

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 I have made a speech at a conference.
- 7 Have you ever seen that film?
- 8 Have you ever been (gone) to Kyoto?
- 9 Did you ever study Japanese in Germany?
- 10 Have you ever eaten sushi?
sushi

Structure 59: (verb)-ō ('let's')

Ikō.

Let's go.

Ganbarō.

Let's do our best.

CHECKNOTES 59

- a) (Verb)-ō is the Plain style equivalent of (verb)-mashō (see Structure 17). (Verb)-ō ka means 'shall we (verb)?'
- b) The -ō form is made by replacing the final -u of the Plain present of a Consonant verb with -ō, and the final -ru of the Plain present of a Vowel verb with -yō. For example:
hanaS.u → hanaS.ō; tabE.ru → tabE.yō.
- c) Da has no -ō form, although one could use ni narō, from ni naru ('become'), in some situations. Kuru has koyō and suru has shi.yō.

Checklist 59

akirameru

kiku

gohan

onna no hito

give up

ask (somebody ni; something o)

meal (literally, 'rice')

woman

FLUENCY PRACTICE 59

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Hajimeyō.
- 2 Hayaku neyō.
- 3 Ja, sugu ikō ka.
- 4 Asoko ni haite, gohan o tabeyō.
- 5 Sono onna no hito ni kiite miyō (kiite miru, 'try asking').

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 Let's finish. (Use owari ni suru.)
- 7 Shall we give up?
- 8 Let's go home. (Use sorosoro.)
- 9 Let's have a drink.
- 10 Let's check that at the hotel reception.

Structure 60: to yuu, to omou ('say that', 'think that')

Kare wa 'Ganbatte kudasai' to imashita.

He said, 'Please do your best.'

Dame da to omoimasu.

I, etc. think that it's no good.

Ii to omoimasu yo.

I think it's all right.

CHECKNOTES 60

- a) 'Say that ...' and 'think that ...' are expressed by using a sentence ending in the Plain style followed by ... to yuu ('say that ...') or ... to omou ('think that ...'). Polite style verbs may also be used if the original wording is being quoted.
- b) In Japanese, the tense of the action of the verb before to yuu or to omou must be the same as that originally used by the person doing the saying or thinking.
- c) If the subject of the verb before to yuu or to omou is mentioned, it is marked by ga, not wa.

Checklist 60

omou

think

dame da

no good

kenkyū kaihatsu R & D (from kenkyū, 'research', and kaihatsu, 'development')

seiji politics

FLUENCY PRACTICE 60

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Kare wa kuru to iimashita.
- 2 Nihon ni ikitai to omoimasu.
- 3 Sono kata ga shachō da to omoimasu.
- 4 Watashi wa seiji ga omoshiroi to omoimasu.
- 5 Kenkyū kaihatsu ga taisetsu da to omoimasu ka.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 I think that hotel is all right.
- 7 I think that restaurant is expensive.
- 8 Mr Suzuki says that that hotel isn't good.
- 9 I thought that there were many problems.
- 10 He said that Japanese was very difficult.

Structure 61: Relative clauses

Watashi ga sengetsu katta hon wa omoshiroi desu.

The book which I bought last month is interesting.

CHECKNOTES 61

- a) The Japanese for a relative clause like 'who are working in the U.K.' is **igirisu de hataraitte iru**; in other words, 'are working in the U.K.' in the Plain style. It is placed immediately before the noun it is describing, for example **Nihon-jin** ('Japanese people'), to produce **igirisu de hataraitte iru Nihon-jin** ('Japanese people who are working in the U.K.'). Note that there are no Japanese equivalents for relative pronouns such as 'that', 'which', 'who', 'where', 'when', etc.
- b) The verbs and adjectives in Japanese relative clauses are usually in the Plain style, although the Polite style is possible in very polite speech.
- c) If a subject occurs in a relative clause, it is marked by **ga**, not **wa**.

Checklist 61

de-au	meet unintentionally, bump into (object indicated by ni, not o)
happyō o suru	make a presentation
kenkyū suru	research
shōkai suru	introduce
tatsu	stand
... hodo (adjective)	as (adjective) as ...
josei no kata	Hon. of onna no hito woman
kankyō mondai	environmental problem (from kankyō , 'environment', and mondai , 'problem')
keizai-gaku	economics (from keizai , 'economy', and -gaku , 'study')
kikai	chance
otoko no hito	man
sengetsu	last month
sukunai	few

FLUENCY PRACTICE 61

Translate the following sentences into English. The nouns being described are underlined.

