wishyou.today learning

day 16 good and bad sides

Japanese N2 in 114 days
unit 3 · people & character

Describe people's good and bad sides, and soften what you say with 別に〜ない (not particularly) and ～というわけではない (it's not that…).

Talking about people is half of all conversation. These two patterns stop a description from sounding like a verdict.

words

word	kana	meaning	example
厚かましい	あつかましい · atsukamashii	shameless, pushy, cheeky	厚かましいお願いですが、駅まで送っていただけませんか。 It's a cheeky thing to ask, but could you give me a lift to the station?
荒い	あらい · arai	rough, wild, harsh	彼は言葉は荒いが、本当は優しい人だ。 He talks rough, but he's actually a kind man.
安易	あんい · an'i	too easy, careless, half-thought-out	大事なことは、安易に決めないほうがいい。 It's better not to decide important things too lightly.
勇ましい	いさましい · isamashii	brave, gallant, stirring	昔の話には、勇ましい男の子がよく出てくる。 Brave boys often turn up in old folk tales.
意地悪	いじわる · ijiwaru	mean, spiteful; a meanie	意地悪なことを言わないで。 Don't say mean things.
威張る	いばる · ibaru	to act big, be bossy	あの人は、課長になってから威張っている。 Ever since he became section chief, he's been throwing his weight around.
偉い	えらい · erai	admirable; great, important	毎朝走っているの？偉いね。 You run every morning? Good for you.
おおざっぱ	ōzappa	rough, broad-brush, not fussy about details	私はおおざっぱな性格で、細かいことは気にしない。 I'm not a details person; little things don't bother me.
おとなしい	otonashii	quiet, gentle, well-behaved	うちの犬はおとなしいから、大丈夫ですよ。 Our dog is very gentle, so don't worry.
清い	きよい · kiyoi	pure, clear, clean (literary)	山の清い水で、お茶を入れた。 I made tea with clear mountain water.
くどい	kudoi	long-winded; too rich (taste)	父の話はくどくて、同じことを何回も言う。 Dad goes on and on, saying the same thing over and over.
下品	げひん · gehin	vulgar, crude, in bad taste	大きな音を立てて食べるのは、下品だと言われた。 I was told it's bad manners to eat noisily.
謙虚	けんきょ · kenkyo	modest, humble	彼は有名になっても、謙虚なままだ。 Even after becoming famous, he's stayed

			humble.
謙遜	けんそん · kenson	modesty; to play yourself down (する)	「まだまだです」と言うのは、日本ではよくある謙遜だ。 Saying “I've got a long way to go” is a common bit of modesty in Japan.
強引	ごういん · gōin	pushy, forceful, high-handed	店員に強引に勧められて、高いかばんを買ってしまった。 A pushy shop assistant talked me into buying an expensive bag.
しつこい	shitsukoi	persistent, pushy; heavy (taste)	しつこい電話には、出ないほうがいい。 Better not to answer pushy sales calls.
弱点	じゃくてん · jakuten	weak point, weakness	甘いものが、私の弱点です。 Sweet things are my weakness.
純情	じゅんじょう · junjō	innocent, pure-hearted (in love)	純情な彼は、彼女の手紙を何回も読んだ。 Innocent as he was, he read her letter again and again.
純粋	じゅんすい · junsui	pure, genuine, unmixed	子供の純粋な質問に、うまく答えられなかった。 I couldn't really answer the child's innocent question.
消極的	しょうきょくてき · shōkyokuteki	passive, reluctant, hanging back	会議では消極的で、あまり意見を言わない。 In meetings he hangs back and hardly gives an opinion.

pattern 別に〜ない and ~というわけではない (not really, it's not that...)

別に | negative | plain form | というわけではない

別に + a negative means “not particularly”: 別に怒っていない (I'm not angry or anything). 〜というわけではない corrects a conclusion someone might draw: 嫌いというわけではない (it's not that I dislike it). Both make a statement softer. In speech they shrink to わけじゃない and ってわけじゃない.

別に、何も心配していないよ。 **betsuni nani mo shinpai shite inai yo** I'm not worried about anything, really.

嫌いというわけではないが、あまり食べない。 **kirai to iu wake de wa nai ga amari tabenai** It's not that I dislike it, but I don't eat it much.

高い店が、いつもおいしいというわけではない。 **takai mise ga itsumo oishii to iu wake de wa nai** Expensive restaurants aren't always good.

今日は、別にすることがない。 **kyō wa betsuni suru koto ga nai** I don't really have anything to do today.

dialogue what do you think of my characters?

ms matsumoto アンナさん、新しい小説、読んでくれた？正直な意見が聞きたいの。
annasan atarashii shōsetsu yonde kureta shōjikina iken ga kikitai no · Anna, did you read my new novel? I'd like your honest opinion.

anna はい。お兄さんは勇ましくて、幾分強引なところもあって、おもしろいです。でも、妹がちょっと気になります。
hai oniisan wa isamashikute ikubun gōinna tokoro mo atte omoshiroi desu demo imōto ga chotto ki ni narimasu · Yes. The brother is brave and somewhat pushy, and great fun. But the sister bothers me a little.

ms matsumoto 妹？おとなしくて、純情な子でしょう。
imōto otonashikute junjōna ko deshō · The sister? She's a quiet, innocent girl.

anna はい。でも、少し消極的すぎるような気がするんです。自分の意見を、一度も言いませんから。お兄さんが家を出る時も、引き止めないし。
hai demo sukoshi shōkyokuteki sugiru yōna ki ga suru ndesu jibun no iken o ichido mo iimasen kara oniisan ga ie o deru toki mo hikitomenai shi · Yes. But I feel she is a little too passive. She never once says what she thinks. Even when her brother leaves home, she doesn't try to stop him.

ms matsumoto おとなしいからと言って、弱いというわけではないのよ。純粋で、心の清い子なの。最後には、お兄さんより強くなる。
otonashii kara to itte yowai to iu wake de wa nai no yo junsui de kokoro no kiyoi ko nano saigo ni wa oniisan yori tsuyoku naru · Being quiet doesn't mean she's weak. She's pure, with a clear heart. By the end, she's stronger than her brother.

anna なるほど。それなら、途中で一度、彼女が意見を言う場面があればいいのに、と思いました。今のままでは、少し惜しいです。
naruhodo sore nara tochū de ichido kanojo ga iken o iu bamen ga areba ii noni to omoimashita ima no mama de wa sukoshi oshii desu · I see. Then I just felt it would be nice to have one scene halfway through where she speaks her mind. As it is, it's a bit of a shame.

ms matsumoto 厳しいね。でも、ありがたい意見だ。それから、意地悪なおばさんはどう？
kibishii ne demo arigatai iken da sorekara ijiwaruna obasan wa dō · You're tough. But that's useful. And what about the mean aunt?

anna 下品で、くどくて、早口で皮肉ばかり言って…。読みながら、「厚かましい！」と独り言を言ってしまいました。
gehin de kudokute hayakuchi de hiniku bakari itte yomi nagara atsukamashii to hitorigoto o itte shimaimashita · Vulgar, long-winded, firing off sarcasm… I caught myself muttering "The nerve of her!" as I read.

ms matsumoto それはうれしい。あのおばさんは、昔の恨みを忘れない人なの。妹の幸せが羨ましくて、みんなを恨んでいる。書くのは、楽しくてたまらなかった。
sore wa ureshii ano obasan wa mukashi no urami o wasurenai hito nano imōto no shiawase ga urayamashikute minna o urande iru kaku no wa tanoshikute tamaranakatta · I'm glad. That aunt never forgets an old grudge. She envies the girl's happiness and resents everyone. I had such fun writing her.

