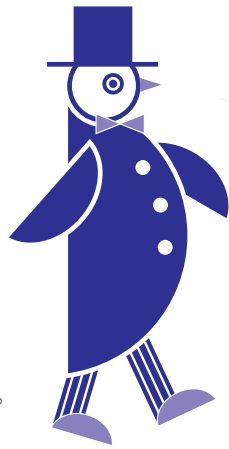


Design: Masako Ban



zenzen oishi!

(Delicious! ...Or is it?)

I attended a conference yesterday. I think I understood the Japanese speakers better after referring to the previous lesson. If there are any more key words, please let me know. And one more thing .I've been studying Japanese for a while, but sometimes I notice that Japanese speakers use grammar that is different from what I have learned. They say, "zenzen oishi!" What do they mean? Do they mean something is delicious, or awful?



Pera Pera Penguin's

5 minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

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■■■ I know it's confusing. The common usage of zenzen has a negative meaning, implying "not at all." Thus, zenzen should be used with the negative form of i-adjectives, so "zenzen oishiku-nai" (It doesn't taste good at all.) is correct grammar. But lately, it has become a kind of slang, and people say "zenzen oishi." This zenzen brings a positive meaning, and so the phrase means "It tastes really good." Zenzen is also used with na-adjectives, as in "zenzen kantan!" (It's a piece of cake!). This zenzen is positive, implying "completely" or "entirely."

Frequency (how often?)



Quantity (how many / much?)



meeting words No.2 (friendly form / polite form)

1) it's about time to ... そろそろ ... sorosoro...	6) come to think of it; as you mentioned そう言えば sō ieba
2) before too long; before you know it そのうちに sono-uchini	7) can't wait too long; there's no limits きりが無い kiri ga nai
3) that will do it; OK? ...と言う事で ...to yū kotode	8) To tell the truth; as a matter of fact 実は jitsuwa
4) you mean...? ...と言う事ですか。 ... to yū koto desu ka	9) right away; sometime soon すぐ / さっそく sugu / sassoku
5) that's possible ありえます。 ariemasu	10) by the way ところで tokorode

One day, Mr. Pole attended a conference.

Mr.Pole: Mr. Mori. It's about the discussion we had last month ...

Mori-san: To tell the truth, it's not done yet...and...

① to tell the truth ... まだ 途中で...あの...
... mada tochū de ... anō...

Mr.Pole: You mean you need a little more time?

もう少し 時間が欲しい ② you mean ... ?
mō sukoshi jikan ga hoshī

Shachō: There's no choice, is there? Let's just wait and see.

③ there's no choice ④ Let's just wait and see.
ですね desu ne

Mr.Pole: We can't wait too long, so...finish it by the end of next week, OK?

⑤ can't wait too long ⑥ OK?
ですから... 来週 いっぱい... desu kara... raishū ippai

Shachō: Anyway...next week...

⑦ anyway 来週 です...よ...
raishū desu ... yo ...

Mori-san: By the way, did you know a Starbucks had opened near the office?

⑧ by the way オフィスの近くにスターバックスができましたね。
office no chikaku ni Starbucks ga dekimashita ne

Mr.Pole: Come to think of it, I see those shops here and there.

⑨ come to think of it あっちこっちで見かけますね。
acchi-kocchi de mikakemasu ne

Mori-san: Well, before long, this city will be full of coffee shops, don't you think?

いやー ⑩ before you know it 街がコーヒーショップだらけになりますね。
iyā machi ga coffee shop darake ni narimasu ne

Mr.Pole: That's possible.

⑪ that's possible ね。
ne

Mori-san: Let's go there for lunch sometime soon!

⑫ sometime soon お昼に行ってみましょう。
ohiru ni itte-mimashō

Mr.Pole: Well, it's about time to end the meeting for today.

じゃあ今日の会議は ⑬ it's about time to ...
jā kyō no kaigi wa

Mr. Mori was not willing to put his mind into the meeting .The only decision that was made in today's meeting was to go to the coffee shop for lunch!
"kono kaigi wa dō narimasu ka." (What do you think will happen?)

Answers ① 8) ② 4) ③ 14) ④ 11) ⑤ 7) ⑥ 3) ⑦ 13) ⑧ 10) ⑨ 6) ⑩ 2) ⑪ 5) ⑫ 9) ⑬ 1)

11) just wait and see; we'll see
様子をみましょう。
yōsu o mimashō

13) anyway; anyhow (male style)
とにかく
tonikaku

12) Let's see what happens;
What do you think will happen ?
どうなりますか。
dō narimasu ka

14) it's no use; there's no choice
しょうがない / しかたがない
shōganai / shikata ga nai



Frequency / Quantity

① I am so busy I hardly get any exercise. I need more exercise.
忙しいので ① hardly 運動をしません。運動不足です。
isogashi node (about 10%) undō o shimasen undō-busoku desu
busy so to exercise don't get enough exercise

② In the old days, I often made mistakes.
昔は ② often 失敗をしました。
mukashi wa (about 80%) shippai o shimashita
the old days to fault

③ I'm just a paper driver (Sunday driver), so I seldom drive a car.
ペーパードライバー ですので ③ seldom 車の運転をしません。
paper driver desu node (about 5%) kuruma no unten o shimasen
so car to drive
Paper drivers: People who have passed their driving test, but have little or no experience of driving. They are just drivers "on paper."

④ Thank you as always.
always (about 90%) always ありがとうございます。
arigatōgozaimasu

⑤ I occasionally help with household chores when I feel like it.
occasionally (about 30%) 気が向くと家事の手伝いをします。
ki ga muku to kaji no tetsudai o shimasu
when I feel like it housekeeping to help

⑥ Vegetarians never eat meat at all.
菜食主義者は ⑥ not at all 肉を食べません。
saishokushugi-sha wa (about 0%) niku o tabemasen
vegetarian meat to not eat

⑦ Regular customers are people who always come to the same restaurant.
常連客は ⑦ always 同じ店に行く人の事です。
jōren-kyaku wa (about 90%) onaji mise ni iku hito no koto desu
regular customer same restaurant to go person

⑧ You'd better not worry about it too much.
not much (about 20%) 気にしないほうがいいですよ。
ki ni shinai hō ga i desu yo
to not worry had better

⑨ (At a party: Would you like more wine?) Well, I'll have a little bit more.
じゃあ ⑨ a little だけ
jā just: only
well

⑩ My brain is always filled with worries.
always (about 90%) 悩みごとで頭が ⑩ a lot です。
nayami-goto de atama ga desu
distress head

Answers
① hotondo ② yoku ③ mettani ④ itsumo itsumo ⑤ tamani
⑥ zenzen ⑦ itsumo ⑧ amari ⑨ chotto ⑩ itsumo ippai

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga