

Lesson 8

Akiko's daily schedule continued

英語のクラスは毎日あります。
英文学の授業は木曜日にあります。
英会話のクラスは月曜日と水曜日にあります。

昼ごはんは大学の食堂で食べます。

水曜日の午後はテニスをします。
土曜日の午後はクラブ活動を行います。

夕方、六時ごろ家に帰ります。

夕食は七時半からです。夜はたいていテレビを見ます。それから新聞や本を読みます。時々、友達に手紙を書きます。

十一時半ごろ寝ます。

8.1 'To have a class'

英語のクラスは毎日あります。
英文学の授業は木曜日にあります。

Take care to note the difference between the Japanese sentence here and the English translation 'I have an English class every day.' First of all, the use of topicalization means that the Japanese is more like 'English classes: there are (classes) every day'. Secondly, by analogy with the English, you might be tempted to look for a verb meaning 'to have'. Japanese expresses it quite

differently with the equivalent of ‘English classes: every day are’. This is the first example of a kind of stative construction involving possession that is treated in some detail in 12.2 and that will become very familiar to you in due course. Note that with general words such as 毎日, and 朝, as you saw in 7.1, no particles are needed, but when a specific day is mentioned, like Thursday, the particle に must be used.

8.2 Days of the week

英会話のクラスは月曜日と水曜日にあります。

The days of the week are as follows. Note that the order is ‘moon’, ‘fire’, ‘water’, wood’, ‘metal’, ‘earth’ and ‘sun’.

| | | |
|-----|-------|-----------|
| 月曜日 | げつようび | Monday |
| 火曜日 | かようび | Tuesday |
| 水曜日 | すいようび | Wednesday |
| 木曜日 | もくようび | Thursday |
| 金曜日 | きんようび | Friday |
| 土曜日 | どようび | Saturday |
| 日曜日 | にちようび | Sunday |

‘What day of the week is it?’ is 何 (なん) 曜日ですか.

曜日 is the first example you have had of a mixed set of readings, mixed in the sense that よう is the *on* 音 reading of 曜 and ひ or び is the *kun* 訓 reading of 日. This kind of compound is not uncommon.

When you romanize an expression like this you should write *nan'yōbi* rather than *nanyōbi*; the apostrophe is used to indicate that you are dealing with the two sounds *nan* + *yō*, not *na* + *nyō*.

8.3 は as topic or contrast?

英文学の授業は木曜日にあります。
水曜日の午後はテニスをします。
土曜日の午後はクラブ活動を行います。

We have already seen a number of examples of the subject being topicalized by replacing the subject marker が with は. 英文学の授業は木曜日にあります can be regarded as another example of this type of sentence. However, it is also possible to interpret the は here as implying a contrast: if, for example, the speaker meant to single out the English literature classes from other classes. As we noted in 6.4, the difference is largely one that can be decided by context. If contrast were meant here, it would be signalled by a slight stress on the words 英文学の授業は. In the other two sentences, however, the words marked by は are not subjects at all. In these cases, the subject, namely 'I', has been omitted. As in the first sentence, it is possible to regard the function of は here either as a topicalizer or a contrast marker, but it would be more natural to consider that in both of these cases は is implying a contrast; 水曜日の午後, for example, as opposed to other afternoons in the rest of the week.

Note the useful word する/します here meaning 'do'. It is about as ubiquitous as its English counterpart.

8.4 The particle で

昼ごはんは大学の食堂で食べます。

で marks the location at which an activity takes place:

台所でお茶を飲みます。
We drink tea in the kitchen.

駅で母を待ちます。

I will wait for my mother at the station.

フランスでピカソの絵を見ます。

We will look at Picasso's paintings in France.

Note how this usage differs from that of the に of location, which is used when existence rather than activity is involved. This can be somewhat tricky at times and will be taken up again later.

8.5 The linking particle や

それから新聞や本を読みます。

Similar to と (3.5), the particle や links nouns together, but it carries with it the extra nuance that the list is not exhaustive: りんごやみかん 'apples and oranges and so on'. If you wish to emphasise this fact, you can also use the word など, which means 'and so on' or 'etc.'

犬やねこ

dogs and cats

山や川や林

mountains, rivers and woods

ジョンやマリーなどが来ます。

John, Marie (and some others) are coming.

Note that the last や at the end of a long list is deleted, whereas the last と is optional.

マーケットで野菜やくだものを買う。

マーケットで野菜とくだもの（と）を買う。

I buy vegetables and fruit at the market.

8.6 A note on orthography

時々、友達に手紙を書きます。

When one *kanji* 漢字 is repeated in succession to form one word as here, 時々, the second 漢字 is replaced by the ‘repeater’ sign 々. Some common examples:

| | | |
|----|------|-----------------|
| 人々 | ひとびと | people |
| 山々 | やまやま | mountains |
| 日々 | ひび | every day, days |

Key to sentences

Romanisation

Eigo no kurasu wa mainichi arimasu.

Eibungaku no jugyō wa mokuyōbi ni arimasu.

Eikaiwa no kurasu wa getsuyōbi to suiyōbi ni arimasu.

Hirugohan wa daigaku no shokudō de tabemasu.

Suiyōbi no gogo wa tenisu o shimasu.

Doyōbi no gogo wa kurabu katsudō o shimasu.

Yūgata, rokuji goro ie ni kaerimasu.

Yūshoku wa shichijihan kara desu. Yoru wa taitei terebi o mimasu. Sore kara shinbun ya hon o yomimasu.

Tokidoki, tomodachi ni tegami o kakimasu.

Jūichijihan goro nemasu.

Translation

I have an English class every day.

The English literature lecture is on Thursday.

English conversation classes are on Monday and Wednesday.

I eat lunch in the university cafeteria.

On Wednesday afternoons I play tennis.

On Saturday afternoons I join in club activities.

In the evenings, I go home about six o'clock.

Supper is from half past seven. In the evening I usually watch television. And then I read a newspaper or a book or something.

Occasionally, I write a letter to a friend.

I go to bed about half past eleven.