anna 私はおおざっぱなので、細かいところは、高橋さんにも見てもらいますね。
watashi wa ōzappana node komakai tokoro wa takahashisan ni mo mite moraimasu ne · I'm not great with details, so I'll have Mr Takahashi look at the fine points too.

ms matsumoto ありがとう。本ができたら、真っ先にアンナさんに渡すね。みんなにも広めてね。
arigatō hon ga dekitara massaki ni annasan ni watasu ne minna ni mo hiromete ne · Thank you. When the book is out, you'll be the very first to get a copy. And spread the word, won't you?

write it trace the grey, then write your own

厚

厚 shameless, pushy, cheeky

荒 rough, wild, harsh

勇 brave, gallant, stirring

清 pure, clear, clean (literary)

弱

弱 weak point, weakness

純 innocent, pure-hearted (in love)

good to know · 別に + a negative = not particularly: 別に急いでいない (I'm not in any hurry). Said alone, 「別に。」 is a short “Not really” and can sound cold. ~ というわけではない corrects a conclusion: 嫌い というわけではない (it's not that I dislike it). In speech: ~ ってわけじゃない, ～わけじゃない.

You can now say what people are like without being unfair to them. Tomorrow: strong points and weak points.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 17 strong and weak points

Japanese N2 in 114 days
unit 3 · people & character

Talk about your strong and weak points, and say something is surprising “for” what it is with ～にしては.

Every application form in Japan asks for your 長所 and 短所, and people love to talk about character. にしては lets you praise without overdoing it.

words

word	kana	meaning	example
ずうずうしい	zūzūshii	cheeky, brazen, nervy	連絡もしないで泊まりに来るなんて、ずうずうしい。 Turning up to stay without even calling first: what a nerve.
素直	すなお · sunao	honest, open, willing to listen	素直に謝ればいいのに。 If only he'd just say sorry.
ずるい	zurui	sly, unfair, sneaky	一人だけ先に食べるなんて、ずるい！ Eating first without us? That's not fair!
性質	せいしつ · seishitsu	nature, character; property (of things)	この木には、水に強い性質がある。 This wood holds up well against water.
素質	そしつ · soshitsu	natural talent, aptitude	あの子には、音楽の素質がある。 That child has a natural gift for music.
そそっかしい	sosokkashii	scatterbrained, careless, hasty	私はそそっかしくて、よく傘を忘れる。 I'm so scatterbrained, I'm always leaving my umbrella behind.
率直	そっちょく · sotchoku	frank, candid, direct	率直に言って、この計画は無理だと思う。 To be frank, I don't think this plan can work.
頼もしい	たのもしい · tanomoshii	reliable, dependable; promising	困った時、兄はいつも頼もしい。 When I'm in trouble, my brother is always there for me.
だらしない	darashinai	sloppy, slovenly, lazy	服装がだらしないと、印象が悪い。 Scruffy clothes make a bad impression.
短所	たんしょ · tansho	weak point, shortcoming	私の短所は、気が短いところです。 My weak point is that I'm short-tempered.
力強い	ちからづよい · chikarazuyoi	powerful, strong; reassuring	「大丈夫だよ」という力強い言葉に、安心した。 His strong, steady “It's going to be fine” put my mind at rest.
長所	ちょうしょ · chōsho	strong point, merit	彼女の長所は、誰にでも優しいところだ。 Her strong point is that she's kind to everyone.

強気	つよき · tsuyoki	confident, bold, unafraid	大事な試合では、強気で行こう。 Let's go into the big match with confidence.
生意気	なまいき · namaiki	cheeky, cocky (of a younger person)	弟は最近、生意気なことばかり言う。 My little brother has been so cheeky lately.
鈍い	にぶい · nibui	dull, slow; not sharp, insensitive	彼は鈍いから、私の気持ちに気付かない。 He's so slow on the uptake, he doesn't notice how I feel.
のろい	noroi	slow, sluggish	このパソコンは、動きがのろい。 This computer is so sluggish.
のんき	nonki	easygoing, carefree, happy-go-lucky	試験の前なのに、弟はのんきに寝ている。 The exam is coming up, and my brother is happily asleep.
卑怯	ひきょう · hikyō	cowardly, unfair, underhand	自分の失敗を人のせいにするのは、卑怯だ。 Blaming your own mistakes on others is cowardly.
振る舞う	ふるまう · furumau	to behave; to treat (someone to food)	パーティーで、彼は明るく振る舞っていた。 At the party he put on a cheerful face.
平凡	へいぼん · heibon	ordinary, everyday, plain	平凡な毎日だけど、私は幸せだ。 My days are ordinary, but I'm happy.

pattern ～にしては (for an x, surprisingly)

noun / plain form | にしては | not what you'd expect

X にしては means “for an X”: the result is different from what X would make you expect. 初めてにしては上手だ (good for a first time), 4月にしては寒い (cold for April). It often carries a little surprise, or praise with a smile.

初めて作ったにしては、おいしかった。 **hajimete tsukutta ni shite wa oishikatta** It was tasty for something he'd never made before.

日本に来て一年にしては、日本語が上手ですね。 **nihon ni kite ichinen ni shite wa nihongo ga jōzu desu ne** Your Japanese is good for someone who's been in Japan just a year.

安い店にしては、サービスがいい。 **yasui mise ni shite wa sābisu ga ii** The service is good for a cheap place.

dialogue my strong and weak points

yui アンナ、ちょっと見て。月末までに会社に出す書類に、自分の長所と短所を書かなきゃいけないの。
anna chotto mite getsumatsu made ni kaisha ni dasu shorui ni jibun no chōsho to tansho o kakanakya ikenai no · Anna, have a look at this. On the form I have to send the company by the end of the month, I have to write my strong points and weak points.

anna 「長所は、素直で力強いところ。短所は、そそっかしくて、のんきなところ」。率直でいいと思う。
chōsho wa sunao de chikarazuyoi tokoro tansho wa sosokkashikute nonkina tokoro sotchoku de ii to omou · "Strong points: open and energetic. Weak points: hasty and a bit too relaxed." It's frank, I like it.

yui でも、自分で長所を書くのは厚かましい気がして、ためらってしまう。私は平凡な学生だし。
demo jibun de chōsho o kaku no wa atsukamashii ki ga shite tameratte shimau watashi wa heibonna gakusei da shi · But writing my own strong points feels pushy, so I hesitate. I'm just an ordinary student.

anna 初めてにしては、よく書けているよ。安易な言葉じゃなくて、結衣の言葉だから。
hajimete ni shite wa yoku kakete iru yo an'ina kotoba janakute yui no kotoba dakara · It's really good for a first go. It's not cliché, it's your own words.

yui ほかの人がみんな頼もしく見えて、不安でしょうがないの。
hoka no hito ga minna tanomoshiku miete fuan de shō ga nai no · Everyone else looks so capable, I'm worried sick.

anna 結衣は頼もしいよ。一人でバンクーバーに一年住んでいたんだから。もっと強気でいいよ。いつも通り、明るく振る舞えば大丈夫。
yui wa tanomoshii yo hitori de bankūbā ni ichinen sunde ita nda kara motto tsuyoki de ii yo itsumo tōri akaruku furumaeba daijōbu · You are capable. You lived on your own in Vancouver for a year. Be more confident. Just be your usual cheerful self and you'll be fine.

mr suzuki 懐かしいね。結衣ちゃんは子供のころ、言葉が荒くて、生意気で、ずうずうしい子だったのに。でも、人を引っ張る素質はあったよ。
natsukashii ne yuichan wa kodomo no koro kotoba ga arakute namaiki de zūzūshii ko datta noni demo hito o hipparu soshitsu wa atta yo · Takes me back. When you were little, Yui, you were rough-talking, cheeky and bold as brass. But you always had it in you to lead people.

yui 鈴木さん！兄がずるくて、私のお菓子を、いつも残らず食べていたものですから、強くなったんです。
suzukisan ani ga zurukute watashi no okashi o itsumo nokorazu tabete ita mono desukara tsuyokunatta ndesu · Mr Suzuki! My brother was sneaky and always ate every last one of my sweets, so I had to get tough.

mr suzuki 健君は、お兄さんのくせに、よく意地悪をして、結衣ちゃんを泣かせていたね。
kenkun wa oniisan no kuse ni yoku ijiwaru o shite yuichan o nakasete ita ne · Ken was supposed to be the big brother, but he was always teasing you and making you cry.

yui あのころの兄は、本当に憎らしかった。でも、憎んでいたわけじゃないですよ。今は、いちばん頼もしい家族です。
ano koro no ani wa hontō ni nikurashikatta demo nikunde ita wake ja nai desu yo ima wa ichiban tanomoshii kazoku desu · Back then my brother was so annoying. But it's not that I hated him. Now he's the person in my family I can count on most.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

極

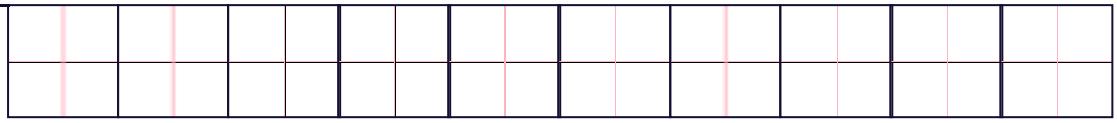
passive, reluctant, hanging back



湾

わん

bay



鈍

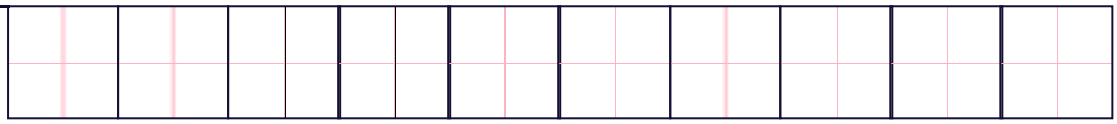
dull, slow; not sharp, insensitive



旧

きゅう

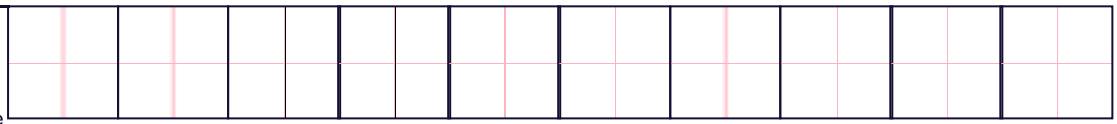
old, former (prefix)



岸

きし

bank, shore



good to know · Noun / plain form + にしては: the result is not what you'd expect from X. 初めてにしては上手だ (good for a first time). にしては usually judges one concrete case, often with a little surprise or praise. Tomorrow's わりに is wider: 値段のわりに (for the price).

You can now describe yourself honestly and kindly, which is harder than it sounds in any language. Tomorrow: looks, manners and bowing.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 18 looks and manners

Talk about looks and manners, and say “for” or “considering” with ～わりに.

First impressions matter in Japan: how you bow, how you enter a home, how you look. And わりに is the everyday way to say “not bad, considering”.

words

word	kana	meaning	example
割に	わりに · wari ni	considering, for (割に)	この店は、値段の割においしい。 This place is good for the price.
朗らか	ほがらか · hogaraka	cheerful, sunny, bright	祖母は朗らかな人で、いつも笑っている。 My grandmother is a sunny person who's always laughing.
見かけ	みかけ · mikake	appearance, looks	見かけは怖いけど、優しい先生だ。 He looks scary, but he's a kind teacher.
醜い	みにくい · minikui	ugly, unsightly; shameful	兄弟がお金のことで喧嘩するのは、醜い。 Brothers and sisters fighting over money is an ugly sight.
目立つ	めだつ · medatsu	to stand out, be noticeable	赤いコートは、遠くからでも目立つ。 A red coat stands out even from far away.
モダン	modan	modern, stylish	古い建物だが、中は意外にモダンだった。 It's an old building, but inside it was surprisingly modern.
幼稚	ようち · yōchi	childish, immature	そんな幼稚なことで、喧嘩しないで。 Don't fight over something so childish.
欲張り	よくばり · yokubari	greedy; a greedy person	ケーキを三つも取るなんて、欲張りだね。 Taking three slices of cake? Greedy!
乱暴	らんぼう · ranbō	rough, violent; rude	ドアを乱暴に閉めないでください。 Please don't slam the door.
若々しい	わかわかしい · wakawakashii	youthful, young-looking	母は60歳だが、とても若々しい。 My mother is sixty but looks very young.
甘やかす	あまやかす · amayakasu	to spoil, pamper (a child)	おじいさんやおばあさんは、孫を甘やかしてばかりいる。 Grandparents do nothing but spoil their grandchildren.
育児	いくじ · ikuji	raising children, childcare	最近は、育児をする父親も増えた。 These days more fathers are taking part in raising their children.
ウーマン	ūman	woman (in compounds)	女性の雑誌の名前には、「ウーマン」という言葉がよく使われる。 The word “woman” (ウーマン) often turns up in the names of women’s magazines.
敬う	うやまう · uyamau	to respect, look up to, honour	お年寄りを敬う気持ちは、大切だ。 Respect for older people matters.
エチケット	echiketto	etiquette, manners	電車の中で電話をしないのが、日本のエチケットです。

			In Japan it's good manners not to talk on the phone on the train.
お辞儀	おじぎ · ojigi	bow; to bow (する)	日本では、あいさつの時にお辞儀をする。 In Japan people bow when they greet each other.
女の人	おんなのひと · onna no hito	woman, lady	受付の女の人に、名前を聞かれた。 The woman at reception asked my name.
帰す	かえす · kaesu	to send (someone) home	熱があったので、先生は子供を家に帰した。 The child had a fever, so the teacher sent him home.
かわいがる	kawaigaru	to dote on, be fond of, pet	祖母は、猫をとてもかわいがっている。 My grandmother adores her cat.
孝行	こうこう · kōkō	being good to your parents	両親を旅行に連れていくなんて、親孝行だね。 Taking your parents on a trip: what a good son you are.

pattern ～わりに (for, considering)

noun + の | plain form | 割に / わりに | more or less than expected

わりに measures something against a scale: the price, an age, the effort. 値段の割においしい: good for the price. 年の割に若く見える: looks young for their age. Add は (わりには) for a stronger contrast. It's spoken and common; in kana or as 割に.

値段の割に、おいしい店だ。 **nedan no wari ni oishii mise da** It's a good restaurant for the price.

父は、年の割に若く見える。 **chichi wa toshi no wari ni wakaku mieru** My father looks young for his age.