- 1 Happyō o shita hito wa donata desu ka.
- 2 Nihon-go o hanasu kikai wa sukunai desu. (Note: **wa** is needed here, not **ga**, as there is an idea of contrast – with one's opportunity to read Japanese, etc.)
- 3 Denwa de o-hanashi shita ken desu ga ...
- 4 Kōre hodo furu kikai o tsukatte iru kaisha wa arimasen.
- 5 Pātī de wa Nihon no keizai-gaku o kenkyū shite iru sensei ni de-aimashita.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 I've sent the letter [!] wrote yesterday.
- 7 Who is the man who is standing over there?
- 8 Who was the woman (use **josei no kata**) whom Mr Nakamura introduced?
- 9 The conference I attended the day before yesterday wasn't very interesting.
- 10 The matter they talked [about] at the conference was the environmental problem.

Structure 62: Verbs of giving and receiving

Konsarutanto wa kono shorui o kuremashita.

The consultant gave me this document.

Tomodachi ni o-kashi o agemashita.

I gave my friend some Japanese cakes.

Buchō kara shiryō o moraimashita.

I received some materials/information from the department head.

Inu ni esa o yarimashita.

I gave some food to the dog.

CHECKNOTES 62

- Kureru** ('give') is used when somebody gives something to you or to somebody in your social group (for example, your family or company).
- If you or somebody in your social group gives something to somebody, **ageru** is used (unless it is somebody of a lower status, or a plant or animal; then **yaru** is used). The person you give something to is indicated by **ni** ('to').
- Morau** is used when somebody in your group receives something. The person you receive something from is indicated by **kara** or **ni** ('from').
- The Honorific form of **kureru** – **kudasaru** – and the Humble form of **morau** – **itadaku** – are in common use, even when respect language is not otherwise being used very much.

Checklist 62

itadaku	Hum. of morau receive
kudasaru	Hon. of kureru give (irreg. Pol. forms: kudasaimasu , etc.)
esa	food (for animals), feed
inu	dog
sangyō	industry
shorui	document
techō	diary, personal notebook

FLUENCY PRACTICE 62

Translate the following sentences into English:

- Tomodachi ga kono kippu o kuremashita.
 - Konsarutanto ni atsumeta shiryō o agemashita.
 - Yoyogi (place name) Sangyō kata kono fakkūsu o moraimashita.
 - Kono purezento o okusan ni agete kudasai.
 - Kore wa Shimizu-san kara itadaita shōsetsu desu.
- Translate the following sentences into Japanese:
- I gave Mr Saitō my card.
 - My friend gave me this photo.
 - I received this diary from Mr Kudō.
 - I received a telephone [call] from Mr Tsuji.
 - The cake that [your] wife gave [me] was really delicious.

Structure 63: (Verb)-ta/-nai hō ga ii ('It's best ...')

Kono hon o yoku yonda hō ga ii desu yo.

It's best/You had best read this book well.

Natsu no aida ni Nihon ni ikanai hō ga ii desu yo.

It's best/You had best not go to Japan during the summer.

Jibun no iken o sochoku ni iwanai hō ga ii deshō.

It's probably best not to speak one's own opinion frankly.

CHECKNOTES 63

- Hō ga ii** after the Plain past gives the meaning 'It is best to ...', 'had better ...'. Note that the negative, 'it is best not to ...', requires the Plain present negative, where the Plain past negative may have been expected. **yo** is often added at the end of such sentences, to add a slightly assertive tone.
- Adding **deshō** gives the nuance 'It would be better to ...'.
- Sometimes other adjectives are used in place of **ii** ('good', here 'best'). For example:
Denki seihin nara, Akihabara ni itta hō ga yasui deshō. ('If it's electrical products [you want], it would be cheaper to go to Akihabara.')
Shinkansen de itta hō ga hayai desu. ('It is quicker to go by Bullet Train.')

