

## 日本語流 23

### The Nihongo Way 23

< Today's dialogue >

You (U) are having a chat with a Japanese colleague (J) sitting next to you.



J1: トッドさんはこの年末年始はどうするんですか。	<i>Toddo-san wa kono nenmatsu-nenshi wa dô suru n desu ka?</i>
U1: いろいろ考えたんですが、結局、どこにも行きません。ずっと東京にいます。	<i>Iroiro kangaeta n desu ga, kekkyoku doko nimo ikimasen. Zutto Tôkyô ni imasu.</i>
J2: あ、それはいい考えですよ。この時期、東京は一年でいちばん静かになりますから。	<i>A, sore wa ii kangae desu yo. Kono jiki Tôkyô wa ichinen de ichiban shizuka ni narimasu kara.</i>
U2: そうでしょうね。大勢の人が故郷に帰ったり、海外旅行に行ったりするんでしょう？	<i>Sô deshô nê. Ôzei no hito ga hurusato ni kaettari, kaigairyokô ni ittari suru n deshô?</i>
J3: そのとおりです。僕もこんどの正月は東京にいて何もしません。寝正月ですよ。	<i>Sono tôri desu. Boku mo kondo no oshôgatsu wa Tôkyô ni ite nani mo shimasen. Neshôgatsu desu yo.</i>
U3: え、ネショーガツ？ それ、何ですか。	<i>E? Neshôgatsu? Sore, nan desu ka?</i>
J4: ネは「寝る」のネです。つまり、お正月に特に何もしないで家でのんびりすることです。	<i>“Ne” wa “neru” no “ne” desu.” Tsumari, oshôgatsu ni toku ni nani mo shinaide, ie de nonbiri-suru koto desu.</i>
U4: じゃ、僕も寝正月ですね。	<i>Ja, boku mo neshôgatsu desu ne.</i>

## DIALOGUE OVERVIEW

The English equivalent to today's dialog:

J1: What are you going to do this coming year end and New Year, Todd?

U1: I thought (about) this and that, but in the end I won't go anywhere. I'll stay the whole time in Tokyo.

J2: Oh, that's a good idea. Because this time of year Tokyo becomes the most quiet.

U2: That should be right {It's probably as you say}. Many people will {do things like} go home or go abroad, right?

J3: Exactly. I'll stay in Tokyo this coming New Year and won't do anything, either. I'll have a *neshôgatsu*.

U3: What? *Neshôgatsu*? What is that?

J4: "Ne" is "ne" from the word "neru" (to sleep), and "shôgatsu" is New Year's. In other words, it means to relax at home without doing anything in particular.

U4: Then, I'll have *neshôgatsu*, too.

## VOCABULARY FOCUS

### **Nouns** and **noun** phrases

<i>urusato</i>	home, hometown
<i>ichiban</i>	number one
<i>ichiban shizuka</i>	the most quiet
<i>iroiro</i>	various
<i>jiki</i>	time period
<i>kaigai-ryokô</i>	overseas trip
<i>kangae</i>	a thought, idea
<i>kondo</i>	next, this coming
<i>nenmatsu</i>	the end of the year
<i>nenshi</i>	the beginning of the year
<i>ôzei</i>	many [used only for people and animals]
<i>shizuka</i>	quiet
<i>shôgatsu</i>	the New Year Days [often " <i>oshogatsu</i> " to be polite, customarily the first three days of the year]
<i>ganjitsu</i>	The first day of the year
<i>ômisoka</i>	The last day of the year
<i>sono tôri</i>	exactly right, exactly the way you say
<i>zutto</i>	all the while, throughout

### **Adverbs** and **adverbial** phrases

<i>kekkyoku</i>	after all, in the end
<i>tokuni</i>	especially, in particular
<i>tsumari</i>	in other words, in short

## Verbs

<i>kaeru</i>	return (to where one belongs)
<i>kangaeru</i>	think, consider
<i>neru</i>	go to bed, sleep
<i>nonbiri-suru</i>	relax

## GRAMMAR FOCUS

### (1) Total negation

Unlike English, Japanese does not have such convenient negative nouns as “nobody,” “nothing” and “nowhere.” To express total negation, use the following formula:

<interrogative word> + *mo...nai* (negative statement)

(Examples from dialog, lines U1 & J3)

*doko nimo ikimasen.* I won't go anywhere.

*nani mo shimasen.* I won't do anything.

(Other examples)

*Dare mo imasen.* There is nobody.

*Dochira mo dame desu.* Neither will do.

### (2) *shinai de*: without doing

To express “without doing something,” Japanese takes the negative form of the appropriate verb and adds *de*. Thus:

*tabenai de* without eating

*romanai de* without drinking

So,

“...*nani mo shinai de nonbiri-suru...*” means “relax without doing anything.”

### (3) *koto*: an abstract noun

The noun *koto* on its own usually translates to “thing” in English, but it also has the function of making the preceding sentence into a big noun. An example:

“*Nihongo o benkyô-suru*” is a sentence, meaning “(Someone) studies Japanese.” However,

“*nihongo o benkyô-suru koto*” is not a sentence but a big noun (clause), meaning “(the fact or case) that one studies Japanese.” So, you can say:

*Nihongo o benkyô-suru koto wa omoshiroi.* It is interesting that one studies Japanese. It is interesting to study Japanese.

Now, you can analyze Dialog line J4 as below:

*Tsumari:* In other words

*oshôgatsu ni:* during New Year Days

*tokuni nani mo shinai de:* without doing anything in particular

*ie de nonbiri-suru koto desu:* it is (the case) that one relaxes at home.

Altogether, J4 means:

In other words, it means that one relaxes at home without doing anything during the New Year's period.

(4) *V-tari V-tari suru*

When you wish to mention what you or people do as example acts, this is a convenient form. There is no particular match in English, so study some examples:

*Shôgatsu niwa kazoku ga atsumatte tabetari nondari shimasu.*

During New Years, family members gather and do things like eat and drink.

*Shumatsu niwa taitei terebi o mitari, ongaku o kiitari, hon o yondari shimasu.*

On weekends I usually do things like watch TV, listen to music or read books.

As seen above, you add *ri* to the "direct-style" Perfective form of the verb (*V-ta*), which you already know. Normally you end the sentence with the verb *suru*, as shown above.