よく練習したわりには、上手にならなかった。 **yoku renshū shita wariniha jōzuni nara nakatta** For all that practice, I didn't get much better.

dialogue bowing practice

mr takahashi アンナさん、明日は画家の先生のお宅に伺うから、お辞儀の練習をしよう。
annasan ashita wa gaka no sensei no otaku ni ukagau kara ojigi no renshū o shiyō · Anna, we're visiting the artist at her home tomorrow, so let's practise bowing.

anna はい。ええと、こうですか。お辞儀が苦手というわけではないんですが、私は背が高くて目立つので、乱暴に見えないか心配で。
hai eeto kō desu ka ojigi ga nigate to iu wake de wa nai ndesu ga watashi wa se ga takakute medatsu node ranbō ni mienai ka shinpai de · OK. Um, like this? It's not that I'm bad at bowing, but I'm tall and I stand out, so I worry it looks clumsy.

mr takahashi 別に乱暴じゃないよ。アンナさんは素直だから、すぐ上手になる。始めたばかりのわりに、きれいだよ。素質がある。
betsuni ranbō janai yo annasan wa sunao dakara sugu jōzuni naru hajimeta bakari no warini kirei da yo soshitsu ga aru · It doesn't look clumsy at all. You take advice well, so you'll pick it up fast. It's neat for a beginner. You've got a knack for it.

mr takahashi 玄関では、まず「おじゃまします」。靴は自分で直す。先生は年の割に若々しくて朗らかな方だけど、エチケットにはうるさいからね。昔、「ウーマン」という雑誌で、長い間絵を描いていた方だよ。
genkan de wa mazu o-jama shimasu kutsu wa jibun de naosu sensei wa toshi no wari ni wakawakashikute hogarakana kata dakedo echiketto ni wa urusai kara ne mukashi ūman to iu zasshi de nagai aida e o egaite ita kata da yo · At the door, first say "Ojamashimasu". Turn your shoes round yourself. She's youthful and cheerful for her age, but she's strict about manners. For years she drew for a magazine called Woman.

mr sato ただいま。お辞儀の練習か。見かけで人を判断する人も多いから、大事だよ。
tadaima ojigi no renshū ka mikake de hito o handan suru hito mo ōi kara daiji da yo · I'm back. Oh, bowing practice? Lots of people judge you on looks, so it matters.

anna お帰りなさい、課長。お孫さんは、お元気ですか。
okaerinasai kachō omagosan wa ogenki desu ka · Welcome back, sir. How's your grandson?

mr sato おかげさまで。休みの日や祭日は、娘の育児を手伝っているんだ。孫の写真を見ると、笑わずにはいられないよ。
okagesama de yasumi no hi ya saijitsu wa musume no ikuji o tetsudatte iru nda mago no shashin o miru to warawazu ni wa irarenai yo · Very well, thanks. On my days off and public holidays I help my daughter with the baby. I can't look at his photos without smiling.

mr sato 欲張りで、少しずるいところもあってね。おもちゃは全部、自分のものだと思っている。あの性質は、私に似たのかな。
yokubari de sukoshi zurui tokoro mo atte ne omocha wa zenbu jibun no mono da to omotte iru ano seishitsu wa watashi ni nita no kana · He's greedy and a little sly, mind you. He thinks every toy is his. I wonder if he gets that from me.

mr takahashi かわいいですね。課長、かわいがりすぎて、甘やかしていませんか。
kawaii desu ne kachō kawaigari sugite amayakashite imasen ka · He's adorable. Aren't you doting on him a bit too much, sir? Spoiling him?

mr sato そういう高橋君こそ、たまには親孝行をすればいいのに。じゃ、明日は頼んだよ。おさきに。
sō iu takahashikun koso tamani wa oya kōkō o sureba ii noni ja ashita wa tanonda yo o-saki ni · Look who's talking, Takahashi. You could do something nice for your parents once in a while. Right, I'm counting on you both tomorrow. I'm off.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

幼

childish, immature

乱

rough, violent; rude

暴

rough, violent; rude



甘

to spoil, pamper (a child)

児

raising children, childcare

敬

to respect, look up to, honour

good to know · Noun + の割に / plain form + 割に: the result is more or less than you'd expect. 値段の割においしい (good for the price). Often written in kana: わりに. わりには with は adds contrast: よく練習したわりには、上手にならない (for all that practice, I haven't got better).

You can bow, visit and compliment in Japanese now, with the right words. Tomorrow: family, friends and names.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 19 family, friends and names

Japanese N2 in 114 days
unit 3 · people & character

Fill in forms, talk about relatives, friends and ancestors, and say “as you'd expect from…” with ～だけあって and ～だけに.

Forms ask for 氏名, 生年月日 and 性別 everywhere, and family words come up in every small talk. だけあって is how you give credit where it's due.

words

word	kana	meaning	example
後輩	こうはい · kōhai	junior (at school or work)	会社の後輩に、仕事を教えている。 I'm showing a junior colleague the ropes at work.
交流	こうりゅう · kōryū	exchange, interaction, mixing	この町では、外国人との交流が盛んだ。 There's a lot of mixing with people from abroad in this town.
子孫	しそん · shison	descendants	この家には、有名な作家の子孫が住んでいる。 A descendant of a famous writer lives in this house.
失恋	しつれん · shitsuren	heartbreak; to be dumped (する)	失恋した友達と、朝まで話した。 I talked till morning with a friend whose heart had just been broken.
児童	じどう · jidō	child, pupil (at primary school)	小学校の児童が、道を渡っている。 Schoolchildren are crossing the road.
氏名	しめい · shimei	full name (on forms)	ここに氏名と住所を書いてください。 Please write your full name and address here.
知り合い	しりあい · shiriai	acquaintance, someone you know	駅で、昔の知り合いに会った。 I ran into an old acquaintance at the station.
親類	しんるい · shinrui	relatives, the family	夏休みには、親類がみんな集まる。 In the summer holidays all the relatives get together.
末っ子	すえっこ · suekko	youngest child, the baby of the family	私は三人兄弟の末っ子です。 I'm the youngest of three.
姓	せい · sei	surname (formal)	書類には、姓と名前を分けて書いてください。 On the form, please write your surname and given name separately.
青少年	せいしょうねん · seishōnen	young people, youth	この町で、青少年のためのスポーツ大会があった。 There was a sports day for young people in this town.
生年月日	せいねんがっぴ · seinengappi	date of birth	書類に、生年月日を書いた。 I wrote my date of birth on the form.
性別	せいべつ · seibetsu	sex, gender (on forms)	性別や年齢に関係なく、誰でも参加できます。

			Anyone can take part, whatever their gender or age.
先祖	せんぞ · senzo	ancestor (of a family)	うちの先祖は、昔この村に住んでいたそうだ。 I hear my family's ancestors once lived in this village.
祖先	そせん · sosen	ancestor (of a people or species)	人間の祖先は、アフリカで生まれたと言われている。 Humans are said to have first appeared in Africa.
知人	ちじん · chijin	acquaintance (formal)	知人の紹介で、この会社に入りました。 I joined this company through someone I know.
中年	ちゅうねん · chūnen	middle age	中年になってから、運動を始めた。 I started exercising in middle age.
長女	ちょうじょ · chōjo	eldest daughter	長女は今年、大学を卒業します。 Our eldest daughter graduates from university this year.
長男	ちょうなん · chōnan	eldest son	健さんは、長男で、妹が一人いる。 Ken is the eldest son, and he has one younger sister.
付き合う	つきあう · tsukiau	to go out with; to keep someone company	二人は、大学時代から付き合っている。 The two of them have been going out since university.

pattern ～だけあって・～だけに (as you'd expect, all the more because)

noun / plain form **だけあって** **だけに** **the result it explains**

X だけあって: because it's X, the result is just what you'd expect, usually praise. プロだけあって上手だ. だけに means the same, and is also used for a feeling that X makes stronger: 楽しみにしていただけに残念だ (all the more disappointing). na-adjectives keep な: 有名なだけに.

プロの歌手だけあって、歌が上手だ。 **puro no kashu dake atte uta ga jōzu da** She's a professional singer, so of course she sings well.

歴史が好きなだけあって、山田先生は日本人の祖先について詳しい。 **rekishi ga sukina dake atte yamada sensei wa nihonjin no sosen ni tsuite kuwashii** Ms Yamada is a history buff, so naturally she knows a lot about the ancestors of the Japanese.

毎日練習していただけに、負けて悔しかった。 **mainichi renshū shite ita dake ni makete kuyashikatta** I'd practised every day, so losing hurt all the more.

dialogue at the reception desk

ms nakamura アンナちゃん、受付をありがとう。来た人には、順々に、この紙に氏名と生年月日を書いてもらって。
annachan uketsuke o arigatō kita hito ni wa junjun ni kono kami ni shimei to seinengappi o kaite moratte · Anna, thanks for doing reception. Get everyone who comes to write their full name and date of birth on this sheet, one by one.

anna はい。性別は書かなくていいんですか。
hai seibetsu wa kakanakute ii ndesu ka · OK. Don't they need to write whether they're male or female?

ms nakamura 今年から、その質問はやめたの。今日は青少年と留学生の交流会だから、知り合いが続々と来るよ。
kotoshi kara sono shitsumon wa yameta no kyō wa seishōnen to ryūgakusei no kōryū kai dakara shiriai ga zokuzoku to kuru yo · We dropped that question this year. Today's an exchange for local young people and overseas students, so people we know will be coming in one after another.

mr suzuki こんにちは。私みたいな中年、いや、年寄りが来てもいいのかな。まあ、見かけの割に、気持ちはまだ若いつもりだけどね。
konnichiwa watashimitaina chūnen iya toshiyori ga kite mo ii no kana mā mikake no wari ni kimochi wa mada wakai tsumori dakedo ne · Hello. Is it all right for a middle-aged man, well, an old man like me to come? Mind you, I feel younger than I look.

anna もちろんです。鈴木さん、こちらにおかけください。
mochiron desu suzukisan kochira ni okake kudasai · Of course. Mr Suzuki, please take a seat here.

ms nakamura 鈴木さんは、この町にいちばん長く住んでいるだけあって、何でも知っているでしょう。近所の小学校の児童も来るから、町の歴史を話してあげて。
suzukisan wa kono machi ni ichiban nagaku sunde iru dake atte nan demo shitte iru deshō kinjo no shōgakkō no jidō mo kuru kara machi no rekishi o hanashite agete · You've lived here longer than anyone, Mr Suzuki, so you know everything. Pupils from the local primary school are coming too, so tell them about the town's history.

mr suzuki うちの先祖は、二百年前からこの町にいるらしいからね。親類も、みんな近くに住んでいるよ。
uchi no senzo wa nihyakunen mae kara kono machi ni irurashii kara ne shinrui mo minna chikaku ni sunde iru yo · My family's ancestors have been in this town for two hundred years, they say. All my relatives live nearby too.

tom 鈴木さんは、昔の商人の子孫なんですか。僕は歴史を研究しているものですから、そういう話が聞きたくてたまらないんです。
suzukisan wa mukashi no shōnin no shison nandesu ka boku wa rekishi o kenkyū shite iru mono desukara sō iu hanashi ga kikitakute tamaranai ndesu · Are you descended from merchants, Mr Suzuki? I research history, so I'm dying to hear stories like that.

ms nakamura トム君は、若いにしては古い話が好きね。背が高くて目立つから、子供にもすぐ人気が出るよ。私は鈴木さんと、もう四十年付き合っているけど、まだ聞いたことがない話もあるの。
tomukun wa wakai ni shite wa furui hanashi ga suki ne se ga takakute medatsu kara kodomo ni mo sugu ninki ga deru yo watashi wa suzukisan to mō yonjūnen tsukiatte iru kedo mada kiita koto ga nai hanashi mo aru no · Tom, you love old stories for someone so young. You're tall and you stand out, so the children will love you. I've known Mr Suzuki for forty years, and there are still stories I haven't heard.

tom 鈴木さん、その話、ぜひとも聞かせてください。
suzukisan sono hanashi zehi tomo kikasete kudasai · Mr Suzuki, I'd love to hear those stories, please.

anna おまちどおさま。皆さん、お茶をどうぞ。
omachidōsama minasan ocha o dōzo · Sorry to keep you waiting. Tea, everyone.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

央

as in 中央 (ちゅうおう): centre, central

孫

まご
grandchild

童

child, pupil (at primary school)

姓

せい
surname (formal)

療

as in 医療 (いりょう): medical care

介

as in 紹介 (しょうかい): introduction (紹介する: introduce)

good to know · Noun / plain form + だけあって: as you would expect from it, with praise. プロだけあって上手だ (he's a pro, so of course he's good). だけに works the same way, and also for "all the more because": 楽しみにしていただけに、残念だ (I was looking forward to it, so it's all the more disappointing).

Names, forms, relatives and old family stories: you can follow them all now. Tomorrow: husbands, wives and little ones.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 20 husbands, wives and little ones

Japanese N2 in 114 days
unit 3 · people & character

Talk about couples, children and family ties, and say “must be really…” and “far more” with よっぽど.

Family words are everywhere, from nursery forms to wedding speeches. よっぽど is how Japanese people guess at strong reasons: よっぽど疲れていたんだね.

words

word	kana	meaning	example
よっぽど	yoppodo	very; must be really (spoken よほど)	朝から晩まで寝ていたなんて、よっぽど疲れていたんだね。 You slept from morning till night? You must have been really tired.
つながり	tsunagari	connection, ties, bond	家族のつながりは、何よりも大切だ。 Family ties matter more than anything.
仲直り	なかなおり · nakanaori	making up (after a quarrel)	喧嘩した二人は、次の日に仲直りした。 The two who'd fallen out made up the next day.
仲良し	なかよし · nakayoshi	close friends; getting along well	あの二人は、子供の時から仲良しだ。 Those two have been close since they were children.
亡くす	なくす · nakusu	to lose (someone, to death)	彼は若い時に、父親を亡くした。 He lost his father when he was young.
女房	にょうぼう · nyōbō	(my) wife (casual, older men)	うちの女房は、料理が上手でね。 My wife's a great cook, you know.
花嫁	はなよめ · hanayome	bride	着物の花嫁は、とてもきれいだった。 The bride in her kimono looked beautiful.
夫妻	ふさい · fusai	Mr and Mrs, husband and wife (formal)	健さん夫妻が、食事に招待してくれた。 Ken and his wife invited us for a meal.
父母	ふぼ · fubo	father and mother, parents (formal)	書類には、父母の名前も書いてください。 Please write your parents' names on the form too.
坊ちゃん	ぼっちゃん · botchan	(your) son; young master	坊ちゃんは、おいくつですか。 How old is your little boy?
待ち合わせる	まちあわせる · machiawaseru	to meet up (at an arranged time and place)	駅の前で、6時に待ち合わせよう。 Let's meet in front of the station at six.
身分	みぶん · mibun	social status, position; identity	受付で、身分を証明するものを見せてください。 Please show some ID at reception.