Checklist 63

denki seihin	electrical products (from <i>denki</i> , 'electricity', and <i>seihin</i> , 'product')
iken	opinion
jibun (no)	one's own
keizai taikoku	great economic country (from <i>keizai</i> , 'economy')
nara	if it is (see Structure 65)
... no aida ni	during ...
sotchoku da	frank (not so much of a virtue in Japan)
yōfuku	clothes

FLUENCY PRACTICE 63

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Ima itta hō ga ii desu yo.
- 2 Nihon-go de hanashita hō ga ii deshō.
- 3 Nihon de wa yōfuku ga takai desu kara, kawanai hō ga ii desu yo.
- 4 Buchō to sore ni tsuite hanashita hō ga ii desu.
- 5 Nihon wa keizai taikoku ni narimashita kara, Nihon-go o naratta hō ga ii desu.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 It's best to phone.
- 7 It's best not to go by taxi.
- 8 It's best to reserve a hotel.
- 9 It's quicker to send a fax.
- 10 It's better to check that using the database.

Structure 64: ... ka mo shiremasen ('may')

Kare wa sensei ka mo shiremasen.

He may be a teacher.

Konban wain o nomu ka mo shiremasen.

I may drink wine tonight.

Sono wain wa oishii ka mo shiremasen.

The/That wine may be delicious.

CHECKNOTES 64

- a) Using **ka mo shirenai** after the Plain style of verbs and adjectives adds the idea of 'may' (in the sense of 'it may be that ...'). (For the sense 'be allowed to', see Structure 54.)
- b) As in the first example, **da** (which you might expect in this case after **sensei**) drops out before **ka mo shirenai**.

Checklist 64

kyanseru sareru	be cancelled (Passive of <i>kyanseru suru</i> , 'cancel')
okoru	get angry
konban	this evening
sore de	because of that
wain	wine

FLUENCY PRACTICE 64

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Ashita mo isogashii ka mo shiremasen.
- 2 Wapitiro de repōto o kaku ka mo shiremasen.
- 3 Daijōbu datta ka mo shiremasen.
- 4 Kachō wa sore de okotte iru ka mo shiremasen.
- 5 Tori-shimari-yaku wa kaigi ni itte iru ka mo shiremasen.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 He may be the accountant.
- 7 I may go to Kobe the day after tomorrow.
- 8 That company's shares may be expensive.
- 9 The conference may be cancelled.
- 10 [It] may rain tomorrow.

CONVERSATION 19: *Hoteru no reseppushon nite: chekku in* (‘At the hotel reception: checking in’)

Deibiddo S̄imisu: Yoyaku o shite oita Deibiddo S̄imisu deshi.
Uketsuke no hito: Hai, honjitsu kara 5(go)-haku no go-yotei de, go-yoyaku itadaite orimasu. Kochira ni o-namae to go-jūsho o go-kinyū kudasai.
Deibiddo S̄imisu: Kore de yoroshii deshi ka.
Uketsuke no hito: Hai, kekkō de gozaimasu. Kochira ni sain o o-nagai itashimasu.
Deibiddo S̄imisu: Hai.
Uketsuke no hito: O-heya wa 1012(ichi-zero-ichi-ni)-gōshitsu de gozaimasu. Kochira ga kagi de gozaimasu.
Deibiddo S̄imisu: Dōmo arigatō.

David Smith: I'm David Smith. I have a reservation.
Receptionist: Yes, we have a reservation starting today for five nights. Please fill in your name and address here.

David Smith: Is this all right?

Receptionist: Yes, that's fine. Please sign here.

David Smith: O.K.

Receptionist: Your room is number 1012. These are your keys.

David Smith: Thank you.

Notes on Conversation 19

- When *oku* (literally, ‘put’) is placed after the *-te* form it gives the nuance ‘do something in preparation for’. For example: **Yoyaku o shite oita Deibiddo S̄imisu deshi** (literally, ‘I am David Smith who made a reservation [as a preparation]’).
- haku** is a counter for nights stayed. Note: 1 **ippaku**, 3 **sanpaku**, 6 **roppaku**, 8 **happaku**, 10 **juppaku** (**jippaku**).
- In **go-yoyaku itadaite orimasu** (‘we have received your reservation’), **-te oru** is Hum. for **-te iru**. Here it corresponds to a perfect tense in English (‘have received’, rather than ‘are receiving’).

- In **go-kinyū kudasai, go- ... kudasai** with the stem of **suru** verbs makes a polite command.
- Kore de yoroshii deshi ka** means ‘Is this all right?’ (literally, ‘Is it all right with this?’). **Yoroshii** is Pol. for **ii** (‘good’, ‘all right’).
- In an expression such as **kochira ga kagi de gozaimasu, ga** may be used, rather than **wa**, when the question ‘which one?’ or ‘who?’ is expressed or when something makes its first appearance in the conversation.

- g) New words:
- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| kinyū suru | fill in/out (a form) |
| go-jūsho | Hon. for jūsho address |
| go-yotei | Hon. for yotei schedule |
| honjitsu | more formal than kyō today |
| kekkō da | all right |
| o-heya | Hon. for heya room |

CONVERSATION 20: *Takūshī* (‘Taxi’)

Deibiddo S̄imisu: Anō ... Shinjuku no Marubishi Hoteru e o-nagai shimasu.

Unten-shu: Shinjuku no Marubishi Hoteru desu ne.

Deibiddo S̄imisu: Ikura gurai kakarimasu ka.

Unten-shu: Daitai ¥1,000 (sen'en) gurai deshi.

Deibiddo S̄imisu: Ja, o-nagai shimasu.

Unten-shu: Hai. ... Nihon-go ga jōzu desu ne. Doko de naratta n deshi ka.

Deibiddo S̄imisu: Igrisu no Nihon-go gakkō deshi.

Unten-shu: Taishita mon da ne. Watashi wa gaijin-san na node dō shiyō ka to omotte ita n deshi.

Tasukatta.

Deibiddo S̄imisu: Shikashi kyō wa atsui desu ne.

Unten-shu: Kotoshi wa atsui hi ga tsuzuite unzari shimasu yo ... Hai, tsukimashita. ¥1,200 (sen-ni-hyaku-en) deshi.

Deibiddo S̄imisu: Ja, ¥2,000 (ni-sen'en) de otsuri o o-nagai shimasu.

Unten-shu: Hai, ¥800 (happiyaku-en) no okaeshi deshi.

Deibiddo S̄imisu: Dōmo.

David Smith: Er ... Please take me to the Marubishi Hotel in Shinjuku.

Driver: The Marubishi Hotel in Shinjuku?

David Smith: How much will it cost?

Driver: About ¥1000.

David Smith: All right.

Driver: Yes ... You're good at Japanese. Where did you learn it?

David Smith: At a Japanese language school in the U.K.

Driver: That's really something. I was wondering what to do when I saw it was a foreigner. That was lucky.

David Smith: (But) today is hot, isn't it? ...

Driver: This year the hot days are following on and one gets fed up [with them] ... We're here.

That will be ¥1,200.

David Smith: Please give me change from ¥2,000.

Driver: That's ¥800 change.

David Smith: Thanks.

Notes on Conversation 20

- a) In *Igirisu no Nihon-go gakkō desu*, *desu* is used to replace *de naraimashita*, which is understood.
- b) *Taishita mon da ne* means 'That's impressive (isn't it?)' The remark is in the Plain form, as the driver is directing it to himself. *Taishita* ('impressive') always precedes the noun. *Mon(o)* literally means 'thing'.
- c) *Na node = da kara*. *Da* becomes *na* before *node* ('so') and *noni* ('although').
- d) *Watashi wa, gaijin-san na node dō shiyō ka to omotte ita n desu* means 'I was thinking it's a foreigner, (so) what shall I do?'
- e) *Tasukatta* means 'Thank goodness!' It is related to *tasukeru* ('help [somebody]').
- f) *Ja, ¥2,000 de otsuri o-negai shimasu* means 'In that case, please give me change from ¥2,000' (literally, 'In that case, it's ¥2,000 and please give me the change').

g) ...*en no o-kaeshi desu* means 'Here is your change; ... Yen'.

h) New words:

- kakaru** cost (of money); take (of time)
tsuzuku (something) continues
unzari suru be fed up with, have enough of
daitai about (reinforces *gurai*, 'about', here)
gaijin foreigner
kotoshi this year
okaeshi Pol. of *otsuri* change
shikashi but, however (emphasizes the remark here)

CONVERSATION 21: Jiko shōkai ('Introducing yourself')

Deibiddo Shimisu: Royiaru Fānichā no Deibiddo Shimisu to mōshimasu. Yushutsu-ka ni tsutomete orimasu. Nihon ni kita no wa hajimete desu. Dōzo yoroshiku o-negai shimasu.

David Smith: I am David Smith from Royal Furniture. I am working in the export section. It's the first time I've come to Japan. I'm looking forward to working with you.

Notes on Conversation 21

- a) *Nihon ni kita no wa hajimete desu* means 'It's the first time I've been (literally, 'come') to Japan'. *No wa* makes *Nihon ni kita* into the topic of the sentence. Literally, it means: '(My) having come to Japan is the first time'.
- b) New words:
tsutomeru work (takes *ni*, not *de*, to indicate place)
hajimete the first time

CONVERSATION 22: Shiri-ai ni tsuite hanasu (Talking about a mutual acquaintance)

Deibiddo S̄imis̄u: Mochizuki-san o gozonji des̄u ka.

Nakamura: Doko ni tsutomete iru kata des̄u ka.

Deibiddo S̄imis̄u: Marubishi Shōji no Mochizuki-san des̄u.

Nakamura: Yoku shitte imas̄u.

David Smith: Do you know Mr Mochizuki?

Nakamura: Where does he work?

David Smith: (He's Mr Mochizuki from) Marubishi Trading.

Nakamura: I know him well.

Notes on Conversation 22

- a) New words:
gozonji da Hon. of shitte iru know
shōji trading

CONVERSATION 23: Yūbin-kyoku nite: kitte o kau (At the post office: buying stamps)

Deibiddo S̄imis̄u: Kono tegami to e-hagaki san-mai o Igrisu e okuritai n desu ga ...

Kauntā no hito: 1 (ichi)-mai ¥130 (hyaku-san-jū-en) des̄u kara, zenbu de ¥520 (go-hyaku-ni-jū-en) ni narimas̄u. (He hands her the money) ... Hai, ¥1,000 (sen'en) o-azukari shimas̄u. ¥480 (Yon-hyaku-hachi-jū-en) no okaeshi des̄u. (She hands him the change.) Arigatō gozaimashita.

David Smith: I'd like to send this letter and three postcards to the U.K., please.

Person at counter: They're ¥130 each, so that comes to ¥520 in all. ... ¥1,000 and ¥480 change. Thank you very much.

Notes on Conversation 23

- a) Ni narimas̄u (literally, 'becomes') is often used as the Polite form of da, particularly when money or times are involved.

b) New words:
azukaru receive (of money)

kauntā counter

CONVERSATION 24: Yūbin-kyoku nite: kozutsumi o okuru (At the post office: sending a parcel)

David doesn't want to have to pay excess luggage charges at Narita, so he goes to the post office to send non-essential items home.

Deibiddo S̄imis̄u: Kono kozutsumi o Igrisu e okuritai n desu ga ...

Kauntā no hito: (weighs the parcel) Hai, 9(kyū)-kiro 500(go-hyaku)-gijūramu des̄u kara, ¥8,750 (hassen-nana-hyaku-go-jū-en) ni narimas̄u. ... Hai, ¥10,000 (ichi-man'en) no o-azukari des̄u. ¥1,250 (Sen-ni-hyaku-go-jū-en) no okaeshi des̄u. Arigatō gozaimashita.

David Smith: I want to send this parcel to the U.K. ...
Person at counter: Yes, it's 9 kilos and 500 grams, so that comes to ¥8,750. ... ¥10,000 and ¥1,250 change.
Thank you very much.

Notes on Conversation 24

- a) ... no o-azukari des̄u means literally 'it's a receipt of ...': another Humble way of saying 'I've received ...'.

b) New words:

-gijūramu
-kiro

counter for grams
counter for kilograms. Note: 6 rokkiro,
10 jukkūiro (jikkūiro)

CONVERSATION 25: Denwa de hoteru o yoyaku suru (Reserving a hotel room by phone)

Uketsuke no hito: Moshimoshi, Shirai Hoteru de gozaimasu.
Deibiddo Shimisu: Jū-yokka ni hitoban tomaritai n desu ga, furo-tsuki no hitori-beya wa arimasu ka.
Uketsuke no hito: Shōshō o-machi kudasai. ... Hai, gozaimasu.
 Ippaku ¥9,500 (kyū-sen-go-hyaku-en) to narimasu. O-namae no hō wa nan to osshaimasu ka.
Deibiddo Shimisu: Deibiddo Shimisu desu. Superu wa namae ga dī, ē, bui, ai, dī de, myōji ga esu, emu, ai, ī, eichi desu ne.

