



Breaking the Ice

(Heart Opener)



Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

Vol. 36

Thanks for teaching me those "Ice breakers" last time, I'm sure they will be very useful. At first it was hard to memorize the phrases, though. Sometimes, I thought it might be easier to memorize them if you had explained the grammar, too. But then again, it would take more time to understand the grammar, so I guess it was better to remember the idioms without being concerned how the sentences were constructed. And I made myself memorize the phrases because, if I can remember them all, then all I have to do in future is use them. I will be able to save time by using the phrases. I enjoy "Breaking the Ice," and most of my Japanese friends tell me that my Japanese is getting better. Ms. Hirayama, I want to memorize more "Ice breakers," so could you show me some?

■■■ I'm happy to hear that your Japanese is getting better, and I'm glad to see you are so happy. I know of some foreigners who are able to communicate in Japanese just using "proverbs" and "Ice breakers." They say that that's all you need. Well, as we continue the previous lesson, let me show you more "Ice breakers" that are useful and helpful. I put more words of translation under the phrases to help you to memorize them by rote. Please practice using these "Ice breakers" with the final particles ne and yo, just as you studied in the previous lesson.

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1. I forgot.
忘れまして。
wasure-mashita | 13. It's a matter of life and death. / That's a serious problem.
死活問題です。
shikatsu-mondai desu
life and death problem | 25. Of course.
もちろん
mochiron | 37. I'm in trouble.
困りました。
komari-mashita |
| 2. I can't stand it. / I can't take it any more.
我慢できないです。
gaman-dekinai desu
patience cannot | 14. I've got urgent business. / on urgent business
急用です。
kyūyō desu
sudden matter | 26. That's right!
そうです。
sō desu | 38. I couldn't do it.
ダメでした。
dame deshita |
| 3. It was very helpful. / Thanks for helping me.
とても助かりました。
totemo tasukari-mashita
very help | 15. Please don't worry about it.
心配しないで下さい。
shinpai-shinaide-kudasai
worry please don't | 27. You are absolutely right!
その通りです。
sono tōri desu
that as it is | 39. If you please,
もしよかったら
moshi yokattara
if you like |
| 4. You are thinking too much. / You are too concerned.
考え過ぎです。
kangaē-sugi desu
thinking too much
(negative meaning) | 16. Please leave it to me. / You can count on me.
任せて下さい。
makasete-kudasai
to entrust ... makase-masu | 28. That's exaggerated.
おおげさです。
ōgesa desu
exaggerated | 40. What a coincidence!
偶然です。
gūzen desu
coincidence |
| 5. This is hopeless. / There is no hope.
絶望的です。
zetsubō-teki desu
desperate (-ly) | 17. Please don't forget it.
忘れないで下さい。
wasurenaide-kudasai
to forget wasure-masu | 29. somehow or other
どうにかこうにか
dōnika kōnika | 41. (Anyway) I'll try |
| 6. Do you have some time? (polite form)
お時間ありますか。
o-jikan arimasu ka
time do you have~? | 18. I can't believe it. / I don't believe it.
信じられません。
shinji-rarenai desu
to believe ...shinji-masu | 30. That's lucky. / Lucky you! / Lucky me!
運がいいです。
un ga i desu
destiny | 42. Don't mention it.
いいえ / とんでもないです。
ie / tondemo-nai desu |
| 7. It's not clear.
はっきりしません。
hakkiri-shimasen
clear | 19. There is no help for it. / There is no choice.
しょうがないです。
shōganai desu | 31. You can decide. / I'll let you decide.
お任せします。
omakase-shimasu
to leave it ...makase-masu | 43. Nothing in particular. / Nothing much.
特にないです。
tokuni nai desu
especially nothing |
| 8. That's the cause. / That's the problem.
それが原因です。
sore ga genin desu
that cause | 20. We'll see. / Let's wait and see.
様子を見ましょう。
yōsu o mi-mashō
situation let's see | 32. Probably.
たぶん
tabun | 44. What's wrong? / What's the matter?
どうしましたか。
dō shimashita ka
how did |
| 9. I was just talking to myself.
独り言です。
hitori-goto desu
myself word | 21. It's a waste of time.
時間の無駄です。
jikan no muda desu
time waste | 33. Please.
どうぞ
dōzo | 45. I only half believe it. / Taking it with a grain of salt.
半信半疑です。
hanshin-hangi desu
half believe half doubt |
| 10. It's not a good time. / It's not convenient.
都合が悪いです。
tsugō ga warui desu
circumstances bad | 22. It's a waste of money.
お金の無駄です。
okane no muda desu
money waste | 34. Why? / How come?
どうして
dōshite | 46. Misunderstanding/ My mistake!
勘違いです。
kanchigai desu |
| 11. Like what? / Give me an example.
例えば何ですか。
tatoeba nan desu ka
example what | 23. I've got nothing to do with it. / Having nothing to do with it.
関係ないです。
kankē-nai desu
relation no | 35. mostly
だいたい
daitai | 47. I'll think about it.
考えておきます。
kangaete-okimasu |
| 12. It's not clear. / It's doubtful.
あいまいです。
aimai desu
vague | 24. I see.
そうですか。
sō desu ka | 36. What am I going to do? (casual style)
困ったな。
komatta na | 48. Absolutely!
絶対です。
zettai desu |



Coversation

会 話

kai wa

- A) Friend: Thank you very much.
Pole-san: Don't mention it.
- B) Koga-san: What? What did you say?
Pole-san: いえ / Never mind, I was just talking to myself.
ie
- C) Friend: Do we have a meeting again?
Pole-san: I bet it'll be a waste of time!
- D) Friend: How about 3 p.m. tomorrow?
Pole-san: ちょっと / Well, it's not a good time for me, sorry.
chotto
- E) Pole-san: I've just got urgent business, so I'd like to cancel the reservation.
I've got urgent business, / 予約のキャンセルをお願いします。
node yoyaku no cancel onegaishimasu.
- F) (at a Japanese restaurant)
Friend: What would you like to have, Mr. Pole?
Pole-san: I'll let you decide.
- G) Friend: How's your business been since then?
Pole-san: I'm hanging in there somehow or other.
- H) Pole-san: I only half believe it, but I'll try it, anyway.
I only half believe it. / 結局 (Anyway) I'll try
- I) Pole-san: I bet you are too concerned! I think you'd better stop worrying about it so much.
I bet you are too concerned! / そんなに悩まないほうがいいですよ。
sonnani nayamanai hō ga i desu yo
- J) Pole-san: Excuse me, do you have some time?
すいません 今 / Do you have some time?
suimasen ima
- Friend: Yes, what's the matter?

A) 42. B) 9. C) 21. D) 10. E) 14. F) 31. G) 29. H) 45. 41. I) 4. J) 6.

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga

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