名字	みょうじ · myōji	surname, family name	日本で一番多い名字は、佐藤だそうです。 They say Sato is the most common surname in Japan.
姪	めい · mei	niece	姪は今年、小学校に入った。 My niece started primary school this year.
目上	めうえ · meue	your senior, someone above you	目上の人には、敬語を使います。 We use keigo with people above us.
目下	めした · meshita	your junior, someone below you	目下の人にも丁寧に話す人は、信頼される。 People who speak politely even to those below them are trusted.
幼児	ようじ · yōji	small child, toddler	この公園は、幼児でも安全に遊べる。 Even little ones can play safely in this park.
保育園	ほいくえん · hoikuen	day nursery	息子は、四月から保育園に通って{kayou}いる。 My son has been going to nursery since April.
坊や	ぼうや · bōya	little boy, sonny	坊や、お名前は？ What's your name, little one?

pattern よっぽど (very, must be really; far more)

よっぽど | adjective / verb | んだね / らしい / のだろう

よっぽど is the spoken form of よほど. With a guess it means “must be really…”: よっぽど疲れていたんだね. In a comparison it means “far more”: タクシーのほうがよっぽど早い. よっぽどのこと is something really serious.

朝から晩まで寝ていたなんて、よっぽど疲れていたんだね。 **asa kara ban made nete ita nante yoppodo tsukarete ita nda ne** You slept from morning till night? You must have been really tired.

いつも長い列ができている。よっぽどおいしいらしい。 **itsumo nagai retsu ga dekite iru yoppodo oishiirashii** There's always a long queue. It must be really good.

歩くより、タクシーのほうがよっぽど早い。 **aruku yori takushī no hō ga yoppodo hayai** A taxi is far quicker than walking.

dialogue the nursery gate

anna あれ、健さん！ここで美紀さんと待ち合わせですか。

are kensan koko de mikisan to machiawase desu ka · Oh, Ken! Are you meeting Miki here?

ken うん、保育園のお迎え。今日は二人で行く約束なんだ。ここは安全のために、親も身分を証明するカードを見せるんだよ。…実は今朝、ばからしいことで、ちょっと喧嘩してね。

un hoikuen no o mukae kyō wa futari de iku yakusoku nanda koko wa anzen no tame ni oya mo mibun o shōmei suru kādo o miseru nda yo jitsuha kesa bakarashii koto de chotto kenka shite ne · Yes, nursery pick-up. We agreed to go together today. For safety, even parents have to show an ID card here. ...Actually, we had a bit of a row this morning, over something silly.

miki 遅くなってごめん。今日は病院が、めちゃくちゃ忙しくて。…健、今朝はごめんね。

osoku natte gomen kyō wa byōin ga mechakucha isogashikute ken kesa wa gomen ne · Sorry I'm late. The hospital was crazy busy today. ...Ken, I'm sorry about this morning.

ken 別に怒っていないよ。僕こそ、息子の靴を間違えたくせに、ぶつぶつ文句を言って、ごめん。仲直りしよう。

betsuni okotte inai yo boku koso musuko no kutsu o machigaeta kuse ni butsubutsu monku o itte gomen nakanaori shiyō · I'm not angry. I'm the one who should be sorry: I got his shoes wrong and then grumbled at you. Let's make up.

miki 健は銀行で働いているわりに、家ではすぐまごまごするの。でも、だめな父親というわけではないよ。子供のことは、よく見ている。

ken wa ginkō de hataraite iru warini ie de wa sugu magomago suru no demo damena chichioya to iu wake de wa nai yo kodomo no koto wa yoku mite iru · For someone who works at a bank, Ken gets flustered so easily at home. But that doesn't make him a bad dad. He really pays attention to our boy.

anna 坊ちゃんは、保育園にもう慣れましたか。

botchan wa hoikuen ni mō naremashita ka · Has your little boy settled in at nursery yet?

miki 最初は泣いてばかりで、よっぽど家が恋しかったのね。でも今は、ぴたりと泣かなくなって、仲良しの友達もできたみたい。先生は、幼児の気持ちがよくわかる方なの。

saisho wa naite bakari de yoppodo ie ga koishikatta no ne demo ima wa pitari to nakanaku natte nakayoshi no tomodachi mo dekitamitai sensei wa yōji no kimochi ga yoku wakaru kata nano · At first he did nothing but cry; he must have been really homesick. But now he's stopped crying completely, and he seems to have a little best friend. His teacher really understands small children.

ken あ、出てきた。坊や、お帰り！ふわふわの帽子、よく似合うね。

a dete kita bōya okaeri fuwafuwa no bōshi yoku niau ne · Oh, here he comes. Hello, little man! That fluffy hat really suits you.

ken そうだ、アンナちゃん。来週の日曜日、祖父と祖母の結婚50年のお祝いがあるんだ。祖父は今でも、祖母のことを「うちの女房」と呼ぶんだよ。親類がみんな集まって、家族の写真を撮る。アンナちゃんも来ない？

sō da annachan raishū no nichiyōbi sofu to sobo no kekkon 50nen no oiwai ga aru nda sofu wa ima demo sobo no koto o uchi no nyōbō to yobu nda yo shinrui ga minna atsumatte kazoku no shashin o toru annachan mo konai · Oh, Anna. Next Sunday is my grandparents' fiftieth wedding anniversary. Grandpa still calls Grandma "the wife". All the relatives are getting together for a family photo. Do you want to come?

anna いいんですか。健さん夫妻の家族に会えるなんて、うれしいです。家族のつながりって、いいですね。

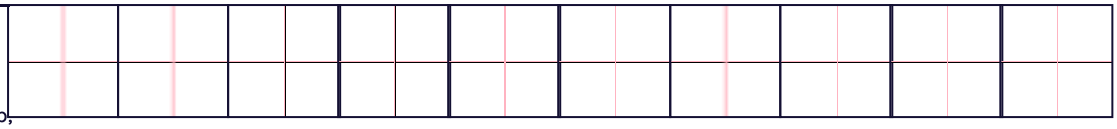
ii ndesu ka kensan fusai no kazoku ni aeru nante ureshii desu kazoku no tsunagari tte ii desu ne · Really? I'd love to meet your family, both of yours. Family ties are a lovely thing.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

仲

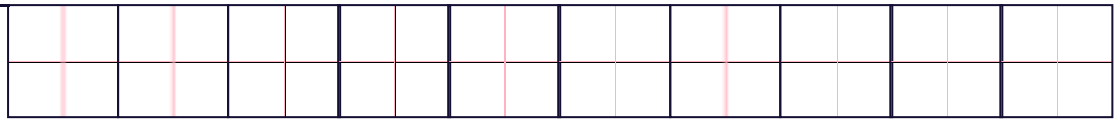
なか

relationship, terms



販

as in 販売 (はんばい): sale, selling



good to know · よっぽど + a guess = it must be really...: よっぽど疲れていたんだね (you must have been really tired). It's the spoken form of よほど. In a comparison, よっぽど means far more: タクシーのほうがよっぽど早い (a taxi is far quicker).

Husbands, wives, nieces and nursery runs: you can talk about a whole family now. Next: the mission, a family photo.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 21 mission: the family photo

Japanese N2 in 114 days
unit 3 · people & character

Follow a family gathering from the invitation to the photo: relatives, characters, names, memories and little children, using everything from this unit.