Uketsuke no hito: Itsu-goro go-tōchaku nasaimasu ka.
Deibiddo Shimisu: Tabun 5(go)-ji-han-goro ni naru to omoimasu ga ...

Uketsuke no hito: De wa, jū-yokka ni o-machi shite orimasu.

Receptionist: Hello, Shirai Hotel.

David Smith: I'd like to stay one night on the 14th. Have you a single room with bath?

Receptionist: Just a moment. ... Yes, we have. It's ¥9,500 a night. What is your name?

David Smith: I'm David Smith. My first name's spelled D-A-V-I-D and my surname's spelled S-M-I-T-H.

Receptionist: What time will you be arriving?

David Smith: I think it will be about half past five.

Receptionist: We'll be expecting you on the 14th, then.

Notes on Conversation 25

a) In **O-namae no hō wa** ('As far as your name is concerned'), **no hō** adds little except to make the reference to 'your name' more indirect.

b) New words:
go-tōchaku nasaru Hon. of **tōchaku suru** arrive
o-machi shite oru Hum. of **matte iru** be waiting
 ... to naru = ... ni naru (literally, 'becomes') is

-ban counter for nights stayed. Note: 1 hitoban, 2 futaban

furo bath; **furo-tsuki** with bath about (with times)
-goro single room (from **hitori**, 'one person', and **heya**, 'room')
hitori-beya surname
myōji first name (often refers to first name and surname)
namae counter for people. Note: 1 **hitori**, 2 **futari**, 4 **yonin**, 7 **shichinin**, 9 **kunin**
-nin spelling
superu

CONVERSATION 26: Denwa de hikō-ki no kakunin o suru (Confirming your flight by phone)

Sha'in: Moshimoshi, Eikoku Kōkū de gozaimasu.
Deibiddo Shimisu: Watashi wa Deibiddo Shimisu to mōshimasu ga, 19 (jū-ku)-nichi ni Rondon e kaeru tsumori desu. Zaseki no konfāmu o shitai n desu ga ...
Sha'in: Hai, BA708 (bī ē nana zero hachi) desu ne. O-zaseki kakunin itashimashita.

Employee: Hello. British Airways.

David Smith: My name is David Smith. I'm intending to go back to London on the 19th. I'd like to confirm my seat.

Employee: Yes, that's BA708, isn't it? It's confirmed.

Notes on Conversation 26

a) Used after a Plain style verb, **tsumori da** adds the meaning 'intend to'.

b) Note that **o** (object) is often omitted in the set phrase **O-zaseki kakunin itashimashita** ('I have confirmed [Hum.] your seat').

c) New words:
konfāmu o suru = kakunin (o) suru confirm

Eikoku Kōkū British Airways (from **Eikoku = Igrisu**, 'U.K.', and **kōkū**, 'aviation')
o-zaseki Hon. for **zaseki** seat

INFORMATION: Where do I go from here?

Language

There are many books for absolute beginners in Japanese, fewer for intermediate students and very few for advanced learners.

If you have found the incremental approach used in *Japanese For Business* helpful, you may wish to move on to *Shin-Nihongo no Kiso*, edited by the Association of Overseas Technical Scholarship, published by 3A Corporation (**Suri E Nettowāku**) in 1990. There are two volumes available in romanization or Japanese script (with pronunciation indicated in **hiragana**, so you do not need to know any **kanji** to use it).

Also useful is *A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar*, by Seichi Makino and Michio Tsutsui, published by the Japan Times in 1989. The examples are given in romanization and Japanese script.

Learning Japanese script

Written Japanese actually consists of three scripts: **hiragana**, **katakana** and **kanji** (originally used to write Chinese). There are 46 each of the **hiragana** and **katakana**, and 1,945 officially approved **kanji**. The number of **kanji** is certainly daunting for the beginner, but it is important to remember that the **kanji** are closely interrelated and stressing this enormously reduces the effort required to learn them.

Most people start by learning **hiragana**. If you learn 11 or 12 **hiragana** a week, within a month you will be able to write the whole Japanese language, except foreign words. This is where the **katakana** comes into the picture. The most common use of **katakana** these days is to write words borrowed from Western languages including English. It is also used for writing onomatopoeia and the names of many plants and animals and in telegrams.

