



Design: Masako Ban

The phone that you gave me? いただいた電話? itadaita denwa?

Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama



Vol. 77

Let me tell you what happened when I called a client the other day. When I was about to hang up because we had finished talking business, she said to me, "**a, ano itadaita denwa de sumimasen ga...**" (Well, excuse me for using the telephone that you gave me...). So, I asked her, "**e? denwa o present shimashita ka?**" (Huh? Did I give you a telephone as a present?), but this seemed to surprise her and she said, "**ha?**" (What?). Then, she said, "Mr. Pole, you have a good sense of humor." But I wasn't trying to make her laugh, and I did not give her a telephone as a present!

■■■ I know you didn't give her a telephone as a present. What she meant by saying, "**itadaita denwa de sumimasen ga...**" was "This is a call that you made, so please excuse me for using this opportunity to talk about something else for a minute?" If the receiver of a call starts talking about something else during that call, it might be seen as impolite because the call is costing the caller time and money. If it is going to take a long time for you to talk about a different subject during a call that someone else made, it is better for you to call him/her back.

If you want to talk about a different subject for a short period during a call that someone else made, use this phrase first to avoid upsetting the caller.

「いただいた電話ですみませんが、_____ (different subject) 」

itadaita denwa de sumimasen ga... Humble form

to receive a phone call	電話をもらう denwa o morau	→	電話をいただく denwa o itadaku
to make a phone call	電話をする denwa o suru	→	電話を差し上げる denwa o sashiageru

Useful phrases :

1) When you don't catch the telephone number, the caller's name or the company's name:

"Just in case, may I have your name, phone number and company name?"

「念のために、お名前、お電話番号、会社名をいただけますか？」

nen no tame ni o-namae o-denwa bangō kaisha-mē o itadakemasu ka?

2) When the receiver might be busy, ask him/her if it is a good time to call before telling him/her why you called:

"Is this a good time to talk to you?"

「今、ちょっとお電話よろしいでしょうか？」

ima chotto o-denwa yoroshī deshō ka?

3) When you want to make sure you have the correct information such as telephone number or company name, use the following expression:

"Let me repeat, the number is ... and your name is ... Is that correct?"

「復唱いたします。_____ telephone number、_____ name 様、ですね？」

fukushō itashimasu _____ sama desu ne?

4) When you want to leave a message for a person:

"Please tell him/her that I called."

「電話があったことをお伝えいただけますか」

denwa ga atta koto o otsutae-itadakemasu ka

5) When the caller's voice is too small to hear clearly:

"Pardon me, but it seems we have a bad connection..."

「すみません、お電話が遠いのですが…」

sumimasen o-denwa ga tōi no desu ga...

6) When you notice that you missed a call on your mobile phone, and you try to telephone the caller, whom you don't know.

"Did you try to call me?"

「お電話いただきましたでしょうか？」

odenwa itadakimashita deshō ka?

7) When there is a call for someone at your office who is not present at the time:

"He/she is not here, right now.

I think he/she will be back soon.

「申し訳ございません、席を外しております。

すぐ戻ると思いますが…」

mōshiwake gozaimasen seki o hazushite orimasu sugu modoru to omoimasu ga...



Kētai denwa izonshō (Mobile phone dependency)

These days almost everyone seems to use a mobile phone in their daily lives. The number of people who have become addicted to using their mobile phones (kētai izonshō) has also rapidly increased. If you answer "yes" four times or more to the following questions, you are probably one of them.

- 1) You check your mobile phone first thing in the morning.
- 2) You get anxious when you leave your phone at home.
- 3) You check for text messages and missed calls even though the phone hasn't rung.
- 4) You take your phone to the toilet.
- 5) When you sit down, the first thing you do is put your phone on the table or desk.
- 6) If you don't get a reply for a text message you have sent within an hour, you get worried or angry.
- 7) You avoid going underground or using the subway because your phone might not receive calls or messages there.
- 8) You check what time it is by looking at your phone.
- 9) You feel depressed if you don't receive calls or text messages.
- 10) You put at least one pictorial symbol in every two lines of a text message.

How did you do?

Choose one of these seven expressions to complete the following dialogues:

***** It is hard to hear the voice on the phone. *****

You: Pardon me, but it seems we have a bad connection...

(a)

JL: Hello? Can you hear me?

もしもし、聞こえますか？

moshi-moshi kikoemasu ka?

** There is a call for a colleague from some other company, but you answer it because she is not present. **

You: Hello. Ms. Aizawa is not here, right now. I think she'll return soon.

(b)

Caller from another company: I see. Well then, please tell her that I called.

そうですか、では

sō desu ka dewa

(c)

You: Certainly. Just in case, may I have your name and phone number?

はい、それでは

hai, sorede wa

(d)

Caller gives his name and his phone number.

You: Let me repeat, your phone number is ... and your name is ... Is that correct?

(e)

***** Calling someone who seems very busy *****

You: Hello, Is this a good time to talk to you?

(f)

Answers

(a) - (5) (b) - (7) (c) - (4) (d) - (1) (e) - (3) (f) - (2)