Unit 3 in one story: describing people kindly and honestly, family words, manners, and the grammar for “for”, “as you'd expect” and “must be really”.

chapter 1 the invitation

ken アンナちゃん、親類のみんなに送るメールを書いたんだ。日本語が変じゃないか、聞いてくれる？

annachan shinrui no minna ni okuru mēru o kaita nda nihongo ga hen janai ka kiite kureru · Anna, I've written an email to send to all the relatives. Can you listen and tell me if the Japanese sounds all right?

ken 「親類の皆さんへ。来週の日曜日、12時から、鎌倉の祖父と祖母の家で、二人の結婚50年のお祝いをします。食事の後で、庭で家族の写真を撮ります。写真の裏に名前を書くので、出席する人の氏名を、今週の金曜日までに教えてください。幼児や小さい子供も、もちろん大歓迎です。東京から来る人は、11時半に鎌倉駅で待ち合わせて、一緒に行きましょう。料理は僕が作ります。健」

shinrui no minasan e raishū no nichiyōbi 12ji kara kamakura no sofu to sobo no ie de futari no kekkon 50nen no oiwai o shimasu shokuji no ato de niwa de kazoku no shashin o torimasu shashin no ura ni namae o kaku node shusseki suru hito no shimei o konshū no kin'yōbi made ni oshiete kudasai yōji ya chiisai kodomo mo mochiron dai kangei desu tōkyō kara kuru hito wa 11jihan ni kamakura eki de machiawasete issho ni ikimashō ryōri wa boku ga tsukurimasu ken · “To all the family: next Sunday from 12 o'clock, at our grandparents' house in Kamakura, we're celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. After the meal we'll take a family photo in the garden. We'll write everyone's names on the back of the photo, so please send me the full names of those coming by Friday this week. Toddlers and little ones are of course very welcome. If you're coming from Tokyo, let's meet at Kamakura Station at 11:30 and go together. I'm doing the cooking. Ken”

anna 変じゃないです。料理が趣味だけあって、最後の文が力強いですね。準備は、健さん夫妻がするんですか。

hen ja nai desu ryōri ga shumi dake atte saigo no bun ga chikarazuyoi desu ne junbi wa kensan fusai ga suru ndesu ka · It's fine. Cooking's your hobby, and it shows: that last line sounds very confident. Are you and Miki doing all the preparation?

ken うん。料理は好きだけど、別にプロというわけではないよ。

un ryōri wa suki dakedo betsuni puro to iu wake de wa nai yo · Yes. I like cooking, but it's not like I'm a professional.

miki また謙遜して。健は銀行で働いている人にしては、料理がとても上手なのよ。メールは、ちょっとくどいけど。

mata kensonshite ken wa ginkō de hataraite iru hito ni shite wa ryōri ga totemo jōzuna no yo mēru wa chotto kudoi kedo · There you go again, being modest. For a banker, Ken's a really good cook. His email is a bit long-winded, though.

anna 健さんは謙虚ですね。私はおおざっぱだから、こういう丁寧なメールは書けません。皆さんに会うのが楽しみです。

kensan wa kenkyo desu ne watashi wa ōzappa dakara kō iu teineina mēru wa kakemasen minasan ni au no ga tanoshimi desu · Ken, you're so modest. I'm not a details person, so I could never write such a careful email. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone.

chapter 2 meeting the family

anna おじゃまします。今日は、よろしくお願いします。
o-jama shimasu kyō wa yoroshiku onegaishimasu · Thank you for having me. It's lovely to be here.

yui アンナ、来てくれてありがとう。きれいなお辞儀だったよ。…ちょっと紹介するね。
anna kite kurete arigatō kireina ojigi datta yo chotto shōkai suru ne · Anna, thanks for coming. That was a lovely bow. ...Let me tell you who's who.

yui あそこで威張っているのが、父の兄。長男だから、自分がいちばん偉いと思っているの。目上の人には丁寧だけど、目下の人には言葉が荒いんだ。
asoko de ibatte iru no ga chichi no ani chōnan dakara jibun ga ichiban erai to omotte iru no meue no hito ni wa teinei dakedo meshita no hito ni wa kotoba ga arai nda · The one over there acting important is my dad's older brother. He's the eldest son, so he thinks he's the most important. He's polite to people above him, but he talks rough to anyone below him.

yui その隣がおばさん。強引でしつこくて、少しずうずうしくて、会うたびに「付き合っている人はいないの？」って聞くの。中年になってから、ますます強気になった。
sono tonari ga obasan gōin de shitsukokute sukoshi zūzūshikute au tabi ni tsukiatte iru hito wa inai no tte kiku no chūnen ni natte kara masumasu tsuyoki ni natta · Next to him is my aunt. She's pushy, won't let things go and is a bit nosy: every time she sees me, she asks "Are you seeing anyone?" Since hitting middle age she's got even bolder.

anna で、結衣、いるの？
de yui iru no · So, Yui, are you?

yui 別に、いないよ。…でも、全然いないというわけでもないかな。
betsuni inai yo demo zenzen inai to iu wake demo nai kana · No, not really. ...Though it's not that there's nobody at all.

anna でも、おじさんもおばさんも、結衣をかわいがっているのがわかるよ。意地悪な人じゃない。
demo ojisan mo obasan mo yui o kawaigatte iru no ga wakaru yo ijiwaruna hito janai · Anyway, I can tell your uncle and aunt both adore you. They're not mean people.

yui まあね。祖母は、年の割に若々しくて朗らかな人。祖父はおとなしいけど、優しいよ。あの二人は、いとこの長女と長男。いとこの末っ子は、まだ保育園。
mā ne sobo wa toshi no wari ni wakawakashikute hogarakana hito sofu wa otonashii kedo yasashii yo ano futari wa itoko no chōjo to chōnan itoko no suekko wa mada hoikuen · I suppose. My grandmother is young for her age, and sunny. My grandfather is quiet, but kind. Those two are my cousin's eldest daughter and eldest son. Her youngest is still at nursery.

chapter 3 the old album

ken 祖父のアルバムを借りてきた。見て、これが祖母の花嫁の時の写真。

sofu no arubamu o karite kita mite kore ga sobo no hanayome no toki no shashin · I've borrowed Grandpa's album. Look, this is Grandma as a bride.

anna きれい！着物がよく似合っていますね。おじいさんは見かけは怖いけど、純情な青年という感じです。この家も、昔の家にしてはモダンですね。

kirei kimono ga yoku niatte imasu ne ojiisan wa mikake wa kowai kedo junjōna seinen to iu kanji desu kono ie mo mukashi no ie ni shite wa modan desu ne · She's beautiful! The kimono really suits her. Your grandfather looks stern, but he seems like such an innocent young man. And this house is modern for an old house.

ken 二人は、知り合いの紹介で出会ったんだ。祖父はその前に、三回も失恋したらしい。

futari wa shiriai no shōkai de deatta nda sofu wa sono mae ni sankai mo shitsuren shitarashii · They met through someone they knew. Before that, Grandpa had his heart broken three times, apparently.

ken 祖父は若い時に父母を亡くして、苦労したんだ。だから、家族のつながりを何よりも大事にしている。

sofu wa wakai toki ni fubo o nakushite kurō shita nda dakara kazoku no tsunagari o nani yori mo daiji ni shite iru · Grandpa lost his parents when he was young and had a hard time. That's why he values family ties above everything.

miki 今でも祖母のことを「うちの女房」と呼んで、毎朝お茶を入れてあげるの。喧嘩しても、すぐ仲直りするんだって。仲良しで、羨ましい。祖母は、私の育児の相談にも乗ってくれるの。

ima demo sobo no koto o uchi no nyōbō to yonde maiasa ocha o irete ageru no kenka shite mo sugu nakanaori suru nda tte nakayoshi de urayamashii sobo wa watashi no ikuji no sōdan ni mo notte kureru no · He still calls her “the wife”, and he makes her tea every morning. Even when they argue, they make up straight away, apparently. They’re so close, I’m jealous. Grandma helps me with advice about bringing up our boy, too.

yui うちの先祖は、昔この町で商売をしていたらしい。昔は、名字を使えない人も多かったんだって。

uchi no senzo wa mukashi kono machi de shōbai o shite itarashii mukashi wa myōji o tsukaenai hito mo ōkatta nda tte · Apparently our ancestors had a shop in this town long ago. In the old days, lots of ordinary people weren't allowed to use a surname, they say.