There are several books for learning **kana** (**hiragana** and **katakana** collectively), but the best, in my opinion, is *Kana made easy* by Kunihiko Ogawa, published by the Japan Times (ISBN 4-7890-0517-8). The reason this book has the edge on the competition is that it makes extensive use of mnemonic aids (each **kana** letter is associated with something that has some connection to the pronunciation of the letter).

At this point, then, about eight weeks after starting (if you learnt the **katakana** at the same rate as the **hiragana**), you can now write the whole Japanese language including Western words. So why learn 1,945 **kanji**?

In the same way that English borrowed a lot of advanced vocabulary from Latin and Greek, Japanese borrowed many words from classical Chinese. There were many Chinese sounds which did not exist in Japanese (including the tones used when pronouncing Chinese, you will be pleased to know), and so sometimes as many as twenty different borrowed words, all written with different characters in Chinese, ended up with the same pronunciation in Japanese. Therefore, to avoid confusion, most words of Chinese origin are still written in **kanji**. On top of this, the Japanese also came to write many native Japanese words using **kanji** with similar meanings. So the same **kanji** may have several readings depending on the context.

Again, there are several good books for learning **kanji**, but, bearing in mind the present expense of Japanese publications, *Kanji and kana* by Wolfgang Hadamitzky and Mark Spahn, published by Tuttle (ISBN 0-8048-1373-6) would seem to be the best. It will fit conveniently in your bag, and, if you are serious about learning **kanji**, you should take it round, recycling any waste time (for example, waiting) during your day.

UNIT EIGHT

Here we look at endings meaning 'if', 'after', 'when', 'may/can' and 'while', and find out how to say 'be called', 'hear that' and 'it seems that'.

Structure 65: (verb/adjective)-ba ('if')

Dētabēsu o tsukaeba, subete wakarimasu.

If you use the database, you'll understand everything.

Mushi-atsukereba kūrā o tsukemashō.

If it's humid, let's put the air-conditioner on.

Sono yari-kata ga benri nara, watashi ni mo oshiete kudasai.

If that way of doing it is convenient, please tell me (how to do it) too.

Ōta-san nara, dekiru to omoimasu.

If it's Mr Ohta, I think he'll be able to do it.

CHECKNOTES 65

a) Clauses ending in **-ba** are used to indicate conditions.

Nearly always, **-ba** corresponds to 'if' in English.

Consonant verbs replace **-u** with **-eba**: hanaS.u → hanaS.eba.

Vowel verbs replace **-ru** with **-reba**: tabE.ru → tabE.reba.

b) **Da** has the form **nara**. Note that there is no **-ba**!

Suru has the form **sureba**.

Kuru has the form **kureba**.

c) **I** adjectives change **-i** to **-kereba**: shirO.i → shirO.kereba.

d) **Na** adjectives change **da** to **nara**: shizuKa da → shizuKa nara.

e) **Kana** and **kashira**, attached to the Plain form of verbs or adjectives, indicate the idea 'I wonder if ...'. Men use **kana** and women **kashira**. For example: **Mō itta kana** ('I wonder if he's already gone' – man speaking).

Checklist 65

oshieru	teach; tell
renshū suru	practise
tori ni kuru	come and get (from toru, 'take/get', and kuru, 'come')
ugoku	(something) moves; (a machine) works
-go ni	in ... time (follows time counter)
henji	reply
ima sugu	immediately (literally, 'now straight away')
kūrā	air-conditioner (literally, 'cooler')
ni de mo	to ... or somewhere (follows noun)
otoko	man
sae	only (follows noun)
subete	everything (adverb)

FLUENCY PRACTICE 65

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Kikai no tsukai-kata ga wakareba, oshiete kudasai.
- 2 Jikan sae areba, Kamakura ni de mo iku tsumori desu.
([Plain verb] **tsumori da** = 'intend to [verb]').
- 3 Otoko nara 'kashira' de wa nakute, 'kana' to imasu.
- 4 Densha de ikeba, takushī yori hayakute yasui kashira.
- 5 Ima sugu hitsuyō nara, juppuun-go ni tori ni kite kudasai.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 If [it]'s cheap, [I]'ll buy it.
- 7 The machine works if [you] push this button.
- 8 If [you] send a fax, the reply may come the next day.
- 9 If [you] need [it] (use **hitsuyō da**, 'be necessary'), [I]'ll give you the report.
- 10 If [you] practise more, [you]'ll get better at kanji.