hito: Shōshō o-machi kudasai.

Suzuki: Moshimoshi, Suzuki desu ga ...

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Moshimoshi, Roiyaru Fānichā no Sūmisu desu. 10(tō)ka no mītingu no ken desu ga, mōshiwake arimasen ga, jikan o 1(ichi)-jikan osoku shite itadakemassen deshō ka. Nagoya kara no Shinkansen ga konzatsu shite ite, osoi ressha no kippu shika torenakatta mono desu kara.

Suzuki: Ii desu yo. De wa 2(ni)-ji ni henkō shimashō.
Deibiddo Sūmisu: Dōmo arigatō gozaimasu.

David Smith: Hello, Mr Suzuki in the 3rd sales section, please.
Receptionist: Please wait a moment.

Suzuki: Hello, Suzuki here.

David Smith: Hello, this is Smith from Royal Furniture. It's about the meeting on the 10th. I'm sorry, but could we make it about an hour later? The Bullet Trains from Nagoya are crowded, so I could only get a ticket for a later train.

Suzuki: That's all right. Let's change it to two o'clock, then.

David Smith: Thank you.

Notes on Conversation 15

- a) **Tōka** means 'the tenth'. The basic counter for days of the month is **-nichi**, but there are many irregular forms: **tsuitachi** the 1st (day of the month), **ichi-nichi** one day, **futsuka** 2nd or 2 days, **mikka** 3rd or 3 days, **yokka** 4th or 4 days, **itsuka** 5th or 5 days, **muika** 6th or 6 days, **nanoka** 7th or 7 days, **yōka** 8th or 8 days, **kokonoka** 9th or 9 days, **tōka** 10th or 10 days, **jū-ichi-nichi** 11th or 11 days. After this, forms are regular except for: **jū-yokka** 14th or 14 days, **jū-kunichi** 19th or 19 days, **hatsuka** 20th or 20 days, **ni-jū-yokka** 24th or 24 days and **ni-jū-kunichi** 29th or 29 days.
- b) **Mītingu no ken desu ga ...** means 'it's about the meeting, but ...'. **Ken** literally means 'matter'.
- c) **Jikan** means 'time'. It is also a counter for hours. Note **yojikan** ('4 hours').
- d) In **jikan** o **1-jikan osuku shite itadakemassen deshō ka**, ... **o osoku suru** means 'to make ... later'. (Verb)-te **itadakemassen ka** literally means 'Couldn't I receive (Hum.) your ...ing', 'Couldn't I get you to ...'.
- e) **Nagoya kara no Shinkansen** means 'the Bullet Train from Nagoya'. **No** is required to make **Nagoya kara** describe **Shinkansen**.
- f) **Shika** ('only') always goes with a negative verb or adjective. For example: **Tamago ga mittsu shika nai** ('There are only three eggs [tamago]').
- g) **Mono desu kara** adds the implication 'and so naturally (I did what I did)'.
- h) **Ii desu yo** ('That's all right') is said when somebody has apologized for something.
- i) **Dōmo arigatō gozaimasu** ('thank you very much') is politer than **dōmo arigatō**.

- j) New words:
henkō suru change (arrangement, etc.); 'to' is **ni**
konzatsu suru get crowded
 = **komu**
toru take; (here) get; **toreru** is the Potential (see Structure 69): 'be able to take/get'.
ressha (long-distance) train (but **densha** is 'electric train', for commuting, etc.)

INFORMATION: Business meetings

Business card etiquette

When exchanging business cards, it is usual for the guest or, in situations where neither person is a guest, the younger person to offer his or her card first. Make sure that your card is the right way round, so that the other person can read it. Treat the other person's card with respect, putting it on the table in front of you if you are seated.

Bars

Don't be surprised if you get taken to several bars after you've been taken to dinner. This is known as **ni-ji-kai** (literally, 'second meeting'). Bars are often small rooms, so it is easy to relax and get to know people in an informal atmosphere. They often have facilities for **karaoke**. Turning down an invitation to go to another bar may be seen as an indication that you are not keen on getting to know the Japanese concerned better, or that you have little interest in the project you are discussing in 'work-time'.

In fact, the line between work and play in Japan often seems blurred to Westerners. This has the pleasant side-effect that Japanese people you worked closely with and whom you may have considered as work associates, may well be loyal, long-term friends!

One word of advice: **sake**, usually translated as 'rice wine', is best treated as a spirit!

How to say 'no' in Japan

It is important to avoid abrupt expressions meaning 'No' or 'I disagree'. If you do have to disagree, make it clear that you understand the merits of the other position and that your alteration