anna 子孫がこんなに増えて、先祖も喜んでいるでしょうね。私のいとこも来年結婚するので、こんな写真を撮ってあげたいです。

shison ga konnani fuete senzo mo yorokonde iru deshō ne watashi no itoko mo rainen kekkon suru node konna shashin o totte agetai desu · With so many descendants now, your ancestors must be very happy. My cousin is getting married next year; I’d love to take a photo like this for her.

ken 僕は長男だから、「親類を大切に」とよく言われる。親孝行も、なかなか大変だよ。

boku wa chōnan dakara shinrui o taisetsuni to yoku iwareru oya kōkō mo nakanaka taihen da yo · I'm the eldest son, so I'm always being told to look after the family. Being a good son is hard work.

chapter 4 say cheese

ken じゃあ、写真を撮ろう！背の高い人は、後ろに並んでください。アンナちゃんも、入って。

jā shashin o torō se no takai hito wa ushiro ni narande kudasai annachan mo haitte · Right, photo time! Tall people at the back, please. You too, Anna, get in.

anna 私も入っていいんですか。家族じゃないのに、厚かましくないですか。背が高くて目立つし…。

watashi mo haitte ii ndesu ka kazoku janai noni atsukamashikunai desu ka se ga takakute medatsu shi · Are you sure I should be in it? I'm not family; isn't that a bit cheeky? And I'm tall, I'll stand out…

yui いいの、いいの。アンナだけ背が高くて、ずるい！いちばん後ろね。

ii no ii no anna dake se ga takakute zurui ichiban ushiro ne · It's fine, it's fine. You're so tall, it's not fair. Right at the back for you.

miki 坊や、こっちを見て！…だめだ、全然じっとしていない。お菓子を二つも持って、欲張りね。よっぽど眠いのかな。

bōya kotchi o mite dame da zenzen jitto shite inai okashi o futatsu mo motte yokubari ne yoppodo nemui no kana · Look this way, sweetie! …No good, he won't keep still at all. And he's got two sweets, the greedy thing. He must be really sleepy.

ken ええと、どこを押すんだ？

eeto doko o osu nda · Um, where do I press?

yui お兄ちゃん、銀行で働いているくせに、機械に弱いね。それが、お兄ちゃんの弱点。そそっかしいし、シャツも出ていて、だらしないよ。

oniichan ginkō de hataraite iru kuse ni kikai ni yowai ne sore ga oniichan no jakuten sosokkashii shi shatsu mo dete ite darashinai yo · You work at a bank, and you're hopeless with gadgets. That's your weak spot. You're so scatterbrained, and your shirt's hanging out. Sloppy.

ken 生意気なことを言わないで。おじさんも「のろい！」とぶつぶつ言っているし…。じゃあ、10秒！

namaikina koto o iwanaide ojisan mo noroi to butsubutsu itte iru shi jā 10 byō · Less of your cheek. And now my uncle is muttering “so slow”… OK, ten seconds!

miki 最後の一枚は、坊やも祖母の隣で、にこにこしていた。みんな、いい笑顔！

saigo no ichimai wa bōya mo sobo no tonari de nikoniko shite ita minna ii egao · In the last shot, even our little boy was smiling away next to Grandma. Lovely smiles, everyone!

chapter 5 on the way home

yui 今日はありがとう。うちは平凡な家族だし、おじさんは威張るし、大変だったでしょう。

kyō wa arigatō uchi wa heibonna kazoku da shi ojisan wa ibaru shi taihen datta deshō · Thanks for today. We're just an ordinary family, and my uncle's so bossy: it must have been hard work.

anna 別に大変じゃなかったよ。平凡というわけでもないと思う。みんな率直で、優しい人ばかりだった。おじさんは、言葉は乱暴だけど、私にお茶を入れてくれたし。

betsuni taihen janakatta yo heibon to iu wake demo nai to omou minna sotchoku de yasashii hito bakari datta ojisan wa kotoba wa ranbō dakedo watashi ni ocha o irete kureta shi · Not at all. And I don't think you're ordinary. Everyone was so straightforward and kind. Your uncle talks rough, but he made me a cup of tea.

anna 最初は消極的だったけど、みんながおじいさんとおばあさんを敬っているのが、よくわかった。私、ちゃんと振る舞えたかな。

saisho wa shōkyokuteki datta kedo minna ga ojiisan to obāsan o uyamatte iru no ga yoku wakatta watashi chanto furumaeta kana · I was a bit shy at first, but I could really see how much everyone respects your grandparents. I hope I behaved all right.

yui もちろん。祖母が、「孫が一人増えたみたい」と言っていたよ。

mochiron sobo ga mago ga hitori fuetamitai to itte ita yo · Of course. Grandma said it felt like she had one more grandchild.

anna 本当？うれしくて、泣きそう。

hontō ureshikute naki sō · Really? I'm so happy I could cry.

yui 祖母は、人の長所を見つけるのが上手なの。短所は、私たちを甘やかしすぎるところ。お兄ちゃんは、祖母の優しい性質にいちばん似ているかな。

sobo wa hito no chōsho o mitsukeru no ga jōzuna no tansho wa watashitachi o amayakashi sugiru tokoro oniichan wa sobo no yasashii seishitsu ni ichiban nite iru kana · Grandma's good at seeing the best in people. Her one weak point is that she spoils us too much. Of all of us, my brother has her kind nature the most.

anna 結衣も似ているよ。素直で、純粋で、頼もしくて。

yui mo nite iru yo sunao de junsui de tanomoshikute · You're like her too. Open, genuine, someone people can count on.

yui 急にどうしたの。…でも、ありがとう。写真ができたら、アンナにも送るね。

kyūni dō shita no demo arigatō shashin ga dekitara anna ni mo okuru ne · Where did that come from? ...But thanks. When the photos are ready, I'll send you one too.

chapter 6 ken's thank-you email

ken 「家族の皆さんへ。先週の日曜日は、おじいさんとおばあさんの結婚50年のお祝いに来てくださって、ありがとうございました。」

kazoku no minasan e senshū no nichiyōbi wa ojiisan to obāsan no kekkon 50nen no oiwai ni kite kudasatte arigatōgozaimashita · “To all the family. Thank you for coming to Grandpa and Grandma's fiftieth wedding anniversary last Sunday.”

ken 「当日は、小さい子供からお年寄りまで、全部で20人が集まりました。」

tōjitsu wa chiisai kodomo kara otoshiyori made zenbu de 20nin ga atsumarimashita · “On the day, twenty of us came, from the little ones to the oldest.”

ken 「写真は、カメラの使い方がよくわからない私が撮ったにしては、きれいな写真になりました。来週、一人一枚ずつ送ります。」

shashin wa kamera no tsukai kata ga yoku wakaranai watashi ga totta ni shite wa kireina shashin ni narimashita raishū hitori ichimaizutsu okurimasu · “The photos came out well, considering I took them without really knowing how the camera works. Next week I'll send one to each of you.”

ken 「おばあさんは、よっぽどうれしかったのか、その夜はなかなか眠れなかったそうです。来年も、またみんなで集まりましょう。健」

obāsan wa yoppodo ureshikatta no ka sono yoru wa nakanaka nemurenakatta sō desu rainen mo mata minna de atsumarimashō ken · “Grandma must have been really happy: she says she could hardly sleep that night. Let's all get together again next year. Ken”

Unit 3 done: you can meet a Japanese family, read the room, and tell the story afterwards. Next unit: an old Japanese house.
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